

SENIOR FOUR SELF STUDY WORK

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DAY 1

MAN’S QUEST FOR GOD

The English word “quest” means a long search for something with the view of the understanding it better. At the end of the search, truth and knowledge is obtained. Therefore, the phrase “man’s quest for God” refers to the continuous effort human beings put in their attempt to find out the truth and obtain knowledge about God.

In other words, it refers to man’s activities that are directed towards finding out more about their own existence as they relate with God.

In short, it means an attempt to know more about God and relate with him in the ways he desires.

The alternate words that can be used to express man’s quest for include;

- To seek
- To search for
- To look for

The history of man reveals a continuous search for a deeper meaning in life in relationship to a supreme being. To date, man is still trying to do everything possible to gain greater knowledge of the reality behind his existence. Some express this through actions, thoughts and others by words.

THE ATTRIBUTES OR THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

As man looks for God, he has given him various names and qualities he has alone possesses including the following.

1. God is the creator. The whole universe came into existence through his creation work.

2. God is the provider. He gives to those who ask of him. Man is, therefore, dependent on him.
3. God is one. This is shown by praising and worshipping him alone for the same God is found in the whole universe.
4. God is the source of life. He gives and takes life at will and at any time.
5. God is holy. This has to do with the purity of God. He is sinless and therefore, man is to approach him in that state.
6. God is unique. He cannot be compared to any other being and no one can make images of him apart from symbols.
7. God is real. People have given various names to prove that he is real. He is referred to as the almighty, the great and many others.
8. God is immortal. This means that God cannot die. He was there yesterday, he is there today and will be there tomorrow.
9. God is omnipotent. Meaning that he is all powerful. No other known force is more powerful than him.
10. God is omnipresent. He is believed to be present everywhere at all times
11. God is transcendent. He is above the knowledge, reasoning and understanding of man.
12. God is all loving. He treats his creatures with affection like a father would to his children.
13. God is omniscient meaning that he is all knowing. Everything that happens in the world happens with his knowledge.
14. God is perfect. Whatever He does is good and is for the benefit of the living creatures.
15. God is a judge. He holds the human beings accountable for their actions.

16. God is the controller of the whole world. All events happen at His will. He provides, protects, takes, sustains and many others.

MAN'S QUEST FOR God IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The following are the ways through which man searches for God in his attempt to find meaning in life.

1. Through prayer. In prayer, one opens up the self to God and communicates his or her feelings.
2. Through alms - giving or charity work. This involves giving assistance to the needy like the orphans and the disabled. These disadvantaged people are provided with the basic needs including cloth and shelter among others. This is done in following Jesus' way of life.
3. Places, objects and buildings are being named after the great Christian personalities. Christian names including St. Joseph, St Mary, St Peter and others are commonly used for example, St Joseph's cathedral and St Mary's college Kisubi.
3. Some Christians are living a self – denial life. They deny themselves the pleasures of life like wealth. In the Catholic church, the priests and the Nuns practice poverty in order to dedicate themselves to the work of God and live the life of Jesus Christ.
4. Christians are actively involved in preaching the good news of salvation. By preaching the gospel, Christians prepare themselves for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
5. Some people participate in pilgrimages. This involves visiting places of great religious significance in memory of great religious events. In Uganda, the Christians trek to and gather at the Uganda martyrs at Namugongo shrine every 3rd of June to commemorate the bravery of the African Christians

including Kiriggwajjo Anatoli who were burnt in 1886 because of their faith in God.

6. Christians continuously organize and attend bible studies. They come together to share the words of God as written in the bible. Bible studies are source of inspiration and help to keep the people committed and strong in their faith.
7. Some people organize crusades. This is where Christians go out to gazette public places in a big gathering to devote themselves to God through prayers, preaching and praise and worship.
8. Many people today declare themselves as being born again or saved. Such individuals denounce their lifetime mistakes and declare Christ as being their personal savior.
9. Some Christians undergo water baptism in the search for God. For a Christian, this is a symbolical expression of joining God's family. It is also a means of cleansing oneself of the sin inherited from the first man.
10. The Christians compose and sing gospel songs to show belief in their God. In these songs, the people express their faith, seek for blessings and extend their appreciation for the good things God is doing in their lives.
11. Some people are taken to the writing of religious books or magazine as they express and explain their knowledge about God and his mighty work. Forexample, leadership magazine by the Catholic church is released on a monthly basis.
12. Other Christians give offertory to the church in their search for God. They give material things including money, foodstuff, and clothes to help running the affairs of God's house.
13. Christians have continued to organize and attend fellowship.

This involves a lot of religious related activities including praise and worship, giving testimonies and giving words of encouragement to the participants.

14. Some Christians fast in their search for God. This is a way through which they dedicate themselves to God as they meditate in His wonders. This is done through denying themselves the worldly pleasures such as food, sexual intercourse and others for a given period of time.
15. Some people repent their sins. Through repentance, Christians are right with God and with one another.
16. Some Christians anoint the sick. Putting oil or water on someone's forehead when one is about to die. It is intended to hand over an individual's life to God when he or she is spiritually clean.
17. People search for God by constructing churches. Such buildings like Rubaga Miracle centre under pastor Kayanja Robert help bring Christians together purposely for praying, fellowship and bible studies among others.

ACTIVIT 1

- 1.(a) Describe the ways in which people search for God in Uganda today.
- (b) Explain the attributes of God

DAY 2

PROBLEMS CHRISTIANS FACE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR GOD

- ✍ Public insult.
- ✍ False prophecies or false preachers.
- ✍ Negative influence of science and technology.

- ✍ Loss of lives.
- ✍ Negative influence from the African traditional beliefs.
- ✍ Poverty.
- ✍ Political instability or interference.
- ✍ General temptations.
- ✍ Attractions from worldly pleasures.
- ✍ Rivalry among the believers themselves.
- ✍ Over expectation from the public.
- ✍ Discrimination basing on sex, tribe and religion.
- ✍ Existence in too many religious beliefs.
- ✍ Corruption, bribery and embezzlement of funds.
- ✍ Language barrier.
- ✍ Some are isolated from their parents.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM TO CHRISTIANS

Baptism is the first out of the seven sacraments in the Christian faith. It is an important religious ceremony because of the following:

1. Through baptism, a person is brought into complete union with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy spirit for one is baptized in “the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”.
2. Baptism is a ritual through which an individual becomes a child of God and a member of the church. In other words, one joins the body of believers in the risen Christ.
3. Baptism is a sign of spiritual rebirth meaning that one is born again through the ritual of water and the spirit as Jesus said in a conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:5).
4. Baptism is a public acceptance to begin doing the will of God like Jesus Christ who started the public ministry immediately after his baptism.

5. Baptism is a symbol of victory over Satan. It indicates that an individual has been put into the life of the crucified Christ.
6. Baptism enables a believer acquire the gifts of the Holy Spirit like love and speaking in tongues. The apostles became courageous and got out of their hiding to begin their work when the Holy Spirit descended upon them.
7. Through baptism, a believer acknowledges the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it opens up a believer to a new life.
8. Baptism is a public acceptance by an individual to live like that of Christ. It shows that is ready to copy the example of life set by Christ.
9. Baptism is an outward sign of one's inner faith. It shows that one has accepted to believe in the crucified Christ.
10. Saint Paul said that baptism is a divine victory over Satan. It shows that one has been put in a life of risen Christ.
11. To the believers, baptism is a public acceptance to suffer the way Jesus Christ suffered. In baptism, the believers accept to share the fate of Jesus Christ by carrying their own cross.
12. Baptism enables a believer to begin a new life through repentance. This helps to put a believer right with God.
13. SAINT James said that baptism is a starting point of putting one's faith into action. He noted that faith without action is dead. He gave the example of Abraham who was put right with God through his faith and actions (James 2:14ff).
14. Baptism makes all the believers equal before God thereby enabling any individual to approach God at any time.
15. Baptism cleanses a person of the original sin inherited from the first parents Adam and Eve who disobeyed God's

command by eating the forbidden fruit. Therefore, it helps to transform one into a new creature.

16. It helps to make the believers strong enough in their faith to resist temptation in the service of God. Jesus was strengthened by the Spirit of God that descended upon him during his baptism and was able to resist temptation as he came face to face with satan.

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL BELIEF IN GOD

The history of the traditional Africans is revelation of how man deeply believed in the existence of a supreme being to whom they owed their existence. This was reflected in their daily activities.

1. There was a deep belief in the existence of a supreme being whom they referred to as God. This belief in God was expressed and known in different ways.
2. God was believed to be real. He was given various names and different names by different societies. He was known to be “Rubaga” by the Luo, “Rubanga” by the Bunyoro, Banyankole and the Batooro and “Katonda” by the Baganda and Basoga.
3. God was the creator and the highest. They owed the existence of the universe to God. Among the Acholi people, he was and is still described as “Lacwec” to mean the creator.
4. God was believed to be unique. No one could draw his image and neither could he be compared to anything. However, the people could only make symbols to represent him through pottery work and works of art and craft.
5. God was believed to be the controller of the world. They believed that he owned and conserved everything. He could punish the human beings for their evils and that his presence could be felt by everyone.

HOW THE TRADITIONAL AFRICANS SHOWED THEIR BELIEF IN GOD

The people in African Traditional Society showed their belief in God in the following ways:

1. The traditional Africans believed in the existence of a supreme being whom they named “God”. The supreme being was given different names to explain who he was. He was known to be the creator and the provider among others.
2. Sacrifices were given to spiritual beings. This involved giving material things like food stuff for different reasons like seeking for blessings or preventing curses.
3. Shrines were built in each and every African homestead. These were places where religious functions like offering sacrifices were performed. Such places were respected and considered holy. The Africans used to pray showing their belief in God. In their prayers, they expressed their faith and trust in God.
4. The Africans believed in and consulted divinities (lesser gods). These gods were believed to have direct contact with the supreme God. Each of these divinities was responsible for a particular life experience.
5. The Africans believed in and respected spiritual or sacred objects like the drums, spears and beads among others.
6. Names in Africa reflected the belief in the existence of God. The names explained among other things the goodness of God.
7. Religious specialists existed among the Africans. They included the priest, the diviners and the fortune tellers among others. These people responsible for were linking their people with God.

8. The Africans believed in mystical powers like magic and witchcraft. Such powers were believed to be granted and given by God.
9. The Africans believed in and consulted the spirits. The spirits were invisible beings and they were believed to be nearer God.
10. The Africans praised and worshiped God. This was through songs in which they expressed their deep belief in God.
11. The Africans had a belief in the ancestors. These were dead people and they were believed to be nearer to the supreme God.
12. The Africans respected and fulfilled the demand of the spirits. Such demand as blood from an animal or of a human being had to be given to the spirit with the intention of pleasing them.
13. The Africans respected certain places which they regarded to be holy or sacred. This included hills, mountains and the under big trees.
14. The Africans believed in the life after death. They held a belief that after death one could join the spiritual world.

THE BELIEF AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF DIVINITIES IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. A divinity is any creature with godly qualities. The belief in divinities was common in Africa and it characterized the African way of life.
2. Divinities were known to be lesser gods. They were directly below the supreme God and they had powers above that of human beings. The Africans believed that the spirit of a family or a community member could later turn into a divinity.
3. Divinities were mediators between God and human beings. The people believed that the sinful man could only approach God through divinities.

4. Divinities were believed to be very active in human affairs. They could bless or curse human beings. This depended on the kind of relationship they had with the divinities. This was the reason they had to appease them through offering sacrifices.
5. Each divinity was responsible for a particular life experience like for farming, hunting and rain among others. Therefore, the people had to consult them whenever they wanted a particular need to be satisfied. In Buganda, Ddungu was responsible for hunting.
6. The supreme being God was believed to be involved in the human affairs through divinities.
7. Divinities were believed to be created by God himself just like the human beings. However, God gave them greater power than that of the human beings.
8. Divinities were believed to be semi-human and semi-spiritual. They possessed some qualities of human beings and others of God. They could get annoyed and feel hungry.
9. Divinities were thought to act independently in some extreme cases. In such cases, they could do things on their own without authority or permission from God.
10. However, the people believed that divinities were barrier to communication between God and human beings. Instead of consulting God, the people could consult the divinities.
11. The Africans used to pray to God through the divinities who in turn would present their needs to the supreme being.
12. Children were named after divinities for different reasons like recognizing their presence among the human beings, their work and as a means of showing respect to them.
13. Divinities were believed to possess human beings. The

possessed could do extraordinary things that a normal person could not do. They could become too strong and speak in tongues among another.

14. Some divinities were believed to exist on their own without depending on the supreme God.
15. Some divinities were believed to show their presence in different terms or ways like through human beings, animals and insects.
16. Divinities were under the direct control of the supreme God. They acted as his servants.

ACTIVIT 2

- 1.Explain the African understanding of divinities.
2. What is the role of baptism to Christians?

DAY 3

BELIEFS IN AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITS AND SPIRITUAL WORLD IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. The belief in spirits and spiritual world was wide spread in African Traditional Society. The Africans showed their belief in spirit by believing in the existence of two worlds.
2. The visible occupied by the human beings and the invisible world occupied by spiritual beings.
3. The world spirit was sued and understood in many ways with different meanings and categories.
4. God was a spirit in African Traditional Society. His presence was only felt by the people without seeing him.
5. Divinities as well as the living dead were also part of the spiritual world. The people could only explain their existence

without seeing them physically.

6. The Africans believed that spirits were continually present. They could move in and around the world all the time.
7. The spirits were believed to occupy the invisible part of the world. This was an imaginary world.
8. The Africans turned to the spiritual beings in the time of need. This was through offering sacrifices which had different reasons like seeking for blessing and protection among others.
9. The Africans greatly feared and respected the spirits. No one was allowed to speak ill of them because spirits could cause harm to human beings.
10. The spirits existed in hierarchy. God was at the top, followed by the divinities then the ancestors.
11. Spirits were believed to be immortal. They could live forever in their different forms.
12. The Africans believed that human beings could be possessed by the spirits. However, the belief was that a spirit of a person could only possess surviving family member.
13. The Africans believed that each human being had a spirit within the body. However, the spirit could escape from the body at death since it was considered immortal.
14. Spirits were believed to do good as well as evil. The human beings knew they could bless and curse one depending on the relationship they had with them.

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYERS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Prayers among the traditional Africans were one of the most common methods of approaching and communicating with God. Prayers were conducted verbally, quietly, privately,

individually and communally. Prayers served the following purpose in traditional Africa.

1. Prayer was a way of approaching and communicating with God. This was for different purposes like showing respect for him as the supreme being.
2. Africans expressed their gratitude for any achievement in life through prayers. This included giving birth and victories in wars among others.
3. Africans made their requests known to God through prayers. Among others, they would request for protection, blessings and long life.
4. Prayers helped Africans to open up and surrender themselves to God. In doing so, they expressed their feelings to the supreme beings as they tried to explain their existence.
5. The African expressed the work of the community through prayers. Such work as planting and harvesting were put in the hands of God for his blessings.
6. Prayers helped the Africans to gain courage in life situations which appeared threatening and difficult. Such included hunting and going for war.
7. Prayer created unity in African tradition. This was achieved by the people coming together as a family and as a community to pray.
8. The Africans expressed their faith in God through prayers. In doing so, they believed that he existed and could do wonders for them.
9. Prayer was believed to introduce an individual to a new understanding of God. Therefore, an individual was believed to understand who and what God was and what the individual was meant to be in life.
10. Prayer was a means through which man could search for a

meaningful life. It was a way of opening and surrendering oneself to God.

11. Prayer was living in communion with God. It was the reflection of one's social relations to God concerning his or her humanity.
12. Prayers helped the traditional Africans to gain courage in doing their activities like digging and going for wars.

SACRIFICES IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Sacrifices in traditional Africa also formed the basis of social life. It involved giving material things such as foodstuff, animals and even human beings to God and other spiritual beings. Situations that called for sacrifices included drought, death, epidemics, wars, floods and any other important occasions in life.

Occasions when sacrifices were offered in African tradition

After giving birth specially to twins. This was taken to be unusual and the spiritual beings had to be involved by giving them such material things.

During funeral rites. This was done with the intention of sending the departed members peacefully and happily to the spiritual world among other reasons.

Before going for wars. This was done with the permission of seeking for courage, protection and victories.

During marriage or introduction ceremonies. This was the only way the ancestors were involved in the marriage affairs of the children.

During planting crops intended to request for a good harvest and the blessings of the work of the people.

After harvesting their crops especially when the yields were as good as the people expected. This was a thanksgiving offering.

In case the Africans expected misfortune like death to befall the members of the community. Such sacrifices were given to appease the spiritual beings in order to avert the forth coming threat. During natural calamities like famine and drought. This was intended to ask the spiritual beings to intervene during such bad situations.

In the event of a broken human relationship especially if the people were related by blood. This was done for reconciliation purposes. During the community initiation rites like child naming and circumcision ceremonies.

IMPORTANCE OF SACRIFICE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Sacrifices helped the people make contact and communicate with spiritual beings like God, divinities and ancestors.
2. Sacrifices was a means of cleansing people from their eyes like having sex with relative and murder.
3. Sacrifices helped to appease (please) the ancestors. This was done in order to divert curses of any form from the ancestors.
4. Sacrifices were used for reconciliation in the event of broken blood relationships.
5. Sacrifices formed the basis of worshiping the supreme God and the divinities. This was a way of recognizing their superiority over human beings.
6. Sacrifices were important in helping the people to remember and mark events in life such as marriage, winning wars and child birth.
7. Sacrifices were helped to remove sorrow and to restore the good mood of the people. This was the case in the event of death of a member which involved feasting at the end.

8. Sacrifice also formed a way of giving respect to God, divinities and the ancestors. In this case, members of the community could recognize the presence of such beings by offering them material things.
9. Sacrifices helped Africans to express their joy and gratitude to the spiritual beings for any achievement like child birth. Therefore, it was a means of thanking the spiritual beings for their blessings.
10. By giving sacrifices, the Africans fellowshiped with the departed members of the family. This was a way of involving and being in the presence of such spiritual beings.
11. Sacrifices helped the Africans to receive blessings from God and other spiritual beings. Such blessings included good harvest, child birth and the victories in wars among others.
12. Sacrifices were used as food for the community members among the people in African tradition. Among the Karamojong in the North-eastern part of Uganda, they could eat blood of the sacrificial animal for food.

ACTIVIT 3

1. a) Why were sacrifices important in African Traditional Society?
b) Why do people search for God?
2. What is the importance of prayers in traditional Africa?

DAY 4

HOW GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

- Through voice especially at night.
- Through dreams.

- Through nature like rocks, big trees which the people respected.
- Through visions received by the religious personalities especially.
- Through misfortune and calamities like death or drought among others which the people look at as a form of punishment from the supreme being.
- Through life achievements like hunting and good harvesting since they had different gods responsible for a particular life experience.
- Through diviners some of whom were human beings with ability to do something extra ordinary.
- Through religious leaders like the priest and the foretellers.
- Through the spirits of the living dead when the people consulted for different reasons.

THE MAJAO ASPECTS OF AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION THAT ARE FOUND IN CHRISTIANITY

Both believe in oneness of God. The Africans as well as Christians believe in the existence of a supreme God having absolute existence.

Both African religion and Christianity believe in the existence of the spirits. These spirits are invisible in nature and are immortal.

Both religions participate in prayers as a way of communicating with God.

There is offering of sacrifices to the spiritual beings in both religions.

There is a belief in life after death in both religions. They believe that at death, the immortal spirit of a person leaves the body and goes into the next world.

There is also a belief in the existence of two worlds. The visible world occupied by the human beings and the invisible world occupied by the spirits of the living dead.

Both religions believe in sacred objects like the drums and spears for the Africans and the bible and rosary for the Christians.

There is a belief in the ancestors in both religions. The Africans believe that their ancestors were the living dead and the Christians believe in personalities like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their ancestors.

There is a belief in sacred places like shrines in both African religion and Christianity. Such places carry religious meanings. There is a belief in divine calling that people can be called to the work of God. Such people are the priests and the diviners for Africans.

Both religions believe in spiritual possession. A human being can be over taken by a spiritual being in the process he or she can do something that is humanly impossible.

Both of them believe in morality as an important aspect in keeping a good relationship between the human beings and God.

MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY

Man in the very beginning had always searched for God. God on the other hand is seen revealing Himself in various ways. He promised to send a messiah to come and establish a new kingdom for salvation of mankind. This was later to be fulfilled by the coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ then identified Himself as the truth, the way and the life. (John 14:6). The church Jesus left behind continued with God in the following ways:

1. The Christians preached the gospel. Their preaching was about the messiah (Acts 8:48).
2. The Christians gave testimonies as they proclaimed the message of the Lord. These testimonies helped to make the people believe more in the gospel truth (Acts 8:25).
3. The disciples converted people into believers thus the church was strengthened and it grew in number as they carried out water baptism (Acts 9:31).
4. They wrote epistles to various communities such as Corinth, Galatia and Rome. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians on several occasions on puzzling questions including marriage and food offered to idols among others.
5. The Christians carried out charitable work. They distributed relief and donations to the needy in the form of food. (Acts 6:1-4).
6. They continued to perform miracles. For example, Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3:1-10).
7. The Christians engaged in prayers. This became one way through, which they could communicate with God.
8. The believers shared their belongings. The rich in particular sold their property and shared the money with every one (Acts 4:32-37).
9. They encouraged reconciliation among the believers. For example, they helped to reconcile the native Jews and the Greek speaking Jews over the disagreement concerning finances (Acts 6:1-6).
10. There was fellowship among the believers. They continued coming together and sharing the word of God (Acts 2:44-47).
11. The Christians founded churches in various communities. Saint Paul took the leading role in establishing the church in

the communities in which he travelled like in Rome on his several visits.

12. The believers were involved in fasting as they copied the example of Jesus Christ. During such times, they dedicated themselves to the service of God (Acts 13:13).
13. The early Christians were occupied with laying hands on the people as Jesus had done before.
14. They also trained others to help them with the work of preaching the gospel Jesus Christ. For example, Saint Paul trained Timothy and Titus.
15. The Christians shared Holy Communion with the people. This was done in memory of the Lord's last supper and the blood shed through crucifixion.

ACTIVIT 4

1. a) Explain the role of prayer in African Traditional Society
b) Show how God revealed Himself in the Old Testament

DAY 5

EXAMPLES OF GOD'S SEEKERS IN CHURCH HISTORY

The preaching of Christianity in the early centuries made many people to seriously begin seeking for the truth about God and what it meant to live a righteous life. However, this was later to cause confusion between the old and the newly acquired belief. Such personalities included:

1. **CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA**
 - He was born in the Greek city of Athens around AD 150.
 - His parents were pagans. Therefore, this meant that he was brought up in the family without commitment to the Christian faith.
 - He was a scholar who studied philosophy in the university of

Athens.

- However, Clement later got converted to Christianity and this was the beginning of his long search for the truth about God.
- He travelled to different places including Italy, Syria and Egypt where he settled in Alexandria.

This was in his search for the true knowledge about God.

- He found a great teacher named Panteanus in Alexandria Panteanus was heading a school.
- He later succeeded Panteanus as the head of the school and became one of the greatest Christian teachers.
- Clement was concerned with moral training as being very important in the church.
- Clement helped to guide his students about errors of philosophers (great thinkers) especially their views about religious issues.
- He wrote many Christian books which became worldly used among his followers. Notably, he wrote a book about idolatry giving warning to the followers about the worshipping of idols.
- He criticized those who were against the principles of Christianity. He was concerned about their weak morals.
- He was the first person to develop the teaching and the idea about the trinity. He presented as one God as being one but in three persons.

2. **ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPO**

- Augustine was born in AD 354 to a Christian mother in North Africa in a place called Namudia.

- His mother was a Christian but he grew up without much commitment to the Christian faith.
- Augustine used to compare the scripture with the Pagan literature he had read but which he unfortunately did not know how to interpret.
- Augustine travelled to Milan in Italy where he worked for many years.
- While working in Milan, Augustine met bishop Ambrose who was famous for his preaching.
- The preaching of bishop Ambrose later inspired Augustine so much that he finally came to understand the scripture.
- However, Augustine kept returning to his old pagan way of life. He trusted in the Egyptian wisdom more than God's wisdom due to human weaknesses.
- Augustine wrote much Christian literature that helped to inspire many of his followers. This included "The confession" and "The city of God" among others.
- During his preaching, Augustine was always impatient with those who could not see the truth about Christ the way he had seen it.
- Augustine was credited for correcting some of the false teachings that developed among the Christians. For example, he corrected the Christians on the understanding of the predestination doctrine.
- Augustine taught his people and showed them how he had discovered the truth about God.

MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

By God creating human beings both male and female in his image, he initiated a relationship with mankind. He expected them to respond to him accordingly.

In an attempt to relate with God, man sought for something or someone beyond himself. Many events in the Old Testament are revelations of how man sought the knowledge of God.

1. The story of the fall of man, the first human beings (Adam and Eve) desired to be nearer to God. The woman in her interaction with the serpent was made to believe that they would be wise like God. Consequently, she was forced to eat the forbidden fruit in order to be like God (Genesis 3:1ff).
2. The incidence where Cain killed his own brother Abel was an effort of man to relate to be with and understand God. The two brothers had recognized the presence and the existence of God through offering sacrifices. However, it was from here that Cain met his death because of the selfishness and jealous of his brother (Genesis 4:1ff).
3. The builders of the tower of Babel thought that they could reach God in heaven through their building programme (Genesis 11:1ff).
4. The response of Abraham during his call reflected man's quest for God. He responded with faith, obedience and trust to a God he had never known before that he had to abandon his old ways of life (Genesis 12:1ff).
5. The experience of Moses during the bush event was an act of man seeking the knowledge of God. Moses removed his sandals as commanded and covered his face in the fear of the Lord. His later acceptance to go and liberate the Israelites

from their Egyptian bondage was a testimony of his belief in God. (Exodus 3:1ff).

6. The Israelites entered in a covenant with God at the foot of mount Sinai. During this occasion, they promised to obey and worship God alone (Exodus 19:1ff).
7. Still at the foot of Mount Sinai, the people of Israel made and worshipped a golden calf in their search for God. When Moses delayed up the mountain, they saw the need of creating a god for themselves (Exodus 32:1ff).
8. The Israelites renewed their earlier covenant with God as they settled down in the promised land. At Shechem, they promised to serve the Lord alone and obey all his laws (Joshua 24:1ff).
9. The Israelites praised and worshiped God. For example, king David led the Israelites in praising God through singing and dancing as they transferred the covenant box back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:1ff).
10. The Israelites built and dedicated a temple to God. This became a place where the covenant box was kept and it played the roles to promoting Israel's religion.
11. The people of Israel destroyed their idols and confessed the Lord as their only God. This was during the Mount Carmel contest in which Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:1ff).
12. The people of Israel repented as they related with God. For example, king David repented after committing the double sins of adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12:13).
13. The Israelites respected and listened to the servants of God

particularly his priests and prophets. For example, king David humbled himself before prophet Nathan upon being told that he had committed the sins of adultery and murder.

14. The Israelites also destroyed pagan alters in their land. For example, king Josiah destroyed the pagan alters that had been erected by king Manasseh.
15. The Israelites referred to God as the sovereign Lord as they responded to him. Prophet Jeremiah during his call knew the task being given. In a remarkable dialogue, he accepted to serve as God's prophet to the Israelites (Jeremiah 1:1_ 10
16. Through his prophets, God declared universal salvation for the nations of the world. Isaiah declared a time when all the people of the world would go to the Lord (Isaiah 49:12-13).

ACTIVITY 5

1. (a) In what ways did the following people show their quest for God?
 - (i) St. Francis of Assisi
 - (ii) St. Augustine of Hippo
- (b) Describe the qualities of God found in the book of Exodus.
2. (a) In what ways did the people of the time of St Augustine turn away from God?
 - (b) How have some Christians run away from God today?

DAY 6

HOW GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO MAN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God appeared to man through voice. For example, during the call of Abraham, Moses and Samuel (Genesis 12:1ff, Exodus 3:4ff, 1 Samuel 3:10ff respectively).

2. Through dreams and visions, the people experienced God's presence. For example, Abraham saw God in a form of a dream (Genesis 15:12).
3. God revealed himself in the form of a ram. This happened at the time He tested Abraham's faith by asking for the sacrifice of his only son Isaac. (Genesis 22:13).
4. God revealed himself to man in form of dreams and visions. Abraham and Samuel experienced this. (Genesis 15:1ff and 1 Samuel 3:1ff respectively).
5. God revealed himself in the form of fire. Moses saw a burning bush. There was also fire as Israelites were receiving the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 3:1ff and 19:1ff).
6. God showed his presence through thunder. This happened at the foot of Mt. Sinai as He was meeting the Israelites. (Exodus 19:16).
God revealed Himself to man through wind. For example, he took prophet Elijah up to heaven through a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:12).
8. The Israelites felt God's presence through the smoke. For example, during Mount Sinai covenant, there appeared a thick smoke that covered the whole mountain (Exodus 19:18).
9. God appeared in the form of a cloud. The cloud directed the Israelites to the promised land and which reappeared at the foot of Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
10. God appeared to man in form sound. This was during the receiving of the Decalogue, which caused the Israelites to tremble with fear. (Exodus 19:19).
11. God revealed himself to man through a rainbow. Ezekiel saw God coming to him in form of a rainbow. (Ezekiel 1:28).

God appeared to man through provision. He gave the Israelites food, water, quails and even Kings (Exodus 16:1ff and 17:1ff).

12. God revealed Himself to man in the form of rain. He sent the flood that lasted for forty days (Genesis 7:1ff).
13. God revealed Himself through wind. For example, prophet Elijah was taken to heaven by whirlwind in the presence of Elisha who later replaced him as a prophet (2 Kings 2:1ff).

THE NATURE, ATTRIBUTES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God is one in three persons (trinity). During the creation of the human beings, he is quoted as having said “And now we will make the human beings, they be like us and resemble us” (Genesis 1:26).
2. God is a worker. He took the soil and formed the man during his creational activities (Genesis 2:7).
3. God is holy by nature. Among others, he told Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on a holy ground. God is one. The Israelites were called upon to worship and serve only Yahweh.
4. God is the provider. He provided the people of Israelites with food in the form of quails and manna on their way to the promised land.
5. God is omnipresent. He is everywhere. He was with Moses during his call while in the Midian land, during the Passover and when he was receiving the Ten Commandments.

6. God is the source of blessings. He blessed Job with more wealth after a long life of suffering. He blessed the family of Obed Edom during the three months he kept the covenant box.
7. God is transcendent. He is beyond the understanding of human beings. Job and his friends failed to understand God's ways of doing things especially as Job continued to suffer despite his righteousness.
8. God is universal. He showed his authority by pronouncing judgement and punishment on Israel's neighbors like Philistia, Edom and Tyre.
9. God is the Almighty. Prophet Ezekiel seated saw a human – like figure seated on his throne during his call.

MAN'S QUEST FOR GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The quest for God in the New Testament is fulfilled through the person of Christ as prophesied in Isaiah 52:7. God took the initiative to establish a new kingdom through which man could reach Him. When Jesus finally appeared, He taught the following about man's quest for God.

1. Jesus pointed out that his coming was to unite man with God. Therefore, he called upon believers to respond to Him with faith and trust in Him in their search for God (John 11:45-54).
2. Jesus confirmed that he had come for salvation of all mankind. He called on man to be open to his message in the search for the truth in life (Luke 3:6, 6:35, 10:14).
3. Jesus identified himself as the way, the truth and the life. Through him, the believers would reach his father in his heavenly kingdom (John 14:16).
4. Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd. Accordingly,

he knew his sheep by their names and was willing to die for them. Therefore, he urged his listeners to turn to him for their salvation (John 10:1ff).

5. Jesus encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation amongst his followers in their search for God. He emphasized that having anger against a brother is equivalent to choosing the fire of hell. (Matthew 5:21-24). He also gave the example of the prodigal son who was forgiven by his father so that the believers would also forgive each other.
6. Jesus encouraged his followers to be good and merciful to each other. By doing so, the father in heaven would also be good and merciful to them (Matthew 5:7).
He advised his followers to be born again so that they would attain heavenly glory. This was in a conversation with Nicodemus where he said one had to be born again of spirit and water (John 3:1-11).
8. Jesus called upon the listeners to help the needy like the poor and orphans genuinely. By doing so, one would receive the heavenly reward from his father. (Matthew 6:14). Besides, he told the rich man to sell off his property, give the proceeds to the poor and follow him. On this occasion, he pointed out that it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.
9. Jesus called upon the believers to love God with all their strength, soul and mind as they are looking for him. He said that the father loves those who love him.
10. Jesus urged the listeners to love their enemies and be good to them instead of having them hated. For this reason, he said that we would become the children of God (Matthew 5:43-47).

11. Jesus advised His followers to tolerate human sufferings for the good of others. He showed this by tolerating his suffering so that man would be set free from the bondage of sin.
12. Jesus encouraged the listeners to pray honestly and with humility in order for the heavenly father to respond to their needs. He went on to teach his followers how to pray to the father (Matthew 6:5-15).
13. Jesus encouraged His followers to ask so that they are given, knock for the door to be opened and seek so that they could find.
14. Christ called upon the masses not to look outside their own life as they look for God. He points out that God is with all people in their daily lives. What is important is simply showing love for Him.
15. The knowledge of the mystery of Christ is a source of confidence for man in His quest to come closer to God and the trials that may come every day (Ephesians 3:12-13).
16. The coming of Christ to earth was a revelation of God's goodness and kindness. God is revealed in humanity of Christ as a loving Father (Titus 3:4).
17. According to Saint Paul, man gained the power to respond to God through the death and resurrection of Christ.
18. The body of man is the temple of God. Man should, therefore, keep his body free from evil practices as he comes closer to God. (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:9, revelation 3:20).
19. Jesus emphasized the need for man to love each other. He points out that this is the only way of bringing harmony here

on earth and in heaven (Luke 6:27-28, 32-36)

ACTIVITY 6

- 1.(a) Explain the ways in which God manifested His divine presence among Israelites. **(10 Marks)**
(b) Give differences between Christian and traditional African ways of searching for God. **(10 Marks)**
- 2.(a) What signs are there today to show that many people are avoiding God? **(10 Marks)**
(b) Explain the New Testament teaching that can boost Christian faith in God. **(10 Marks)**

DAY 7

MAN’S EVASION OF GOD

The word “evasion” may be used to mean the following:

- Trying to do without something intentionally.
- Dodging.
- Turning away.
- Trying to forget.
- Running away.
- To ignore. Therefore, the phrase “Man’s evasion of God” can be interpreted to mean the following
 - Inability of man to consider God and respond to his requirement in their daily activities or behavior.
 - The conduct of man which reflects dodging, or doing without God in their lives.
 - The sinful acts of man which are contrary to God’s expectations.
 - Behaving contrary to the principles required to live a godly life.

MAN'S EVASION OF GOD IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The following are the ways through which man today tends evade God.

1. Through practicing sexual immorality like homosexuality, bestiality and prostitution. These are sexual deviations which are against the divine intention of God for sex. Accordingly, sex is for pro – creation, mutual love and companionship. Besides, the body of every believer is the temple of God. Therefore, such acts defile God's temple.
2. Man is getting involved in murder or killing each other. However, God blessed the human beings to multiply and fill the world. This meant that God had empowered to continue bringing and preserving but not to destroy.
3. Some people worship many gods. This is against the monotheistic faith of the believers and therefore, against the oneness of God.
4. Man evades God by practicing witchcraft, magic and sorcery. This tends to cause harms onto others resulting into death and disharmony among others. Besides, believing in such powers reflect distrust in God's powers and man's desire to act independent of him.
5. Some people are selfish and therefore they tend to ignore the needs of those who are unable to fend for themselves. However, Jesus encouraged every believer to share with others is rewarded in the heavenly kingdom. He demonstrated this by encouraging the rich fool to sell all hi wealth and give the

- proceeds to the poor in order to attain the heavenly treasure.
6. Some people are involved in theft. By stealing one another's property, one breaks the commandment of God which forbids such an act. Therefore, stealing is an act of disobedience before God. Some people swear falsely in the name of God. They take an oath promising to fulfill their duties which unfortunately, they fail to do so. This shows disrespect to the name of God.
 8. Some people evade God through discriminating each other. They base on sex, tribe, religion and color among others. This is sinful because all humans are equal before God.
 9. Some people live a prayerless life. They tend to put barriers to their communication with God and forget that He exists.
 10. Some people are unrepentant and fail to put themselves right with others and with God. They continue to be sinful. They forget Jesus' teaching that only the righteous would inherit the kingdom of God.
 11. Some people drink alcohol excessively. However, wine is a mocker as it defiles the purity of one's body.
 12. Some people believe and practice superstition. They are strongly carried out by the belief that something bad is bound to happen by tagging particular events on to situations. This is a lack of trust in God's power and protection.
 13. People evade God through revenging and avenging on their enemies for their wrongs. However, Jesus encouraged every believer to forgive their enemies seventy-seven times. Besides, He said that the merciful here on earth would experience the father's mercy in His heavenly kingdom.

14. Some people evade God by exploiting the needy including the disabled and poor. This is under looking at God's creation.
15. Some people evade God by participating in gambling. This is sinful before God who created human beings to be workers.
16. God is evaded through hating one another. This hatred has always resulted into conflict thus creating disharmony and instability. This is disrespecting Jesus' desire for every believer to extend love to another.
17. Other individuals worship religious officials, places and objects other than God. These are obstacles to people's communication to God.
18. People are turning away from God by being materially minded. Because of the material wealth, such people are not bothered about God. This is because they believe that they have everything a human being needs.
19. Others evade God by being too evident. Such people treat others harshly without mercy. This is against God's will for mankind where harmony is the life desired.
20. The cases of corruption, bribery and embezzlement are forms of evasion of God. These are people who are self-centered and do not care about the needs of others.
21. Struggling for power is very common in the society today. The leaders in particular tend to fight each other as they crave for positions of authority. They forget that authority is God given.
22. People evade God through putting emphasis on one religious denominations and criticizing the others instead of believing in God. For example, it is difficult for a Christian who is a Protestant to go and pray in the Catholic church and vice versa.

23. Some people tend to blame God for whatever problems they encounter. They hold God responsible for their suffering other than looking at their own mistakes and putting themselves right with God through repentance.

CAUSES OF (REASONS FOR) MAN'S EVASION OF GOD TODAY

1. Accumulation of wealth makes some people to turn away from God. Such people think that they have everything they need in life. For this reason, they cannot see the importance of believing in and having God in their lives especially when they begin to think that they made their wealth on their own.
2. The suffering of some religious people just like pagans in the form of diseases and poverty among others turns some people away from God. People think that God is always there to guard these people. Therefore, their suffering makes it appear that God is not there.
3. Frustration in life makes some people to evade God. In an event of persistent or continuous suffering with all avenues for improvement exploited, a person may be forced to think that God has abandoned him or her.
4. Conflicting, controversial and different teachings by different religious leaders can discourage some people from believing in God. This tends to confuse people.
5. The delay in the proclaimed second coming of Christ tends to discourage some from believing in God. Such people tend to become too impatient and get caught up with the thinking and the feeling that such a preaching is false and may never come.

6. Bad behavior of some religious leaders like involving in defilement, rape, corruption, stealing church funds and many others. This discourages people from following and believing in the gospel truth.
7. To some people, believing in God restricts them from enjoying the pleasures of life like drinking alcohol and fornication among others. Therefore, they tend to ignore God in their lives in order to enjoy such pleasures of the world.
8. The discrimination practiced by some church leaders leads to evasion of God. For example, some religious leaders tend to respect the rich more than the poor yet they teach that all people are equal before God.
9. Economic hardships including poverty tend to make some people to ignore God. Because of desperate situations, God seems far away from them. It is for this reason that such people tend to concentrate on the practical ways of solving the problems rather than spiritual.
10. Poor preaching methods by some religious leaders make some people to be less interested in God. Some of the leaders over attack the believers during their sermons. Others tend to quarrel and abuse the worshippers and are perceived to be rude and boring. This makes some people to avoid going to churches.
11. Some people evade God because of the influence of formal education. To such people, the knowledge acquired may become a barrier to their belief in the existence of God which they cannot prove.

12. Some people tend to associate Christianity with the coming of the white people to Africa. To such people, the Christian faith is foreign to them. This is why they refer to it as the “white man’s religion” imposed on the black Africans.
13. Some people evade God because of their past sinful life. They feel that they have committed a number of crimes to the point where they cannot be forgiven.
14. The absence or the rare occurrences of miracles today as opposed to what is preached in the bible makes people to doubt God. Some people in desperate situations like childlessness and constant illnesses may get the feeling that God is ignoring them. This makes it difficult for such people to believe in the gospel truth, as they cannot see the miracles they expect.
15. Some people evade God because of failing to obtain material benefits from the church like education, money or any other tangible assistance. For such schemers, religious activities prayer, praise and worship may become time consuming without any material growth.
16. Existence of African traditional religion makes it difficult for people to truly believe in Christianity, which is seen to be “foreign”.
17. Some people are forced to ignore God because of the influence from their peers especially if such friends are non-believers. To identify themselves with the group, they have to behave exactly like the members.
18. Some people evade God because they are impatient. Such people think that their prayers should be answered

immediately. Therefore, in case of delay, they think that God has forgotten them.

19. The influence of science and modern technology makes some people to turn away from God. Among the benefits, science has enabled man to solve some of his immediate problems like diseases without reference to God. Above all, to such people, for anything said to exist it must be proved. Unfortunately, they have failed to prove the existence of God through their discoveries
19. Some people believe more in the practice of magic and witchcraft which seems to solve their problems. This can explain why some people still respect the demands of the traditional gods to the extent of offering children as sacrifice in order to obtain riches.
20. Some people are forced to ignore God because of the influence from their peers. This is especially if such friends are less interested in religious activities. For them to fit and identify themselves with the group, they have to behave exactly like the members.

ACTIVITY 7

1. a) Why do people evade God today?
b) Explain the ways through which man today tends evade God.
- 2.) In what ways did people in church history evade God?

DAY 8

The church's contribution to man's evasion in God today?

- Ignoring the tangible needs of the believers especially of the poor.

- Over demanding material support from the believers in form of donations.
- Discriminating the believers basing on sex, possessions and age.
- Open rivalry or conflict among the religious leaders.
- Corruption of some church leaders or being entangled in dirty deals.
- Making empty promises to the believers.
- Poor or boring methods of preaching the good news of salvation.
- Partisan politics which tends to divide the believers.
- False prophets or telling lies.
- Over demanding time for only religious activities amidst pressing needs.

HOW THE CHURCH IS BRINGING MAN BACK TO GOD

1. Through modernization of the ways of praising and worshiping God. This is done by using modern musical instruments like guitars and pianos. This helps to attract more people particularly the youth to attend masses and the church services since the occasions become more enjoyable.
2. Through providing education services to the people they serve. This is being done through religious founded schools like St. Mary's college Kisubi and Our Lady Queen of Africa Rubaga Girls' Secondary school. In such schools, religious activities like prayers are compulsory. Besides, the church offers scholarship to committed children from the disadvantaged families.

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- 3. Through providing recreational centres like Nsambya sharing hall. Such places are used for entertainment purposes among others.
- 4. Establishing and running media centres like Light House Television, Radio Maria. This is attractive to people of all ages.
- 5. By organizing and encouraging bible studies. This may be on the daily or weekly basis especially in the evening hours. It helps to bring the believers together and inspire them more.
- 6. By providing guidance and counseling services to the people. This has given a sense of direction to those who are spiritually lost because of the problems in life.
- 7. The church has always organized the youth camps. This has allowed interaction with highly profiled religious leaders like bishops and dignified preachers. During such occasions, the youth vigorously participate in fellowship, prayer, praise and worship.
- 8. The church is building more structures to accommodate the increasing number of believers. Such buildings like Rubaga and Kansanga Miracle centres are well decorated and furnished and therefore, attractive. This enables the congregation to be more comfortable thus making them enjoy sermons.
- 9. The church sponsors extra and co-curricular activities like football, netball and music dance and drama among others. In the Catholic church, there is an annual competition in music, dance and drama between the schools within a diocese. This has always created unity among such schools among

other benefits.

10. Organizing and encouraging fellowship among believers. This helps in creating unity and making believers strong and firm in their faith.
11. The church is involving more people particularly youth in its management and administration. Responsibilities like ushers, wardens and altar boys are shared among the people. This tends to make the people feel that they are part of the church.
12. The church gives support to its organization including Young Christian Society, scripture union and Mother's Union among others. This helps to bring themselves together as they actively participate in affairs of the church.
13. The church provides employment opportunities in the public. Such employments are given to teachers and doctors among others. This helps to improve on the standards of living and because of this, they tend to pay their loyalty to the church.
14. There are also charity organizations like Watoto Children founded by the church to help the disadvantaged like the poor and the orphans. Such organizations cater for the basic needs of the needy by providing food, shelter and education. This helps to attract more people to the church and makes them more committed as well.

MAN'S EVASION OF GOD AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Much as the people in African Traditional Society had a deep-rooted belief in the existence of the supreme God, there were times when they behaved contrary to their beliefs.

Some traditional Africans could turn to believe in divinities (lesser gods) for assistance. They could consult such lesser gods in extreme cases like death, severe drought and famine through praying to them and offering sacrifices.

1. Africans honored and respected religious rituals, shrines and religious leaders as being holy and at times more important than God.
2. Some Africans used to wear protective charms on their body parts like around waist and neck.
This showed the people's lack of trust in God's protection.
3. The traditional Africans worshipped the ancestral spirits instead of God. They forgot that the ancestors were simply mediators between man and God.
4. The Africans believed in wars as opposed to peaceful means of solving conflicts. They could organize for raids and this made people suffer.
5. The traditional Africans practiced magic, sorcery and witchcraft. This involved manipulating the minds of the people to make them believe in something. This caused harm, conflict and disharmony. Some even lost their lives. This meant that they trusted their other powers instead of trusting God's mighty power to act in any given situation.
6. Some traditional Africans disrespected their own customs and the taboos of the society some of which carried religious meaning.
7. The Africans held a deep belief in superstitions. Among the Acholi people, meeting a cat especially the black one as one was on a mission like hunting, was a bad omen and it was

possible for one to abandon the mission. This undermined God as being the controller of world events.

8. The Africans were involved in human sacrifices. This was done in respecting the demand of the ancestral spirits. This was murder and against their own belief in God as the creator.
9. Some traditional Africans blamed God for uncertainties like death and famine. Such were misfortune believed to have been upon the people by the spiritual world.
10. The culture of the revenging and avenging was common among the Africans. This made the people to live under fear and it also promoted a rough life like fighting.
11. In some communities, the less fortunate like the women, strangers and disabled were discriminated and mistreated as if they were sub-human beings.
12. Some traditional Africans trusted their own wisdom other than God. They believed that they were capable of doing anything on their own without God's blessing or approval.
13. The traditional Africans evaded God through making blood pacts and later breaking it. They showed faith and trusted in the pact other than God's power.
14. Some traditional Africans worshiped physical features such as mountains, big trees, hills and forests. Such places were respected for their "holiness". In Buganda, the "Nakayima tree" now in the current district of Mubende was treated with such respect. Even rocks with unique curving were adored.
15. There used to be power struggle among the Africans. They could fight to the extent of killing each other. However, even

the people they struggled to rule were victimized by their fights.

ACTIVITY 8

1. How is the church contributing to man's evasion in God today?

2. a) Outline the dangers of witchcraft and magic in the African Traditional society. (8 marks)

b) How is the church bringing people back to God? (12 marks)

DAY 9

MAN'S EVASION OF GOD IN CHURCH HISTORY

The early Christians:

The body of believers who lived immediately after the ascension of Jesus Christ experienced problems in the administration of the church despite having key personalities including the apostles like Saint Paul and Peter. These problems made the believers to evade God in the following ways:

1. The evasion of God had begun much earlier when Jesus Christ was still alive. Many people became confused with the teaching and the belief of God being three in one person. Others found it difficult to believe that Christ was truly God evasion of God.
2. There was division among the believers. The believers started following personalities like Paul, Peter and Apollo while a section claimed that they followed only Jesus Christ. This was the reason St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians had to defend the church to say that they were all baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and were therefore one.
3. There was also persecution of the believers. Saint Paul before

- his conversion was one of those who moved up and down torturing everyone who believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. Idol worship existed among the believers. In the city of Corinth, Christians used to make sacrifices to idols. This was against the monotheistic faith of the believers as Jesus Christ had emphasized.
 5. Some believers rejected the apostles of Jesus Christ. Saint Paul was rejected by the Galatians who accused him of being a persecutor before his conversion.
 6. Some of the early Christians were involved in mob justice. A case in point was Stephen who was stoned to death. This was murder which was against the commandment of God. (Acts 7:54).
 7. There was discrimination among the believers particularly between the rich and the poor. This was during the Lord's supper and agape meals. However, this was a fellowship gathering meant to bring the believers together. (1 Corinthians 5:1-77).
 8. Some of the early Christians involved in sexual immorality. Among the Corinthians, there used to be incest and prostitution. This defiled the bodies of the believers. (1 Corinthians 5:1ff and 6:1ff).
 9. Some believers were dishonest. For example, Ananias and Saphira hid some amount of money they had got from the sale of their property yet they were required to declare everything to the church (Acts 5:1-77).
 10. Some of the believers held the attitude of "Leave it all to God". Because of this, some of them abandoned working and sold off their property in order for them to concentrate on prayer leaving everything for God

11. Some of the believers became liars. For example, Ananias and Saphira lied to Peter about the sale of their property.

The middle ages:

This was a period marked by a reformation (changes) in the church. However, because of the changes, many Christians found themselves evading God in the following ways:

1. The Christians were taken up by the songs of praises particularly the hymns composed by Bishop Ambrose. Every effort was directed towards singing well in the church and this made them to forget the Christian virtues.
2. Many Christians concentrated on building monuments. They built images of great personalities who had contributed significantly to the growth and development of the church in and around the cathedrals. Many of these monuments were greatly adored by the Christians.
3. Some Christians concentrated on decorating the church buildings with beautiful pictures including those of saints. Some of them thought they would be put right with God through such activities rather than repentance.
4. There also developed a wrong interpretation of the trinity. Some Christians came to believe that God the father, the son and the Holy Spirit were independent of each other.
5. Some of the Christians were taken up by wealth. They thought that they had everything they wanted in life and ignored God.
7. The educated Christians developed a thinking that God was only for the poor and ignorant or illiterate people.
8. Some of the Christians put a lot of emphasis on religious

practices like reciting rosary. They were very strict about such a practice and forgot all about following and living a true Christian life.

9. Some Christians worshipped and respected the remains of great Christians and holy personalities particularly that of the saints. Their clothes and the shoes among others were adored as being holy and were treated with a lot of respect.
10. There developed the pre-destination doctrine (teaching) among the Christians under the leadership of John Calvin of Switzerland. It was widely taught that God had determined The destiny of a person before his or her birth to either go to heaven or to hell and nothing human could be done to change the arrangement. This was so confusing and misleading that it made some of the believers to give up with their faith.
11. The Christians also developed the doctrine of the sales of indulgence. By this, the religious leaders particularly the priests encouraged the believers to give some gifts like money in order for their sins to be forgiven. This made any of the rich Christians to think that they could buy salvation and they therefore, forgot about repenting their sins.
12. Some of the Christians honoured and almost worshipped the religious leaders among them including the pope, bishops and the priests.
13. The missionaries used threatening method when preaching in order to win people's faith. God was presented as being a harsh judge who could never forgive. This instead scared the believers.

14. A lot of emphasis was put on the correct ways of worshipping other than the worshipping of God itself. This made Christianity to appear to be restrictive to the hatred of many.

MAN'S EVASION OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

When God created the human both male and female in His likeness (Genesis 1:26ff), He expected them to respond to Him with faith. In Genesis 2:1ff God even involved man in his work of creation when he was given the responsibility of naming other creatures and later put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it.

However, the events that followed saw man fall apart with God and this marked the beginning of the human race disappointing, ignoring and acting independent of God.

1. The first human beings disobeyed the simple command God had given them by eating the forbidden fruit. By doing so, man rebelled against God and tried to equate themselves with God. They also expressed greediness and became unrepentant (Genesis 3:1-77).
2. In the story of Cain and Abel, man acted with selfishness and jealousy. This led later resulted into murder when Cain killed his own brother and denied being responsible for him. It was for this reason, that God disapproved his actions by punishing him (Genesis 4:1ff).
3. The builders of the tower of Babel, tried to act independent of God but with a disastrous ending. Their plan to reach God in the sky through their building involved false wisdom, selfishness, pride, lack of faith and trust in God and their desire to equate themselves with him. This could be used to

explain reason as why God punished them by mixing their language and destroying the building itself. (Genesis 11:1ff).

4. While in Egypt, the Israelites were oppressed and exploited through hard labour. The injustices against the Israelites displeased God as reflected in the call of Moses and the eventual liberation of the Israelites.
5. The Israelites evaded God by worshiping idols. At the foot of mount Sinai, they made a molten calf to represent Yahweh (Exodus 32:1-7). While in the promised land, they went on to worship the idols of foreign gods. This was against their monotheistic faith as established at the foot of mountain Sinai.
6. The Israelites practiced sexual immorality such as prostitution and incest. This was an evasion of God because it was against the covenant faith. A case in point was Hosea's wife who continued with her prostitution despite the husband's plea for her to stop it (Hosea 4:1-15).
7. The Israelites demanded to have an earthly king. This was a direct rejection of God's authority as their ruler and therefore against theocratic background (1 Samuel 8:1-10).
8. The Israelites evaded God by struggling for power. Their struggle for power showed their disrespect to God's divine choice of the persons He wanted to rule His people. King Saul unsuccessfully tried to kill David after he realized that the Lord had rejected him and favoured David to become the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 19:1-4, and Kings 11:26-41).
9. The Israelites disobeyed the Lord's command of carrying out the act of Herem. While in the wilderness on their way to the promised land, God, through Moses commanded to destroy

their enemies and their property. However, when king Saul and soldiers were told to do so, he spared king Agag and the fatty animals of Amalekites.

10. The Israelites evaded God by persecuting and despising the prophets. Prophet Elijah suffered greatly in the hands of king Ahab and his pagan wife Jezebel. Even Jeremiah was beaten up and chained upon the orders of priest Pashhur.
11. The Israelites become unrepentant. They continued with their sinfulness despite warnings from the Lord's prophets. For example, king Solomon continued with his sinful ways even when the Lord appeared to him commanding him to stop it.
12. The Israelites evaded God by practicing religious syncretism. They worshiped Yahweh besides other gods like Baal and Molech- the disgusting god of Ammon. This was against the covenant faith, which demanded the worship of only God.
13. Some of them disrespected their parents. The two sons of Eli, Phinehas and Hophni disrespected him and continued with their misbehavior of sleeping with the women who served in the tent of the Lord's presence at Shiloh. This was against the Lord's commandment which required respect of parents. It was for this reason that the Lord rejected them as his priest.
14. The Israelites got involved in murder. For example, king David plotted the death of Uriah – his faithful soldier and yet the law had forbidden killing.
15. The Israelites evaded God by selling parts of the Canaan land to foreigners. King Solomon sold off twenty towns in the region of Galilee to king Hiram of Tyre but this land belonged to Yahweh.

ACTIVITY 9

1. How did the people of Israel ignore God in their lives?
2. Show how the Israelites evaded God after settling in the promised land.
3. How did Adam and Eve evade God by eating the forbidden fruit?
 1. (a) How did the church in middle ages turn to worshipping of objects other than God?
 - (b) How have the Christians of today followed the same trend?

DAY 10

- Disobedience of God's command.
- Greed.
- Tried to be equal to God.
- Rebelled against God.
- Became unpleasant.
- Hid from God.
- Betrayed God.
- They showed pride.
- Acted independently.
- Worshipped the snake.
- Lacked faith in God.
- Disrespected God.

How man evade God by building the tower of Babel?

- Pride as they wanted to make a name for themselves through the building.
- They were idle and yet they are supposed to have been

working.

- They wanted to be equal to God as they desired to be with Him in heaven.
- They abused God's given freedom.
- They misused God's creation particularly the soil they used for the building which was later destroyed.
- False unity by thinking it was only the building to write them.
- Dodged the responsibility of being on earth.
- Greediness.
- Acted independently as they decided to work on their own to search for God.
- Lacked faith in what God had done for them.
- Lacked trust in God's provision.

Man's evasion of God in the story of Cain and Abel?

- Murder as Cain killed Abel.
- Selfishness i.e. Cain gave the worst of his harvest to God.
- Jealousy.
- Irresponsibility – Cain denied being responsible for his own brother.
- Lying as Cain told God that he did not know the where about of his brother.
- Rebellion.
- Unrepentant.
- Disobedience.
- Rudeness.
- Disrespect of God. Cain responded arrogantly to God.

EVASION OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. The Jews rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah. They referred to Him as the son of Joseph the carpenter and therefore remained opposed to his teaching. This was because Jesus Christ came as a spiritual Messiah at the time when the Jews expected a political messiah to set them from the rule of the Romans (Matthew 14:13).
2. The Jews turned the temple of God into a market instead of using it as a place of worship as referred to it. This was the reason Jesus overturned their tables and beat them up.
3. The Jews got involved in marital unfaithfulness. This was presented in the story of the woman caught in adultery whom Jesus forgave for the offense (John 8:1ff).
4. The Jews put a lot of emphasis on religious practices like fasting that it almost enslaved the people. When Jesus tried to correct their wrong attitude, the Pharisees regarded Him as a law breaker (Mark 2:18-22).
5. The Jews particularly the Pharisees were very strict on the observation of the Sabbath day. It had become such a burden to the Jews. It was this reason that Jesus had to tell them that the Sabbath was meant for man but not for the Sabbath. He meant that man had to enjoy freedom on such a day instead of being enslaved (Mark 2:23ff).
6. Some of the Jews rejected the teaching of Jesus Christ. They stubbornly remained opposed to the gospel truth as Jesus preached. Jesus explained this in the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-77).

7. The religious leaders particularly the Pharisees were very proud of who they were. They took themselves to be more religious than anybody else.
8. There was persecution of the believers among the Jews. St. Paul before his conversion was one of those who persecuted whoever believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
9. The Jews had the thinking that Jesus Christ was only for them. This made them to think that salvation was only for them. However, they failed to realise that Jesus had come as a universal savior. According to the gospel of Saint John, it was for the love that God had for mankind that He sent His begotten son to die in order for everyone to attain salvation (John 1:1ff).
10. There was religious hypocrisy particularly by the Pharisees. As much as they were the custodian of the law, they behaved contrary to the expectations.
11. There was discrimination among the believers. This was practiced even in the places of worship in respect of one's possession. The poor in particular were ignored and the rich favoured. The Jews also discriminated against the gentles or the non-Jews.
12. The Jews had the heart of revenge. They continued to serve God with their unforgiving hearts. Jesus illustrated this in the parable of the unforgiving servant. Accordingly, the servant beat up his fellow servant who owed him yet his master had just pardoned for the same. (Matthew 11:21-77).
13. God was evaded through selfishness. This was demonstrated

in the story of the rich fool who failed to share part of his harvest with the needy. (Luke 2:12-21).

ACTIVITY 10

1. Why was Jesus against the official religion of His time?
2. Why did Jesus condemn the religious leaders of His time?
3. How did man evade God in the story of Cain and Abel
- 4.a) What signs are there today to show that many people are evading God?
b) Explain the New Testament teaching that can boost Christian faith in God
- 5.a) How has the media contributed to man's evasion of God today?
b) Why do people tend to create their own goals today?

DAY 11

JESUS' RESPONSE OR REACTION TO THE EVASION OF GOD

The coming of Jesus Christ is presented as God's continuous effect to bring man nearer to Him. By His coming, Jesus established the Kingdom of God on earth and in doing so, He expected every believer to respond to His call of salvation.

1. Jesus identified Himself as the way, the truth and the life for every believer. He urged every believer to look unto Him for their salvation. (John 14:16).
2. Jesus declared himself as the son of God sent to bring the good news of salvation to the entire world (John 5:19ff).
3. Jesus encouraged all the believers to repent their sins. He

pointed out that through repentance, God would forgive every believer and as a result, they would be His children.

4. Jesus said that salvation was for everyone. For this reason, He expected everyone to respond positively to the good news He had come with (Luke 3:6).
5. Jesus called upon the believers to be open and His message as they look for the truth in life. He said such people would be happy in the heavenly kingdom. He illustrated this by giving the example of Zacchaeus who accepted his message and left his past behind (Luke 19:1ff).
6. Jesus encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation among the believers. He expected a believer to forgive seventy-seven times seven. He later demonstrated this in the story of the prodigal son. Accordingly, the father forgave him after he had wasted the share of his wealth. However, this was to the disappointment of his brother (Luke 15:11).
7. Jesus encouraged His followers to be merciful to each other. He said he who is merciful would experience his father's mercy in his heavenly kingdom. He considered this as one of the true sources of happiness to every believer (Matthew 5:7).
8. He advised the believers to be born again in order for them to attain the heavenly glory. This was in a conversation with Nicodemus when he talked about spiritual rebirth for one to attain salvation through the ritual of water baptism (John 3:1ff).
9. Jesus called upon the believers to put their trust in God as their father in order to get what they desired (Matthew 7:7-11).
10. Jesus called upon the believers to give assistance to those in need like the poor and the orphans. This was by giving

examples of the rich man who He told to sell off his property and give the proceeds to the poor and follow. He showed hard it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God (Luke 18:18ff).

11. Jesus presented God being with all the believers. For this reason, He urged the believers to look onto themselves instead of looking elsewhere.
12. Jesus referred to Himself to look as a good shepherd and that the believers were like lost sheep. Accordingly, he said that he knew his animals by name and would take care of them.
13. Jesus called upon the believers to love God with all their strength, soul and mind as they are looking for him.
14. Jesus encouraged believers to love their enemies and be good to them instead of having them hated.
15. Jesus encouraged the followers to tolerate human sufferings which are for the good of others. He showed this by tolerating his suffering so that man would be set free from the bondage of sin.
16. Christ attacked the Jews for being religiously proud because of their strict emphasis on religious customs, practices, places and the persons. He said this could not put any man right with God.
17. Jesus said that the person should pray honestly. He showed that the heavenly father to respond and give them their needs.
18. He condemned the legalistic attitude of the Pharisees who thought they were righteous by observing the law.
19. Jesus encouraged the followers to ask, seek and knock. He who does so would receive, find and have the door opened (Matthew 7:7).

Why did the Jews reject Jesus as a messiah or the savior?

Consider the following points which are already discussed under the sub – theme of success. In particular, look at the reasons why the Jews perceived Jesus as a failure.

- Jesus was born from a poor background.
 - Jesus was baptized like any other sinner.
 - Jesus was tempted by satan and therefore appeared human.
 - He was materially poor.
 - Jesus fasted for forty days and he was considered as a mad person.
 - He associated with sinners or the outcast like the prostitute woman.
 - Jesus' act of cleansing the temple made him to appear against his own people.
 - Jesus remained single even his youthful years.
 - Jesus was arrested as a criminal.
 - Jesus was betrayed by his own apostles Judas Iscariot.
 - Jesus was also denied three times by his own apostle Peter.
 - Jesus came as spiritual messiah yet the Jews expected a political messiah.
- Jesus kept on emphasizing that he had come to fulfill His father's will.
- Jesus was disowned by his disciples and appeared to have been abandoned by his father who sent him (Mark 14:50 and 15:34).
 - Jesus' own disciples failed to understand his teaching (Mark 14:13-20)

ACTIVITY 11

- 1.a) In which ways did the Uganda Martyrs prove their belief in God?
b) Why does a modern Christian find the search for God very difficult today?
 2. a) Why did the Israelites evade their God after reaching the Promised Land?
b) As a Christian, what advice would you give to non-believers who doubt God's existence?
 3. a) In what ways has the Church in Africa brought African culture into the Christian faith?
b) Show the ways in which God was involved in the life of Israelites in the Old Testament
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2. (a) Why is there a wide spread of immorality today.
(b) Give reasons why Jesus was rejected by the Jews.