

Lesson 18: Fate and magic

Aims for each learner:

- Be sure of three key biblical truths concerning fate and magic.
- Understand that God is close and he cares.
- Deal with any occult influence from their past life.
- Memorize 1 Peter 5:7.

Cultural clues:

- Muslims and magic
- Muslims and spiritual powers
- Giving condolences

Prepare: As you prepare and lead this lesson, make sure that you as leader are claiming Christ's victory in worship, and in confession of sin. Ask others to also pray for the lesson. The discussion might uncover prior occult influence on your learner(s), depending on their background, so it is important to be spiritually alert.
You should start and end the lesson with worship and prayer, proclaiming God's victory together.

Opening

Last week's practical task: Did you decide, and act on, how much money you will set aside monthly to give back to God? Or did you think of other ways to give generously?

Lesson 18 home study review: **Question 1:** a) fate; b) detests; c) powers

Question 2: all your anxiety on him, cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)

Introduce today's topic: Who is the most powerful person in the universe? God is all-powerful, and His Son Jesus Christ has conquered Satan and all the powers of darkness. Today we will learn why, as God's chosen people, we need not live in fear of anything – whether fate, jinn, or the evil eye.

Discussion

Introduction & Question 1

Pray together the prayer before Question 1. On this subject of fate and magic, the devil has told us many lies. Many people have believed those lies for centuries, so they remain in Satan's power. Maybe those false ideas sit in our own minds too. Today let's break them with God's truth!

Question 1: Read the question. *Allow time for learners to share their background and understanding.*

- What is your **real** opinion: 'yes', 'no' or 'not sure'? How did you form that opinion?

God guides our lives, not fate (Questions 2-9)

Question 2: Read the question and look at the diagram (*peoples' false idea*).

- Have you ever believed that God is too far away to care? How has this changed for you?

Question 3: Look at this diagram (*with the words filled in the blank spaces*).

- Do you know any people who think that fate, jinn and the evil eye influence their daily lives?
- According to the Bible, do these things exist? *Yes (though Christians differ on interpretation).*

Question 6: Look at the picture and read the question.

- What did you write for part a)? What about part b)? Why these answers?
- Next time you yourself are suffering, will statement 1 will comfort you more or statement 2?

Question 7: Read the diagram: 'What God is really like'.

- What is different in this diagram from the one in question 3? *God, instead of being far away, comes down to our level in Jesus Christ. He really cares for us. He is not too far away to care.*

Question 8: Read the question and practise the memory verse. Try this in a group or in pairs:



- The first person asks the second person, "What are you anxious about these days?"
- The second person gives their personal response. The first person then says: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7)". The second person does the same thing with the next person, and so on round the group, including you as group leader at the end.

God detests magic and idolatry (Questions 10-17)

Question 10: Read the question. *Muslims in the West do these things somewhat less, but often are still influenced by the underlying beliefs. Ask too about their family's culture.*

- What did you write here?

Question 11-15:

- What practices are mentioned in these questions? *Some of these are difficult words in the NIV, so be ready to explain the meaning. You need not turn to the passage as our main Bible study is later.*
- What is God's attitude to them all? *He detests them, he hates them and forbids them.*
- Why are these practices a form of idolatry (question 15)? *These practices are like idols if people trust and obey them more than God, because they put created things in place of the Creator.*

Question 16: Read the speech bubble. What advice would you give this lady?

Some suggestions: *Above all, she needs to know that God cares for her very much. He feels her sorrow. The 'holy man' is not closer to God than this lady is, in fact she is in Christ and is closer than him. She should not follow two masters, either Christ is her master or the holy man is. She should ask other believers to pray with her for God to give her a child. But his purpose is best, whether or not she has the joy of a child.*

Jesus rules over all spiritual powers (Questions 18-21)

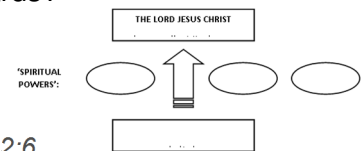
Question 18-19: Read and discuss two Bible passages.



- **Mark 1:21-27.** In verse 22, what amazed the people about Jesus? *he taught with authority.*
- How did Jesus prove his authority in practice? *he commanded the unclean spirit and it obeyed.*
- In verse 24, what two important things did the spirit recognize about Jesus?
1. Jesus came to destroy the evil spirits. 2. He is the Holy One of God.
- How did the people react in verse 27? *they were even more amazed than before.*



- Go to the diagram at question 19 and **read 1 Peter 3:21b-22** (from the second half of v.21) Which truths in this passage are shown by the arrow pointing upwards?
'resurrection of Jesus Christ', 'gone into heaven', 'at God's right hand'.
- What did you write in the oval spaces? *angels, authorities, powers.*
- On the diagram, who is higher than the jinn and spiritual powers?
- Where are we on the diagram? *seated with Christ & ruling, Ephesians 2:6.*
- If someone puts a curse on you, who is more powerful than the curse?



Question 21: Do any of us have experience of Christ defeating evil spirits?

- **Read the section in square brackets.** Some of you may be worried about evil spirits, others may not. If you are, please talk afterwards with me or another experienced believer.

Can we serve two masters? (Questions 22-24)

Question 23: Read the story. What answer did you write?

- Remember this saying, 'If Jesus is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all!'
- Today we have talked about three important truths to break the devil's lies. What are they?
1. God guides our lives, not fate. 2. God detests magic and idolatry. 3. Jesus rules over all spiritual powers.
- How do you feel at the end of today's discussion?

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- What difference will today's lesson make in your life?

Read together the practical task: Carefully go through the questions. Ask God to remind you of any past occasions when these things influenced your life. If there was any such influence, ask another believer to help you pray against it.

Pray & worship together:

Stand up together and declare against the devil these three truths: God guides our lives, not fate. God detests magic and idolatry. The Lord Jesus rules over all spiritual powers.