



J^{the}OURNEY

NEW CHRISTIAN BOOKLET

lighthouse

JtheJOURNEY

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1

So I'm a **Christian**..

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The best way to answer this is to tell you again the good news about Jesus.

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR THE WORLD

The Bible says that God made the world and everything in it. The first words in the Bible are these:

'God made the heavens and the earth.' (Genesis 1.1)

You may think that this great God does not take any interest in you. Why should he take any interest in you? He is the great God who made the earth, the stars, and everything else. He made everything that you can see. God does take an interest in you. In fact, he knows everything about you. God made you so that you could know him. He is your friend.

The Bible promises that:

'God will make a new agreement with his people' (Jeremiah 31.33)

When that happens, God says: *'None longer will they have to teach one another to know the Lord, because all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest.'* (Jeremiah 31.34)

God wants us to know him. He has given us the desire to know him. Why is it that so many people do not know God? The reason is that there is a problem.

THE PROBLEM IS SIN

God made the world, and everything in the world was good. God allowed men and women to choose. They could do good or evil. The first people chose to do what they wanted to do. They did not choose to do what God wanted them to do. All people have made the same bad choice ever since. We may choose to do only what we want to do. That is not what God wants us to do. The bad things we do are 'sin', and we sin when we do such things.

The Bible says:

'For all people do bad things and fail to make God happy' (Romans 3.23, WA-EE)

This verse says that we all sin. It says that we 'fail to live the way God wants us to'; that means that we do not agree with God's plans for us. In fact, the Bible says that sin separates us from God:

'It is because of your sins that he does not hear you. It is your sins that separate you from God when you try to worship him.' (Isaiah 59.2, Good News Bible)

That is why it is difficult for people to know God. Sometimes they are ashamed of their sins. So they do not want to meet with God, who is perfect. Other people do not want to change their sinful lives; so they refuse to come to God.

RESULTS OF SIN

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. & Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:7-8)

JESUS CHRIST

God sent Jesus to rescue us. Why? God did that because he loves us very much. He also knew that there was no other way. Only Jesus can bring us back into true friendship with God.

When Jesus died on a cross, it was so that God could forgive our sins. As it says in the Bible: *'Christ carried our *sins in his body when he died on the cross'* (1 Peter 2.24, WA-EE)

It is sin that comes between us and God. Jesus' death was special. He is the only person who ever lived and never sinned. So, when he gave up his life, that could only happen once. He offered his perfect life to God. At the same time, it was God's plan that he should take our sins from us. That is why God forgives us, because Jesus died.

The cross is also the place where God defeated evil. As it says in the Bible: *'On the cross Christ defeated all spiritual powers and authorities. He made that clear to all, when he rose to life again after his death on the cross.'* (Colossians 2.15, EE style draft)

There has only been one really good man. When he died, it looked as though evil had won the fight. We know that was not true. God allowed this terrible thing to happen: he made it the best thing His Son could do for us. So, on the cross, God defeated evil.

Jesus rescues us from sin and from the power of evil. And the Bible has more good news. He also rescues us from death and from the fear that we feel about death. Three days after Jesus died on the cross, he came back to life. His friends found that his grave was empty. Then many of them saw him alive again. He spoke to them and taught them much more about himself for 40 days. The message of the New Testament is that Jesus is alive!

Jesus also promises us that we will live again after we die. As it says in the Bible: *'I am the one who raises the dead to life. All who have faith in me will live, even if they die.'* (John 11.25)

Every person must die. But with Jesus we can look forward to life after death. We will live with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Many people fear death, but Jesus also rescues us from eternal death.

WHAT MUST WE DO?

When the first Christian told the good news about Jesus to the crowd, they asked: 'What shall we do?' God has made a way for us to know Him, through Jesus Christ. He has done this for every person in the world, but he does not force us to accept his way. We must receive this good news for ourselves. How?

ADMIT

We need to admit to God that we have missed the mark and fallen short by our own efforts. We need Jesus. As the Bible says: 'But if we tell God what we have done wrong then he will forgive us. He will take away from us all the wrong things, which we have done. God is true and fair. So, we can be sure that he will do what he promised and what is right.' (1 John 1.9)

BELIEVE

You must believe that the message about Jesus is God's plan. He wants to rescue people and to make them his friends again. As the Bible says: 'Jesus gave some people the right to become the children of God. He gave this right to those who accepted him. They were the people who really put their trust in him.' (John 1.12)

You receive the good news like a very special gift. You must receive this gift for yourself. This means that you know the truth in your *heart. You know that God loves you. It does not mean that you just believe or know some facts. This is truth that God makes real to you. He does that because he wants you to trust in him.

COMMIT

We need to commit our lives to Jesus Christ and ask him to come into our lives and guide us and lead us in all we do.



1. John 3:16 talks about God's great love for all mankind. What does it say we have as Christians if we believe in Jesus Christ?
2. When we receive Jesus Christ into our lives, what does the Bible tell us we become? (John 1:12)
3. Romans chapter 10 talks about salvation. Who according to Romans 10:13 who can be saved?
4. Hebrews 9:28 tells us that the first time Jesus it was to take away the sins of many people. What does it say Jesus will bring to those when He comes back again?

Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
I pray that You will assure me of my salvation. Help me to remember that I am saved because of what Jesus has done for me. I pray that when I have doubts about Your existence or my salvation that I will read the Bible and find assurance in Your Word.
I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

Key Thought

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

A Verse to Remember

*'For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.'
(John 3.16)*

2

I think I'm a **Christian**...

HOW CAN I BE SURE?

When we ask Jesus Christ into our lives and we become a Christian, it is the start of a whole new journey of faith and life. The Bible tells us the old life is gone and the new life has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). However, during our first few months of being a Christian it is quite normal to have periods of doubt about God or if we are really saved. In these times it is very important to seek reassurance from the Bible.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

John 3:16 - *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'*

John 1:12 - *'Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.'*

1 John 5:13 - *'I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.'*

Romans 10:13 - *'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

Hebrews 9:28 - *'Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.'*

Sometimes people think that they do not believe in Jesus enough. They imagine that it must be easier for other people to believe. This is not the right way to understand what 'to believe' means. In this Bible verse, 'to believe' means to make a decision. It could happen like this:

- You heard the good news about Jesus
- God helped you understand that the message is true
- You decided to ask Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord

It does not matter if you made this decision with lots of faith or with a little faith. The important thing is that you said 'Yes' to God. You have accepted his plan to rescue you. This is why he sent Jesus. Some people can remember the time and day when they accepted the message about Jesus. Other people cannot do this because they did not decide all at once. The important thing is to be able to say: 'I have decided to follow Jesus.' Have you truly made that decision, from your heart? If you have, then be sure that God has heard your prayer. He accepts you.



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Key Thought

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A Verse to Remember

John 1:12 (New Living Translation)
But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

3

So I've been hearing about...

THE BIBLE?

The Bible is God's handbook for life. When we read the Bible it teaches us about God, about this world and about God's great love for all mankind. We also learn how to live our lives and how we should relate to each other. It is important for us as Christians to read the Bible as it helps us to line our thinking up with God's thinking and to live the life God wants us to live. It also helps us to grow strong in our faith and belief in God.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'*

Psalms 119:11 - *'I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.'*

Psalms 119:105 - *'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.'*

Psalms 1:2-3 - *'Blessed is the man [when] his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.'*

James 1:22 - *'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.'*



1. The Bible teaches us many things about life. What four things does 2 Timothy 3:16–17 say the Bible is useful for?
2. Why is it important for us as Christians to keep God’s Word in our hearts? (Psalm 119:11)
3. What are some of the things Psalm 1:2–3 tells us will happen if we read and meditate on God’s Word?
4. What does James 1:22 tell us we are doing if we only listen to God’s Word and not put it into practice?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Please help me to read the Bible everyday. I pray that You will teach me all about You, about Your great love for me and how I should live my life. Please give me a real love for Your Word and a desire to study it and apply it to my life. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Key Thought

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

A verse to remember

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

4

I've been wondering...

HOW DO I TALK TO GOD?

Prayer - connecting with God

Prayer is simply communicating with God. As you pray, tell God your needs and pray that He will bless others too. Before long you will see the difference prayer makes in your life and in the lives of those around you. Remember to keep it simple & just like you are talking to a friend. As you pray remember to be open to God so He can speak to you or prompt you to do something. Like all good communication, prayer is a two way thing.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

Philippians 4:6-7 - *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - *'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'*

1 Peter 5:7 - *'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.'*

Jeremiah 29:11-12 - *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.'*

John 14:13 - *'And I will do whatever you ask in my name [Jesus], so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.'*



1. Philippians 4:6–7 tells us not to be anxious about anything, but to take our needs to God. What does God promise to give us when we do this?
2. Jeremiah 29:11–12 talks about calling upon God and praying to Him. What do these verses assure us about our prayers to God?
3. The Bible tells us that when we pray to the Father we should pray in someone's name. In whose name should we pray? (John 14:13)
4. 1 Peter 5:7 talks about praying to God and casting all of our worries on Him. Why do you think we should do this?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
I thank You that love me and are concerned for me. Thank You that I can bring all of my prayers and petitions to You. I thank You that You always hear and answer my prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Thought

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

A verse to remember

Philippians 4:6–7

'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.'

5

Now that I'm a Christian...

WHAT IS CHURCH ALL ABOUT?

Church - meeting with other Christians

God set up church so we could be a part of a caring community, to have a support network and so we grow in our faith together. We can also learn more about the Bible, prayer, baptism, serving God and living in community. It is important for all Christians to meet together regularly as this helps us to encourage and support each other.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

Acts 2:42 - *'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.'*

Hebrews 10:24 - *'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.'*

Hebrews 10:25 - *'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'*

John 13:34-35 - *'Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."'*

Romans 12:4-5 - *'Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'*



1. Acts 2:42 talks about the early Christians and what their church was like. What four things does it say they devoted themselves to when they met together?
2. According to Hebrews 10:24 what two things should we encourage each other towards?
3. Hebrews 10:25 talks about meeting together as Christians. What does it say we should not do? 4. In John 13:34&35 Jesus talks about one thing that will show people that we are His disciples when we meet together. What is that thing?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
I pray that You will help me find a church where I can meet with other Christians each week. I pray I can find a place where I can serve You, where I can make friends and a place where I can grow in my faith and trust in You. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Thought

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

A verse to remember

Hebrews 10:25

'And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.'

6

Who is...

THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit - our helper in this life

We see in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper as Christians. He helps us to live the Christian life effectively and helps us to become more like Christ in the way that we think and live.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the questions below.

Romans 8:11 - *'And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.'*

John 14:26 - *'But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.'*

Acts 9:31 - *'Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.'*

Acts 1:8 - *'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'*

Galatians 5:22-23 - *'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.'*



1. Romans 8:11 tells us that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and gives life to our bodies. Where does it say the Holy Spirit lives?
2. John 14:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit will help do two things for us about the things that Jesus said. What two things are they?
3. Acts 1:8 says that the Holy Spirit will help us to be God's witnesses. What does it say we will receive from the Holy Spirit to do this?
4. What two things did the Holy Spirit do for the churches Judea, Galilee and Samaria as it enjoyed a time of peace and grew in numbers? (see Acts 9:31)
5. Galatians 5:22&23 tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us to live a good life and produce good fruit (good works). What nine things does it say the Holy Spirit helps us to do?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
I thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit to help, teach, guide, encourage and strengthen us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will work in my life to produce good fruit and He will help me to live for You each and every day. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

Key Thought

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

A verse to remember

Galatians 5:22-23

'But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!'

7

How do I...

KEEP GROWING IN MY FAITH

Setting a solid foundation for growth.

As a new Christian it is very important to build your life on a solid foundation. The best way to do this is by regularly reading your Bible, praying and meeting with other Christians at church. If you do this you will become a strong person of faith. Here are some tips to help with this.

A prayer journal

A prayer journal is a place where you can write down all the things you have been praying for. This might include your own personal prayer needs and the things you have been praying about for others too. A simple day to a page diary works really well for this. As time goes by you can look back over the journal and see the things you have been praying for and see how God has answered them. This is a great way to build faith!

Read the Bible each day

As we have seen in the study, the Bible is God's Word to us. Reading the Bible each day helps to feed us as Christians. Just like we need food for our bodies each day to keep us healthy and strong, we need spiritual "food" to keep us strong too. One way to do this is by reading one chapter of the Bible each day. You can start at the New Testament book of Matthew and then work your way through the whole New Testament. This will take you about eight months if you read some everyday. A good method to help you is called, 'SOAP,' and it stands for:

- S - Scripture
- O - Observation
- A - Application
- P - Prayer

This SOAP method can help you to hear the voice of God and understand how he is speaking to you through The Bible.

Meeting with other Christians

It is very important for us to meet with other people who share our faith. The Bible says it is important to do this so we can encourage each other, support each other and so we can grow in our faith together. If you know someone who goes to church already you might be able to ask if you can go along with them. That way they can answer any questions you may have. And when you are going to a church, Serving and volunteering there is a great way to be better connected and to start outworking your faith.

At our church we meet together regularly through Sunday meetings, and mid-week lifegroup. It is strongly encouraged that you regularly go to these as it will help you keep your focus on God and it will help you stay connected and supported.

It's very easy to get distracted in the busyness of life but staying connected in a local church will help keep you on track.

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