

Lessons for the New Believer

Your

Walk

in

Christ



FOREWORD

Lessons for The New Believer has been written especially for those who have found Christ during an International Commission project. Calvin Beach served as a Southern Baptist pastor 25 years before joining the staff of International Commission. He has utilized these years of experience in preparing this small booklet.

Calvin has a pastor's heart and a great desire to help new Christians as they begin their new walk with Christ. I believe you will be blessed as you study God's Word in search for the answers to these probing questions that every new believer faces.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend this booklet to you as you begin your walk with Christ. May you complete this booklet with a new-found hunger for a deeper study of the Word of God. May you grow in His Grace as you study your Bible daily.

Ben W. Mieth

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YOUR DECISION FOR CHRIST

You have received Christ as your Savior. You now need to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord (I Peter 2:2).

The following lessons have been written to help you to learn how to follow Christ in the Christian life.

The Bible teaches you how to be obedient to Christ. As a new believer you need to learn how to study the Word of God. You need to learn how important it is to walk by faith (Hebrews 11:6).

You are blessed as you grow in your knowledge of how to seek God in prayer. You will learn to love the church as you worship and fellowship with God's people. Your heart will be filled with joy as you learn to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and see others come to know Him as you have.

The lessons were written to be taught by a teacher. The student is to study the lesson and answer the questions. Be sure to read all Scripture references in your Bible!

Memorize at least one Scripture passage per week.

The Bible says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Psalm 119:11.

Calvin E. Beach

LESSON 1

OUR FIRST STEP IN CHRIST

Trusting Jesus Christ and receiving Him as your Savior is the beginning of your Christian walk. As a believer, Christ now lives in your heart and life (Galatians 2:20). He has come to dwell there so that you might have roots that will help you grow in His love (Ephesians 3:17).

The life that was given you is eternal, which means that it is one that will last forever (John 3:16; 6:47). God has given you this new life because you believed in Jesus Christ (I John 5:11-13). You are now under the special care of God. He will bless you as you follow Christ, accepting and believing in His promises (Matthew 6:25-33).

Since you are now a follower of Christ, temptations will be increased. You are a part of God's army. As a soldier for Christ, you will be thrust into battle. You will need to put on the "Armor of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:11-18).

During the time of Christ's ministry, soldiers wore armor to protect themselves in battle. In a similar fashion, we are to put on a spiritual armor. An explanation of the armor is as follows:

A. Put on the strong *ō*belt of truth.ö The truth has set you free, and will keep you free (John 8:32).

B. The *ō*breastplate of righteousnessö means that you put on God's righteousness. It is God's approval on your life (II Corinthians 5:21).

C. We make preparation to preach the gospel of peace as we study the Word of God and apply its teaching to our lives (Romans 1:15).

D. The "shield of faith" is used as protection against the devil's attacks (I Timothy 6:12).

E. The "helmet of salvation" is your assurance that you have been saved from sin (I Thessalonians 5:8).

F. The "sword of the spirit" is God's Word. It is the weapon we use to defend the gospel, which means good news (Hebrews 4:12).

G. Prayer is the power that holds the armor in place (Philippians 4:6-7).

You are one of God's children. Therefore, you will need to learn how to act, how to live, and how to walk in God's light (Ephesians 5:1-11).

LESSON 1 QUESTIONS

1. How do we receive Christ? (Ephesians 3:17)

2. What kind of life does God offer? (John 3:16)

3. How do you get everlasting life? (John 6:47)

4. What does the word "believe" mean? (John 6:47)

5. How do you know you have eternal life? (I John 5:11-13)

6. Has your life changed since you received Christ and began to follow Him? In what ways? (II Corinthians 5:17)

7. If you follow the Lord, what does He promise you? (Matt. 6:25-33)

8. Why do we need to put on "the armor of God"? (Eph. 6:11-12)

9. Explain each part of the armor:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. _____

F. _____

G. _____

10. Explain what it means "to walk in the light," according to Ephesians 5:1-11.

Memorize Matthew 6:33

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

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LESSON 2

CONFESSING CHRIST

Confessing Christ before men publicly confirms a personal relationship to the Lord. We are required to confess Christ before men (Matthew 10:32).

Confession means to admit sin, or to agree with a fact. When you are saved from your sins, you admit you have sinned and you agree in your heart that Jesus Christ died to save you from your sin.

Romans 10:9-13 teaches us that we must believe with our heart and confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Acts 8:30-39 an Ethiopian confessed that he believed in Jesus and he wanted to be baptized. Those who confessed Christ in the Bible were baptized.

Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It symbolizes the new life that we have found in Christ (Romans 6:4-6). Jesus set the example in that He was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17).

Baptism shows our obedience to Christ, and identifies us with a visible church. The Bible teaches that you are to publicly confess Christ and to follow Him in baptism (Acts 16:30-33).

It is very important for new believers to tell others what has happened to them. Your friends and family may not understand, but God expects that you confess the truth you have experienced.

LESSON 2 QUESTIONS

1. What does Romans 10:9 teach us?

2. What does Romans 14:10-12 teach us about judgment?

3. After you believe the gospel, what should you do next? (Acts 8:12)

4. How should you be baptized? (Acts 8:38)

5. Who should be baptized?

A. Matthew 28:19 _____

B. Mark 16:16 _____

C. Acts 2:41 _____

D. Acts 8:12 _____

E. Acts 16:31-33 _____

F. Acts 18:8 _____

Memorize Romans 10:9

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

LESSON 3

CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH

The word "church" means "the called out." In some scriptures it refers to all saved people (Acts 2:47). Most of the time it refers to believers in a local congregation (I Corinthians 1:2).

The church is a group of believers who have confessed Christ as their Savior and have followed the Lord in baptism. They are joined together and have become as one in Christ (Acts 2:41).

Jesus loved the church and died for it (Ephesians 5:25). He said, "The church is like a marriage. Jesus is the head of the church, just as the husband is the head of his household" (Ephesians 5:21-32).

The church is never referred to as a building or a denomination. The church was chosen in Christ before anything was created (Ephesians 1:4-6). It was founded by Jesus Christ. It is God's church (Galatians 1:13).

Jesus said, "I will build my church." The church did not begin to fully function until the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Through the coming of the Spirit they were baptized into one body (I Corinthians 12:12-13). This is a spiritual baptism.

We are to assemble ourselves together for the purpose of praising God and for worship. We need to meet with other believers to fellowship and strengthen one another.

LESSON 3 QUESTIONS

1. How do you become a member of a church? (Acts 2:38-47)

2. Who is the head of the church? (Ephesians 5:23)

3. What are the two main purposes that Christ gave the church?
(Matthew 28:19-20)

4. What does the Bible teach about attending worship services?
(Hebrews 10:25)

5. Name some of the activities of the early church:

A. Acts 12:5 _____

B. Acts 14:27 _____

C. I Corinthians 4:17 _____

D. I Corinthians 16:1-2 _____

E. Hebrews 2:12 _____

6. Memorize Ephesians 5:25

"Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it."

LESSON 4

FOLLOWING CHRIST IN PRAYER

It is very important to know how to pray. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

Through prayer we have forgiveness of our sins (I John 1:9). Prayer is essential to the work of the Lord (John 14:12-14).

The Lord encourages us to pray so He can meet our needs (John 16:24). The greatest power ever given to man was God allowing him to pray (John 15:7 and Ephesians 3:20).

The Bible is a book of prayer. Jesus taught that the prayer of faith will move a mountain (Matthew 17:20). We are given many examples. If we pray like Epaphras, we can know God's will (Colossians 4:12). The church prayed for Peter while he was in prison, and he was delivered. Jesus prayed early in the morning, late at night, and when He faced trials. Should we not pray for one another? (John 17:8-9).

LESSON 4 QUESTIONS

1. Who do we pray to? (Luke 11:2)

2. How can we know what to pray about? (Romans 8:26)

3. Does God hear my prayer? (I John 5:14-15)

4. What does God require for answering our prayers?
(Matthew 21:20-21).

5. What should we pray for, according to:

A. Matthew 6:11 _____

B. Matthew 6:12 _____

C. Matthew 6:13 _____

D. Romans 10:1 _____

E. James 1:5 _____

F. James 5:16 _____

Memorize John 15:7

**"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever
you wish, and it shall be done for you".**

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LESSON 5

CHRIST SAID "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES"

We need to search the Scriptures, which means, to study the Bible, for it is God's Word to us. There is no way to measure the worth of this precious book (Psalms 119:105, 130; John 5:39).

The Word of God is food for us (Matthew 4:4). We are to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord (II Peter 3:18). In order for you to grow, as a follower of Christ, you must study the Scriptures.

Jesus taught us to overcome each temptation with the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11).

The only way we can please God is through living by faith (Hebrews 11:6). We receive faith by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). As we understand the Word of God and apply it to our lives, faith is born in our hearts.

As we study the Bible and begin to live what it teaches, the Lord gives us power to resist sin (Psalm 119:11).

The Bible teaches us how we can have victory in our lives (I John 5:4). Jesus said, "I am come that they might have an abundant life" John 10:10.

LESSON 5 QUESTIONS

1. Why study the Scriptures? (II Timothy 3:15-17)

2. In Matthew 7:24-27 what was Jesus trying to teach about life?

3. How often should we read the Bible? (Acts 17:11)

4. Explain how the Word of God can help you, according to:

A. Psalm 119:11 _____

B. Psalm 119:165 _____

C. John 8:31-32 _____

D. Acts 20:32 _____

E. II Timothy 2:15 _____

5. How did Jesus deal with temptation? (Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 26:41)

6. Why do you think it is important to study the Bible? (I Peter 2:1-3)

Memorize II Timothy 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

LESSON 6

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

Jesus said, "You shall be witnesses unto me." One of God's greatest blessings is allowing you and I to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. Witnessing is sharing with others what Jesus has done for you.

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:19. He said, "We will be witnesses to the whole world, starting at your home and reaching out to all nations" Acts 1:8.

It is God's will for every person to be saved (II Peter 3:9). The Lord will help you share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Unless you and I share the gospel, most people in the world will never be saved. We should follow the examples of those early believers. Read: John 4:39, Acts 4:13, Romans 1:8 and I Thessalonians 1:8.

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LESSON 6 QUESTIONS

1. What do the following Scriptures teach about the plan of salvation?

A. John 1:12 _____

B. John 3:16 _____

C. John 10:10 _____

D. Romans 3:23 _____

E. Romans 5:8 _____

F. Romans 6:23 _____

G. Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

H. Revelation 3:20 _____

2. Paul told the facts about what he had experienced. Study about Paul's salvation experience. Explain what you think happened to Paul. (Acts 22:3-15)

PRACTICAL BIBLE VERSES

FEAR: Psalm 56:11-13; Matthew 10:21-31; John 11:17-20; Romans 8:31-39

ANXIETY: Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 4:16-18

DISCOURAGEMENT: Matthew 6:25-34; John 14:1-3; Hebrews 4:16; 13:5-6

LONELINESS: Psalm 42; Isaiah 54

FORGIVENESS: Matthew 18:21-35; Mark 11:25-26; Romans 12:14-21

LOVE: I Corinthians 13:1a; John 3:18; 4:7-21

PATIENCE: Psalm 40; Romans 5:3-5

PEACE: John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7

TEMPTATION: Matthew 26:41; Romans 12:1-11; I Corinthians 10:12-13;
Philippians 4:8; II Peter 2:9

SICKNESS: Matthew 26:39; Mark 1:40-42; 5:21-29

ADULTERY: Matthew 5:27-32

ANGER: Psalm 37:8; Matthew 6:22-24

DEATH: Luke 16:19-31; John 11:25-26

DOUBT: Matthew 14:28-31

HATRED: Matthew 5:43-48

VICTORY: John 16:33; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; Revelation 19:11-21; 20

GRATITUDE: Psalm 103; I Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15

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