

# NEW LIFE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS  
FOR NEW BELIEVERS

VINCENT SAWYER

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### **NEW LIFE!**

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new" II Corinthians 5:17*

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## INTRODUCTION



### **“I am making everything new”!**

This promise given by the LORD God describes the new eternal city that will one day be the home for every Christian (Revelation 21:5). What a future awaits those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior! But God not only has abundant life waiting for you in the future, He has abundant life for you to experience now! (John 10:10)

The Bible says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17) Every believer in Jesus Christ is already a new creation, a new person, with a new direction in life, new ambitions, new hope, and a new life! Everything for the believer is new! God has even put within our hearts - "a new song" (Psalm 40:3)!

This Bible study is designed to guide new and growing Christians into a greater understanding of their new life in Christ. All you need to begin is a Bible, a pen or an electronic device, and a quiet place to study. You can do this Bible study by yourself, or better yet with another Christian friend. Before each lesson, pray and ask God to "open your eyes" to the wonderful truths found in His Word (Psalm 119:18). You are now ready to learn about your new life as a believer in Jesus Christ.

## ICEBREAKERS

1. What is your family background? (i.e. Where you grew up, family members)

2. What is your current vocation? What do you enjoy most about your job?

3. Describe your favorite meal.

4. What is your favorite Bible story? Why?

# Lesson 1

## “A NEW FAMILY”

### (A Change by Adoption)



One of the happiest times in life is when a mother gives birth to a healthy baby boy or girl. There was a specific time and place when you were born. At that time, you were given the last name of your father and your parents may have noticed how much you looked like them. Most people even remember their birthday with a time of celebration each year. Even though the day you were born was an important day, it was not the most important day of your life.

The Lord Jesus spoke of a birth more important than even your physical birth. He said that it is not enough for someone to be born once, but they must be born twice.

In this lesson, we will discover what Jesus meant when He said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7).

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN AGAIN"?

To be "born again" simply means to be born anew into God's family. It means to become a child of God.

READ John 3:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1. According to Jesus, why is it important to be "born again"? (John 3:3)  

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2. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the phrase "born again." What type of birth was Nicodemus thinking about? (verse 4)  

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3. To be born out of a mother's womb (v. 4) is the same as being born out of "water" (v. 5) or in other words to be born out of "flesh" (v. 6). Jesus says that this physical birth is not enough to enter into "the kingdom of God." What type of birth is needed to enter that Kingdom? (verses 5 & 6)

\* Note: A woman who is pregnant with a child carries her baby in her womb which is filled with "water" – technically called "amniotic fluid." In this context, Jesus' reference to "water" is to the womb from which a child enters this life.

4. Because the new birth is a spiritual birth and not a physical or visible birth, what does Jesus compare this birth to? (verse 8)

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5. What did God do for you so that you could be “born again” and have eternal life? (John 3:16)

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6. It is sad that not everyone has this eternal life. God’s Word says that there are two groups of people in this world. According to John 3:36, what are these two groups?

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7. What does a person have to do with Jesus Christ in order to become a child of God? (SEE: John 1:12)

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To “receive” Jesus Christ means to accept Him by faith to be your very own Lord and Savior from sin and Hell. The Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin so that you would not be condemned for your sin (Romans 8:1). He then arose from the dead so you too will live through Him (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus suffered your penalty so that you could be brought into right relationship with God (I Peter 3:18). He is your only way to eternal life (John 14:6). The day you call upon Jesus and receive Him, you are saved from perishing and become a member of God’s family (Romans 10:13)!

Have you ever accepted Jesus Christ into your heart? (SEE: Revelation 3:20)\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who is it that gives us this new birth (John 1:13)?  
Circle one:

a. Your father                      b. A priest                      c. God

9. If you have been adopted into God’s family, you can now call God by what name? (Romans 8:15)

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(Note: “Abba” is the Aramaic word for Papa or Daddy)

10. What does our loving God call us when we are born again?

SEE: 1 John 3:1\*

\* (Note: “1 John” [“First John”] refers to the first epistle of John near the end of your Bible.)

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### WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING “BORN AGAIN?”

Just as growing children have a tendency to “take after” their parents, children of God will also take after their Heavenly Father as they grow up spiritually.

What will God’s children be like?

Those who are born of God will:

1 John 2:29 – \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:7 – \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING “BORN AGAIN”?

1. If you are “born again,” you will be able to overcome the pressures of what?  
(1 John 5:4-5)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. You can have an assurance of eternal life that is not based  
on the words of men but on the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 1:23).

3. If you belong to Jesus Christ, what will He do for you? (John 14:1-3)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORY VERSE

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.**

## Lesson 2

# "A NEW FOOD"

(A Change in Appetite)



A popular phrase repeated by health food advocates is: "You are what you eat." It is a recognized fact that good health depends largely on a well-balanced diet. Like your physical health, your spiritual health and growth also depends on what you "eat," or take into your life. Therefore, your inner man --the spiritual part of you-- must be fed. God has some "spiritual food" for you to consume and digest so that you will be a healthy, strong, growing Christian. This food is His Word - the Bible. In this lesson, you will discover how important it is for you to know the Bible, God's Holy Word.

### IS THE BIBLE NECESSARY FOOD?

When someone is "born again," everything becomes new (2 Cor. 5:17), including one's appetites.

1. Job had an appetite for God's Word. He depended on it so much He considered it to be more necessary than what? (Job 23:12)

2. The Lord Jesus Christ said that man does not merely live by bread (food) alone but by what? (Matthew. 4:4)

### Read 1 Peter 2:1-3 and answer these questions:

3. A new Christian, like a newborn baby, needs to have an appetite or "desire" for what? (1 Peter 2:2)

Why should he desire this? (1 Pet. 2:2)

5. Before you can "take in" God's Word and benefit from it, what must you first "put out" of your life? (verse 1)

## IS THE BIBLE WHOLESOME FOOD?

The Bible will improve your life if you read it daily. The reason is because the Bible is absolutely true and trustworthy. You can totally depend on it, because it is God's Word to man; it is not man's Word about God.

1. Who guided God's prophets so that they wrote exactly what God wanted? (2 Peter 1:20, 21)

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This guidance is called "inspiration." Inspiration simply means that the Bible came from the very mouth of God (Isaiah 45:23).

2. How much of the Bible has been inspired by God? (2 Timothy 3:16)

3. Since the Bible is God's very own Word, what is it profitable for? (2 Timothy 3:16)

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For further information about the accuracy and dependability of the Bible, read: Matthew 5:18, 24:35; John 10:35, 17:17; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12; Revelation 22:18-19.

## WHAT DO I DO TO GROW?

1. The condition of your heart will determine whether you grow as you read the Bible. Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23.

Note:

The <u>Seed</u>	=	The <u>Word</u> of God
The <u>Soil</u>	=	The <u>Heart</u> of man



Many people have different attitudes about the Bible.  
Match the letter to the statements:



- a. Hard heart (v.19)
- b. Stony heart (v.20-21)
- c. Thorny heart (v.22)
- d. Tender heart (v.23)

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | "It's not worth the effort."   |
| _____ | "I want to know God's Word."   |
| _____ | "I don't care what God says."  |
| _____ | "I have other things to worry about. Other things are more important to me." |



2. What kind of heart do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Turn to **Psalm 119**. This entire chapter emphasizes the importance of the Bible. Nearly every verse has something to say about God's Word.

Before you sit down to read your Bible, what should you ask God to do for you? (Psalm 119:18; compare also verses 33-34).

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4. King David, whom God used to pen Psalm 119, said, Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. (v. 36). This means he asked God to give him a desire or a hunger for the Bible.

Read verses 97, 113, 127, 163, 167. What one word describes David's attitude toward the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

5. God's Word is considered to be "more precious" than \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 72), and "sweeter" than \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 103).
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6. Many times, sin in our lives will keep us from hungering for God's Word. It has been said that "Sin will keep you from this Book (the Bible), and this Book will keep you from sin." What should you do with God's Word to keep yourself from sin? (Psalm 119:11)

It is very important to memorize verses from the Bible. Especially verses that will help you with an area of weakness or temptation in your life.

7. Besides "hiding God's Word in his heart," what else did David do with God's Word? (Psalm 119:15, 23, 97, 99)
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To "meditate" on God's Word means spending time to seriously think about what God's Word says, what it means, and what it means to you.

8. What are the benefits of meditating on God's Word?

Psalm 1:1-3 - \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua 1:8 - \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose for reading, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word is so that you will do what God says. In other words, God gave us His Word so that we would trust it and obey it.

9. Read Matthew 7:24-27.

What does the Lord Jesus call those who do what He says? (verses 24-25)

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10. What does the Lord Jesus call those who do not do what He says? (verses 26-27)

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For further help about obeying God's Word, see: James 1:19-25.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Matthew 4:4**

**Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

### Lesson 3

## "A NEW FAITH"

(A Change in Who I Ask For Help)



Communication is an important part of any relationship. Without good communication, thoughts, feelings, and desires remain unknown. Just as Godly parents enjoy hearing their children talk to them, your Heavenly Father loves to hear His children talk to Him. God Himself says: "The prayer of the upright pleases Him!" (Proverbs 15:8) In the previous lesson you learned that God talks to you through His Word, the Bible. In this lesson you will learn that you talk to God through prayer.

### WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

God says: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Turn to Psalm 86 and answer these questions:

1. How often did David pray? (verse 3) \_\_\_\_\_
2. King David, like every believer, had many needs in his life. What are some of the things David prayed for?  
  
Psalm 86:3 - \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Psalm 86:4 - \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Psalm 86:5 - \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Psalm 86:7 - \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Psalm 86:11 - \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Psalm 86:16 - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Besides asking God to meet his various needs, what else did David include in his prayers? (Psalm 86:12)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

## HOW DO I PRAY?

Prayer is simply talking to God from your heart.

Please read Matthew 6:5-13.

1. According to the Lord Jesus, when you pray your words should be sincere, not hypocritical. You should not pray to be seen by whom? (verse 5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Also Jesus taught that your prayers should be meaningful. In other words, God wants your prayers to come from your heart. Because of this, how does Jesus tell us not to pray? (verse 7)

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The Lord Jesus gives a great lesson on the "manner" (or the "how to") of prayer in verses 9-13. In doing so, He did not intend for you to repeat these very words over and over again. This would be considered "babbling." Rather, Jesus gives you a pattern for how to pray. He gives you a model, an example, a format, or outline for prayer, so that you can have an understanding of what you should pray about each day.

3. Since you have been "born again," you have a personal relationship with God. Because of this relationship, you can call God by what name when you pray? (verse 9)?

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4. Match the verse reference to the statement (See verses 9-13):

When you pray you should pray about these matters:

Ask God for protection from sin - Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Ask God to provide our needs - Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Spend time praising God for who He is - Verse \_\_\_\_\_

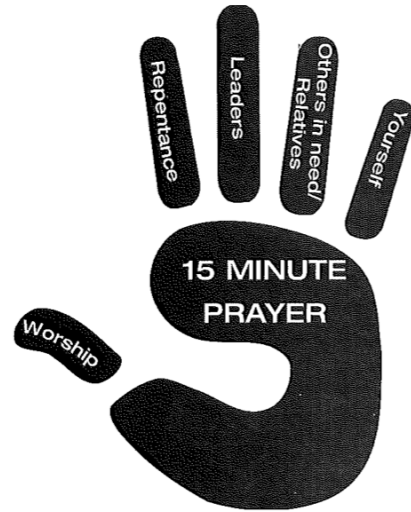
Let God know how much you desire His plan ("His will") for your life and for the future - Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Ask God to pardon your sin - Verse \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes

Your \_\_\_\_\_ is the biggest finger and should be the biggest part of your prayer life.

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only"  
(Matthew 4:10)



### DOES GOD REALLY ANSWER PRAYER?

Notice Matthew 7:7-11.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ promised answers to prayer. What word occurs three times in Matthew 7:7 to prove this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many of God's children can receive answers to their prayers? (verse 8) \_\_\_\_\_

Read again Matthew 7:9-11.

3. What type of gifts does our Heavenly Father give to His children? (verse 11)

\_\_\_\_\_

### WHOSE PRAYER DOES GOD HEAR?

1. Even though God promises to answer prayer, each promise has a certain condition that must be met. State the conditions described in the verses below:

Mark 11:24 a. \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 11:25 b. \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:7 a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

I John 3:22 a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

God loves to hear the prayers of those who are living lives which honor Him. The Bible says: "... the prayer of the upright pleases Him" (Proverbs 15:8).

2. What is one reason why God does not answer some prayers? (James 4:3)
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### **FOR WHOM SHOULD I PRAY?**

Besides praying for yourself, God says that we should also pray for whom? (1 Timothy 2:1)

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\* This means you should pray for those you know who are unsaved (1 Timothy 2:4) and for those who are saved.

\* Start a prayer list and include the names of your family, distant relatives, friends, neighbors and fellow Christians.

\* To know how to pray for believers, study Colossians 1:9-11, and pattern your prayers after the Apostle Paul's example.

### **MEMORY VERSE** **Jeremiah 33:3**

**‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great  
and unsearchable things you do not know.’**

## Lesson 4

# A NEW FRUIT

### (A Change in My Attitudes & Actions)



How do you know the difference between an apple tree and an oak tree? Basically, one will produce apples and the other will produce acorns. An orange tree is distinguished from an elm tree in that it bears oranges. A banana tree produces a harvest of bananas and a grape vine yields grapes. It is obvious that a tree or vine is known by its fruit. So it is with the Christian.

According to Jesus Christ, a saved person is distinguished from an unsaved person by his fruit. He said: "...by their fruit you will recognize them." (Matthew 7:20).

Before you were saved, God says your life produced bad fruit that would lead only to death (Romans 7:5). Now that you are joined to Jesus Christ (by faith in Him), you can "...bear fruit for God" (Romans 7:4). You also can now serve God in a new way --by the power of the Holy Spirit who is in you! (Romans 7:6). God did not save you because of any "works" you did for Him (Ephesians 2:8-9), but He did save you so that you would do "good works" for Him (Ephesians 2:10).

In this lesson, you will learn about the good new fruit that God wants to grow out of your life.

### HOW DO I PRODUCE FRUIT!

Read John 15:1-5 and answer these questions:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ describes Himself as the "vine" and Christians as the "branches." What must Christians do to produce fruit? (John 15:4)

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(Note: To "remain" in Christ means to be close to Him in your daily life. Just as a branch receives necessary water and nutrients through the vine, so you receive spiritual strength and God's blessings by remaining in close fellowship with Jesus your Savior.)

2. What can you accomplish for God without remaining in Christ? (John 15:5)

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3. You will have answers to prayer and be a fruitful Christian if you remain in Christ.

What must also remain in you? (John 15:7) \_\_\_\_\_

4. When your life produces much fruit, who is glorified (honored)? (John 15:8)

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5. If you are a fruitful and obedient Christian, what will your life be completely full of? (John 15:11)  

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6. Any fruit that Jesus produces through your life will not be temporary, but eternal. What phrase shows that your fruit will endure forever? (John 15:16)  

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### WHAT FRUIT SHOULD BE INSIDE MY LIFE?

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and notice the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces on the inside of a Christian. Write the fruit (in verses 22 or 23) next to the statement below:

1. When I am tempted to worry, the Spirit can produce the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_
2. When others treat me badly, the Spirit can help me to treat them with \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rather than being selfish and hateful, the Spirit gives me the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_
4. Though times may be difficult, and life's pressures build up, the Spirit gives me the ability to be \_\_\_\_\_
5. Though others may sadly complain about situations and circumstances, the Spirit reminds me of God's goodness and gives me the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT FRUIT SHOULD BE OUTSIDE OF MY LIFE?

God not only wants to produce fruit in your life, but He wants to produce fruit through your life. He wants you to be a blessing to others. When Jesus saved you, He gave you eternal life. He wants to give this same gift to others also (1 John 2:2; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6). God's plan for bringing people to salvation is to use Christians (this includes you) to tell them the good news ("gospel") that Jesus saves! (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

1. What did Andrew do immediately after he began following Jesus? (John 1:40-42)  

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2. What did Philip do when he found Christ and started following Him? (John 1:45)  

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3. When Nathanael doubted, what was Philip's answer? (John 1:46b)  

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4. What did the woman of Samaria do when she realized she had actually met the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ? (John 4:28-29)

5. When the people of Samaria came to Jesus because of the woman's testimony, what did Jesus tell his disciples to look at? (John 4:35)

(Note: The "harvest fields" that Jesus referred to were the large number of Samaritan people who were walking out of their city to meet Him.)

6. What is the result of "harvesting a crop for eternal life"? (John 4:36)

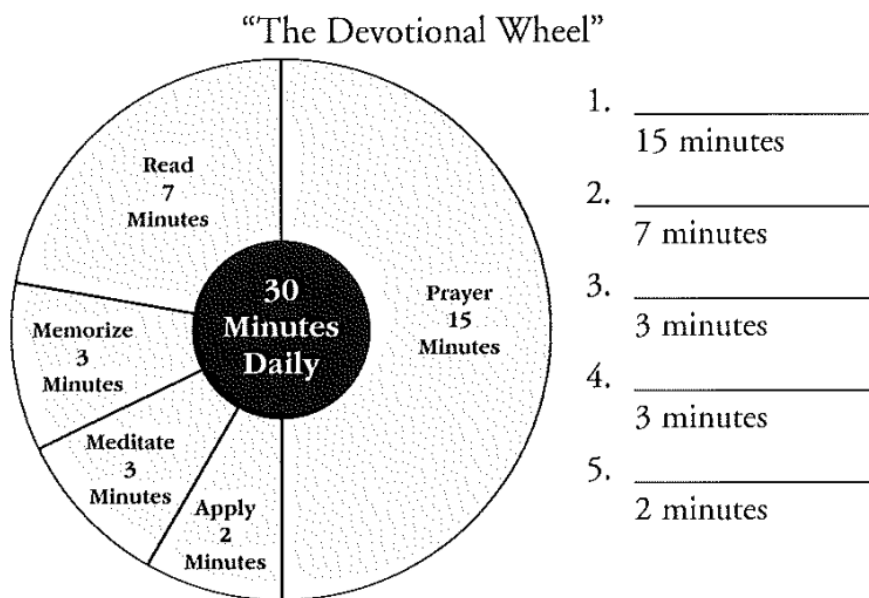
7. Other than by your words, how will others know you belong to Jesus? (John 13:35)

8. Why must we tell people that Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE? (John 14:6)

## HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE TO MY LIFE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ what the Scripture meant to the original hearers
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Scripture's underlying timeless principles.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ where and how you can put these principles into practice.

***"Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven"***  
***(Matthew 5:19)***



## SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU

Follow this helpful advice to be a fruitful witness for Jesus Christ:

1. Never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16).
2. Keep your message focused on Christ and what He did on the cross to pay for our sins (John 3:30; I Corinthians 1:23). [Emphasize His death as a substitute payment for sinners - I Corinthians 15:3-4.]
3. Make it personal (Acts 22:3ff). Be willing to share what Christ did for you. This is your testimony about what you have "witnessed" in your life. Witnessing is the most effective means of sharing the Gospel.

Suggestion: Try to remember the events that led to your salvation. Then write out your testimony and memorize it so you can be ready to tell it to others. You can use this outline to write your testimony -

- Before I trusted Christ (What I was)
- How I trusted Christ (What I realized)
- Since I trusted Christ (What He has done in my life)

4. Always be ready to share the Gospel (I Peter 3:15).

The following are some Scripture verses you should memorize and be ready to tell to others:

- a. All men are sinners (Romans 3:10; 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
- b. There is a penalty (price) for sin (Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8)
- c. Man cannot save himself (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- d. Christ paid the penalty for sinners (Romans 5:8; I Cor. 15:3-4; I Peter. 3:18)
- e. God now offers a free gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- f. By trusting in (accepting) Christ, a person will be saved from Hell (John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 10:13; Revelation 3:20).
- g. We can be sure of eternal life (I John 5:11-13; John 5:24; 10:27-30).

### MEMORY VERSE Mark 16:15

**He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**

## **Congratulations!**

You have just completed *New Life!* Hopefully this course for new Christians has helped you in laying a solid foundation in your relationship with Jesus Christ. May God bless the time and effort you devote to growing in Him!

## **Next Steps...**

- Download our church app.
- Become a church member (5th Sundays).
- Join a Connect Group.
- Serve on a team.