

Who is Jesus Christ?

I'D LIKE
TO KNOW...



Discovering New Life in Christ.

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Discovering New Life in Christ

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?, is the first in the **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST** series. It was originally produced in Spanish as ¿QUIÉN ES JESUCRISTO?. Its purpose is to help you discover the true identity of Jesus Christ, and the eternal life he offers. When you finish this Volume, continue on with New Life in Christ Volume 1 and those that follow.

For more information email us at: info@nuevavidaencristo.org

You may download a free copy of this book at the following website:
www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com

For printed copies contact:

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TEACHER'S GUIDE



1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using *New Life in Christ* as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.
2. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions. The students should look up the Bible passages by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some who have not studied the Bible before might need a brief orientation on how to find the references in their Bibles.

3. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the disciple to do all the assignments in each lesson.
4. Try not to let your sessions get too long.
5. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words instead of copying from the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the texts studied.
6. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.
7. Prepare well for each session yourself. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your students and for your own heart.
8. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.



When you see the “STOP” sign, pause to meditate on the questions you find there.

Have the students make use of the assignments at the side of each lesson.

9. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.
10. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons of these manuals. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

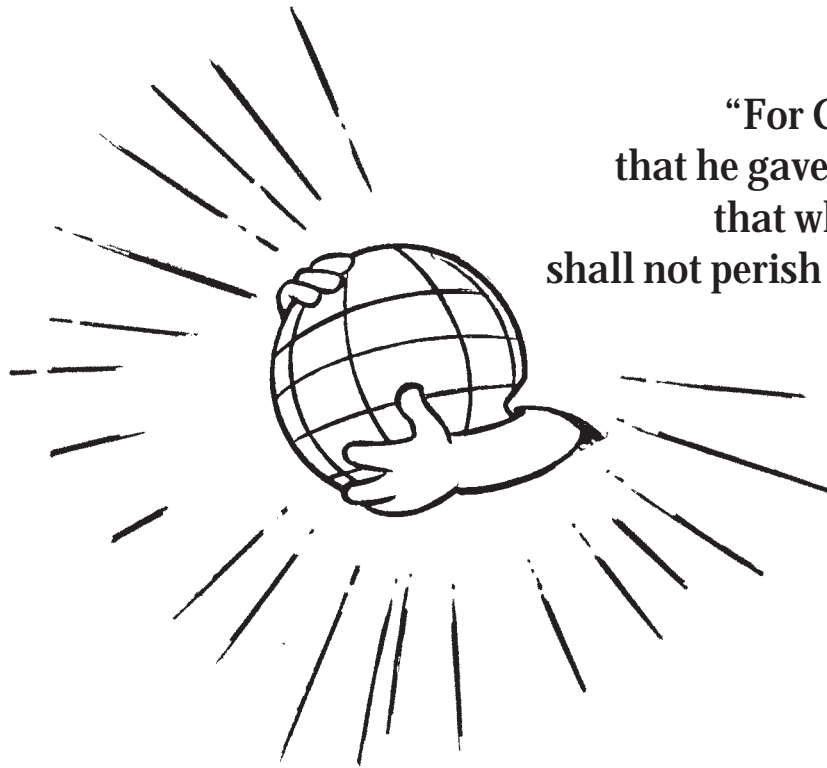
This manual is just an initial step. The students will need continual help as they seek to change their character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

11. It is of the utmost importance that disciples learn habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memorization.

Do not scold students who have not completed some of the assignments, but be sure to encourage them to finish.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in the student's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have, or to help with facing problems in their personal life.
13. Sometimes you will not have time to answer every question, so learn to pick the most important ones to discuss.

14. When you finish this manual, encourage the student to continue studying the *NEW LIFE IN CHRIST* series which can be downloaded at www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com



**“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 3:16

Step 1

Jesus, the Author of Life



True or False?

- _____ *Most people today are looking for a better life.*
- _____ *All religions lead us to heaven.*
- _____ *If I try hard enough, I will be able to earn eternal life.*
- _____ *No one can really be sure if they will go to heaven or not.*

¿Who is Jesus? If we ask ten people, we'll get ten different answers. Some say he was a great man and wonderful teacher, while others call him the Son of God. Others admire him for the way he suffered abuse at the hands of the Roman soldiers. In his day, some believed he was sent from God while others viewed him as a fraud, a dangerous man who would only cause trouble. Since there are so many different opinions, let's look in the Bible to see what it says about him. Look up the scripture passages in your Bible. If you don't have a Bible, you may find the texts on page 21 of this book.

JESUS: THE CREATOR OF LIFE

- What do the following verses teach us about Jesus? Note: John calls him "the Word" in this passage because Jesus was the way God chose to *communicate* with men by taking upon himself a human body.
 - John 1:1 _____
 - John 1:3 _____
 - John 1:4 _____

- Think about this for a minute. Jesus was eternal God, creator of the whole world, yet in spite of this, how was he treated by his own people? v. 11 _____
 How is he treated by most people today? _____
 There are many who say they believe in Jesus. They claim to be his followers, yet they don't obey his teachings. Some reject him with a definitive "No" while others are indifferent. They put him off saying, "Another day", "I'm really busy", "I don't have time now."

JESUS: THE WAY TO LIFE



- In John 14:6 Jesus said he was the way, the truth and the _____.
- Many say that all religions lead us to God. What do you think? _____
 _____ According to Jesus, how many ways are there to heaven? _____

Although it is common to hear that all religions lead to heaven, John 14:6 says otherwise. This isn't something we Christians have invented to exclude others, rather it is what Christ himself claimed.

BUT...THERE IS A PROBLEM

- One day Jesus spoke to a man named Nicodemus, a respected religious leader: yet even with all his good works, Jesus told him it was necessary to _____ John 3:3
- Born again? Why? How? What was Jesus referring to when he spoke of being born again? _____

"I remember a year ago when a doctor told me, 'You have an illness from which you won't recover.' I walked out to where I live 5 miles from Portland, Oregon, and I looked across at that mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice... I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps, and I said,

'I may not see you many more times, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you are gone; and River, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen...'"



HOW TO BE SURE YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

- Admit that you are a sinner. Admit that you are incapable of pulling yourself out of the pit of sin you have fallen into.
- Renounce your sin (repent). Ask God for His forgiveness.
- Believe that Jesus died in your place and was raised from the dead.
- Pray, asking Christ to come into your heart, to forgive your sin and to control your life. Trust in him alone to save you.

Dear Lord Jesus I acknowledge that I am a sinner who needs your forgiveness. I believe that you died for my sins. I repent of my sins and want to leave them behind. I invite you to come into my life today. I trust you as my Savior and I will follow you as my Lord. Thank you Lord for saving me. Amen

7. We need to be born again because we are _____ in _____ Ephesians 2:1
Describe the life of someone without Christ. Ephesians 2:3 _____

We find evidence of our spiritual deadness in the conflict, tension and hate that exists within families, neighbors and friends. We are not able to control the evil desires within. With egotism and pride we say "me first", "I'm better", "Look at that guy, I'm not as bad as he is." etc.

8. In spite of being dead, God wants to make us _____. Ephesians 2:5.

JESUS: THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE

9. Jesus said we must be born again (John 3:3). Read John 3:16-18 to find out how to be born again. What does John 3:16 say about God's attitude towards us? _____

God loved us so much that he gave his son Jesus Christ. What does he offer through Christ? v. 16. _____

Who can have eternal life? v. 16 _____

It is important to note that "eternal life" does not just refer to our future in heaven, but also to our life right now. John 5:24 says that the believer "has crossed over from death to life."

10. Some people say God is always angry and loves to punish us. What does he really want for the world? John 3:17 _____

Therefore, if a person is condemned, it is because _____ John 3:18

11. Far from condemning us, what God really wants is that we become his children. What transforms us into children of God? John 1:12 _____

What does it mean to "receive him" or "believe" in his name? _____

Many believe with their heads but not with their hearts. Is there a difference? _____



Stop for a moment and think about the implications of this lesson.

How is your life going? Are you tired of failing to live the way you want?

- Until now, what's been your attitude toward Christ?* Indifference
 Rejection Obedience Respect, yet from a distance.
 You rarely think about him.

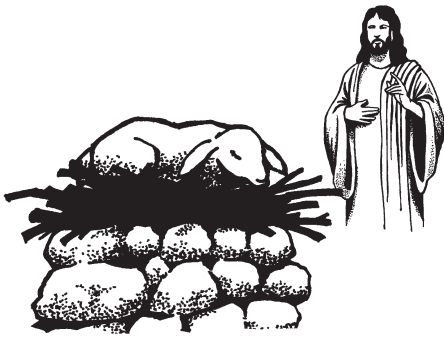
Have you received the eternal life that Jesus offers? Yes No Not sure

If you died today, and were knocking on heaven's door, and the Lord asked you: "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you answer?

See the explanation at the left: HOW TO BE SURE YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Step 2

Jesus, the Lamb of God



True or False?

- _____ In Biblical times they used a lamb as a sacrifice for sin.
- _____ The Bible says that Christ was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
- _____ In order to enter heaven, you must have your name written in the Lamb's book of life.

A little girl named Liz was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

He hesitated for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liz." As the transfu-

sion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood. Yet he willingly submitted to the procedure anyway. In this lesson we will look at another sacrifice, the greatest in world history.²



THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB ON THE DOOR POST PROTECTED THE HOME

SACRIFICE

- John called Jesus "the _____ of God, who takes away the _____ of the world". John 1:29

In order to understand the significance of the phrase "Lamb of God" we must return to the Old Testament where the Jews offered a lamb as a sacrifice for their sins (Leviticus 4:32). When they were enslaved in Egypt, God sent ten plagues to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The last plague was the death of the firstborn son of each household in Egypt. In order to save their sons, the Jews sacrificed a lamb and sprinkled the blood on the doorposts of their homes. (Exodus 12:1-13).

- Since the days of Adam, mankind has been enslaved by sin. What was the price paid to rescue us? Gold or silver? No! According to 1 Peter 1:18-19 the price was much higher. Verse 19 says that we were rescued from our empty way of life with the precious _____ of Christ, a _____ without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 2:24 explains that he bore our _____ in his body on the cross. We didn't have to pay anything to be ransomed from sin; but for Christ, the price couldn't have been higher. It cost him everything.

- Isaiah 53:3-7 presents Christ as the Lamb of God. He gave his life for us, yet how was he treated? v. 3

_____ In all of world history, there has never been a greater example of love and sacrifice than that of Jesus. Even so, his sacrifice was ignored or rejected by the majority. Are things any different today? _____. Nothing has really changed, the world keeps on rejecting him. Some scoff, others are indifferent, and the majority doesn't believe.

And you, how are you treating Jesus today? _____

- Why was Jesus bruised and wounded? Isaiah 53: 5 _____

- Verse 6 describes sin as the tendency to _____

Sheep tend to wander in search of pasture, and if left alone will stray from their shepherd, get lost and find themselves in trouble. Sin is not just open rebellion against God, it is seeking our will instead of His. When we go our own way, it may look like we are doing fine, but later we will find ourselves completely lost. Our path leads us to make poor decisions, reflect unhealthy attitudes, and act inappropriately.

6. How many of us have strayed from God's path to go our own way? Isaiah 53:6 _____
7. What did God do to get us back on the correct path? v. 6-7 _____
-

In Summary: *To say that Christ is the Lamb of God is to present him as the one who gave his life as a substitute for us, taking upon himself our sin and punishment.*



Sin and I

What has my daily walk been like up until today? Overall, I have walked:

- My own path. The path God has set before me. I'm not sure.

In what ways does sin reveal itself in my life? _____

Meditate on your condition as a fallen person and on the Lamb who sacrificed his life in order to rescue you.

THE LAMB OF GOD IN THE FUTURE

8. Revelation 12:10-11 speaks of a future time in heaven when believers will be victorious over Satan. What is it that will make our victory over the enemy possible? v. 11 _____

"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life....?"



9. Who are the only ones who will enter heaven?
Revelation 21:27 _____
-

10. What is the destiny of those whose names are not written in the book of life? Revelation 20:15

Who will be in heaven?

"only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."
Revelation 21:27



Is your name written in the book of life?



What about you? Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? Yes No I'm not sure

Is there something holding you back? If so, what? _____

How can I have my name written down in the Book of Life? _____

_____ See below

You may pray the following prayer to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life:

Lord, I admit that I have followed my own path instead of yours. At times I have ignored you, believing that everything was going fine. I am sorry for trying to live without you.

Thank you for sending Jesus Christ as a Lamb, the perfect sacrifice. I believe he died for my sins and was raised from the dead. I accept him as the Lamb of God who sacrificed his life for me. I trust in him and him alone to forgive my sin and write my name down in the Book of Life. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life.

Sincerely,
One who was lost.



Step 3

Jesus, the Good Shepherd



True or False

- _____ Many of those who claim to be Christ's followers will let you down someday.
- _____ Nobody really loves me or is concerned about me
- _____ Christ will take care of me for all eternity.

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 9:36

DOES ANYONE CARE ABOUT ME? John 10

How many of us feel at times like our life is out of control? Many of us feel lonely, insecure, abandoned or mistreated, often alienated from others, especially God. We are like the sheep without a shepherd that Christ mentioned in the verse above.

- There are people who say they love us, that have promised to care for us, but sometimes don't keep their word. We feel hurt by broken promises, wounded by those who supposedly were on our side yet have failed us. Have you ever felt like any of the following people have let you down?

- Your parents Your spouse Another family member
- A person you admired A religious leader
- A friend, neighbor or coworker

How have they disappointed you? _____

- We live in a world that can be very hostile, with dangers on all sides. Many live behind locked doors, with alarms to protect them from thieves. Jesus spoke about these evil doers that surround us. Look for the answers to the following questions in John chapter 10.

John 10:10 speaks of the thief who only comes to _____
In contrast to the thief, Jesus said he came to _____

- There are people who pretend to be our friends, yet only want to take advantage of us. In John 10:1-13 Jesus compares the good shepherd with hired hands. A hired hand is not the owner of the sheep and as such flees when trouble comes because he _____
_____ the sheep. John 10:13

- In contrast, Jesus said he is the _____. John 10:11
What does he do for the sheep? v. 11 _____
How did he give his life for us? _____

- What do you think is the task of one who shepherds sheep? _____

THE SHEPHERDS VOICE

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me..." John 10:27

I read how an American, traveling in Syria, saw three native shepherds bring their flocks to the same brook, and the flock drank there together.

After a while one of the shepherds called out, "Men-ah! men-ah!" the Arabic for "follow me." All of his sheep left the common herd and followed him up the hillside. The next shepherd did the same, and his sheep followed him -- without his even bothering to count them.

The traveler asked the remaining shepherd if he could put on his shepherd's cloak and take his crook, to see if they would follow him. He did this and called out, "Men-ah! men-ah!" Not one sheep followed him. They didn't know his voice.

"Will your flock never follow anybody but you?" he asked the shepherd, to which the man replied, "Oh, yes; sometimes a sheep gets sick, and then he will follow anyone." ³

6. In addition, the good shepherd _____ his sheep. John 10:14 Nobody understands our needs and circumstances better than him.



Of all your friends, which ones are really concerned about you? _____
 Is there someone who cares for you more than Jesus? _____
 Is there anyone who has sacrificed more for you than Jesus has? _____

THE DOOR TO THE SHEEPFOLD

In addition to being the good shepherd, Jesus also said in v. 9: "I am the door (gate)". In biblical times the sheepfold was often a wall of rocks without any gate. The "door" was just an opening in the wall where the sheep entered and left the fold. At night the shepherd slept in this opening to protect his sheep. He was literally the door to the fold.



7. Jesus said in John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever _____ through me will be _____." By saying "I am the gate" he was indicating that the only way to enter the family of God was through him.

8. Would you like a shepherd to take care of you? _____ The Bible teaches that there is only one way to get to heaven, by means of faith in Jesus Christ. Neither your religion nor your works can save you, only Christ alone.

Entering by the Door

Lord, I know that I have been like a lost sheep. I'm tired of living on my own, far from your care. I believe that you died for me on the cross. Right now, I invite you to be my good shepherd. I put myself under your authority and your care. By faith I receive the eternal life that you offer.



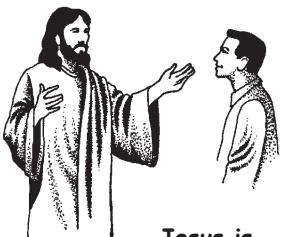
Which of the following phrases best describe you?

- I am trusting in Jesus alone to save me.
- I am trusting in Jesus, my good works and my religion to save me?.
- I'm sure I am a member of Jesus' flock.
- I'm not sure whether I'm part of his flock or not.

If you aren't sure, this prayer will help you to know the good shepherd.

9. Jesus said: "My sheep **listen** to my voice; I know them, and they **follow** me.." John 10:27
 How often do you **listen** to the voice of Jesus? Regularly Very little Hardly ever
 How can we hear his voice today? _____

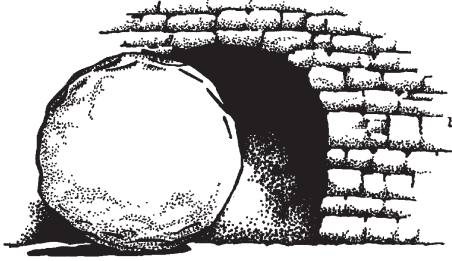
10. Do you **follow** him? Regularly Very little Hardly ever I don't know how to follow him
 Is there something holding you back from following Jesus? What is it? _____



Jesus is calling you, Are you listening for his voice?

11. Jesus promises eternal life to those who belong to him. v. 28 If you have believed in him as your Savior and good shepherd you're one of his sheep.
 How secure is your future? John 10:28 Why? _____

Permit Jesus to take care of you when you're alone, worried or fearful.
 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7



Step 4 He's alive!

True or False

- _____ *It doesn't really matter how we live because everything ends when we die.*
- _____ *Everyone will be resurrected after their death.*
- _____ *It's possible to approach death without fear or desperation.*

HE'S ALIVE

1. It was the Sunday morning after Jesus' crucifixion when suddenly, the tranquility of the moment was broken. What happened? Matthew 28:1-4 _____

2. What did the angel tell the women? Matthew 28:5-6 _____
Although they were surprised, Jesus had already predicted his death and resurrection. Matthew 16:21
3. Not only did he arise, but Acts 1:9-10 tells us that he also _____
What else does v. 11 promise? _____
4. The resurrection of Jesus is a unique event in world history, so extraordinary in fact that many find it difficult to believe. Romans 1:4 emphasizes the importance of the resurrection when it says that Jesus was declared to be _____ by _____.

***Why is it important for us to know that Jesus rose from the dead?
Does it affect us in any way? Let's see how the Bible answers these questions.***

5. What would happen if Jesus did not rise from the dead?
1 Corinthians 15:12-13 _____
1 Corinthians 15:17 _____

WHAT AWAITS US AFTER WE DIE?

6. Some people do not believe that we all will be resurrected some day. They would agree with those in 1 Corinthians 15:32: "If the dead are not raised let us _____ and _____ for tomorrow _____".

Many want to believe that everything ends when we die. They don't like the idea of being accountable to God for the way they have lived. They'd rather live the way they want without having to think about eternal consequences.

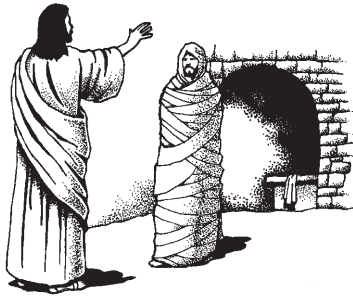


"If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
1 Cor. 15:32

Do we need to concern ourselves about what happens after our death? John 5:28-29 _____
Why? _____

Legend says that the ostrich hides its head in the sand when it feels threatened, believing that this will protect it from the coming danger. Yet we know this is foolishness, just as foolish as those who believe they can change the reality of the resurrection just because they choose to deny it.

7. When Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus had died, what did he say to his sister Martha? John 11:25-26
I am the _____ and the _____. He who _____ in me will _____, even though he dies; and whoever lives and _____ in me will _____.



DYING STATEMENTS OF THE SAVED?

Some fear death while others await it with tranquility. Here are some words from believers as they approached death.

“Eternity rolls up before me like a sea of glory.”⁴

“I go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school. I feel so strong in Christ.”⁵

“The sun is setting; mine is rising. I go from this bed to a crown. Farewell.”⁶

“Weep not for me, but for yourselves. I go to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”⁷

THINK ABOUT IT

Ephesians 1:20-21 explains that the power of God was what resurrected Christ from the dead.

Now He is sitting at _____
_____.v. 20

Now sitting at the right hand of God, Christ is above all rule and authority... not just in this age but in the one to come.

Think about the importance of knowing that Christ is above all authority and power.

He then asked Martha: *“Do you believe this?”* Later when Lazarus rose from the dead many believed in him, but not all. Some only saw this incident as a threat to their traditions and way of life. John 11:45-48.

8. Read Acts 17:30-32. Paul spoke to the men of Athens urging them to _____ because God has established a day when he will _____. v. 30-31

Christ himself will be the judge whose authority was established when God raised him from the dead. (v. 31).

V. 32 When they heard about the resurrection, some _____, while others said _____.



There will always be some who will scoff and others who want to know more. Therefore, we should each ask ourselves:

Do I believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Yes No I don't know

Do I believe that Jesus gives eternal life? Yes No I don't know

Do I believe that I will be raised after my death either for eternal life or for condemnation? Yes No I don't know

It is not sufficient to **know** there will be a resurrection; we must **believe**. As we saw in John 11:25-26, those who believe in Jesus will never die.

9. 1 Corinthians 15:55 says *“Where, oh death, is your victory?”*. While God says there is victory over death, many today deny it.

Who are you going to believe? _____

10. Something big awaits those who believe in Jesus. What is it?

2 Corinthians 4:14 _____

_____ One day we will be in God's presence forever, along with all who have believed in Christ. Therefore, v. 18 says that we should not focus our attention on things that are _____ rather on those which are _____.

Why? _____

Through the resurrection of Jesus, we know that something much more than the grave awaits us. He was the first to ascend to heaven, but not the last. Our death will be a step to something much better than we could ever imagine.

Discuss:

How can we be sure we will be raised to eternal life and not to condemnation?

Should we be concerned if the majority of our friends do not believe in Christ, or if they are indifferent to his promises? Why?

Step 5

Christ, my advocate



True or False

- _____ When we stand before God at the final judgment, we will need someone to defend us
- _____ Our attorney, Jesus Christ, only defends guilty clients.
- _____ There are many intermediaries between God and man.

A curious story...

A little girl's mother had just dressed her in her best outfit because they were expecting special visitors that day. Busy with all the preparations, she left her daughter after warning her not to get her clothes wet playing with the water in the laundry room as she loved to do.

The water however was too big of a temptation and quickly forgetting the warning she began to play in the sink. While playing, she heard someone knocking at the door but while heading inside she noticed that the edge of her dress was all wet.

"Oh no! Mommy is going to punish me for playing in the water! What can I do?" Her little mind began to formulate a plan. She grabbed a pair of scissors and cut off the wet part of her dress. Content with her work, she said to herself. "Now Mommy won't know I got my dress wet."

Confident that she had eliminated the evidence of her mischief she marched into the living room to greet the visitors."⁸

Remember the silly things you did as a kid?

Believe it or not, the little girl's story at the left is true. Wouldn't it be great if we could solve our problems as easily as she thought she could solve her's with a pair of scissors?

Think about the following questions for a moment:

- Yes No Do you have secrets you don't want anyone to know about?
- Yes No Does your conscience bother you or do you sometimes feel shame?
- Yes No Do you feel like others hold your past against you?
- Yes No Do you sometimes feel so bad about your mistakes that you doubt there's any remedy for them?
- Yes No Is there any cure for a guilty conscience?

Feelings of guilt and shame often leave us with a sense of helplessness. We ask ourselves: "What will others think? Can God ever forgive a person like me?"

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1

- Why do we need attorneys? _____
Have you ever thought that you might need an attorney to defend you before God? _____
- Some don't think they have a serious problem with sin because they say "God will forgive me; and besides there are others who are worse than I. What does the Bible say to the person who thinks he is good enough to get into heaven without help? Isaiah 64:6 _____
Is anyone so bad that they are beyond the reach of God's mercy? Romans 5:8 _____

Did you know that you have an advocate? Read 1 John 2:1-2 and answer the following questions:

- Who are these words directed to? v. 1 _____
A child of God is someone who has made the decision to repent of their sins and invite Jesus Christ to be their personal savior. God is a realist. Although he desires that we not sin, he recognizes that there will be times when we will fail.
- What recourse do we have in moments of failure? v. 1 _____
How encouraging to know that we have an advocate who intercedes on our behalf!

*"for all have sinned
and fall short of the glory
of God" Romans 3:23*



CONTRACT WITH MY ATTORNEY

Lord Jesus,

I need your help to defend me because I am guilty of the serious charges against me. I have no defense or excuse to justify my conduct. I repent of all the evil I have done.

I believe you shed your blood for me to pay the debt I had before your father. I understand that you took my place and have paid in full my sentence with your death.

By means of this accord, I contract you to be my lawyer, inviting you to defend me against the charges that have been brought against me. I accept you as my only mediator and renounce any others besides you that I have trusted in the past.

I can't pay you for your services since I'm without resources. The best that I could offer you would not be enough. The only thing I offer you is my trust and faith in you. Additionally I offer my life to serve you.

I will be needing your services continuously during the course of my life since I will be struggling against sin until the day I die.

Sincerely will all my heart,

Sign

Date

5. Some people don't trust lawyers. Is Jesus different? According to v. 1 he is _____. Think about what this means for your life.
6. What does our lawyer have to work with? How strong is our case?

Ecclesiastes 7:20 says "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." Our case is hopelessly weak because we stand guilty before God, without justification for our sin.

7. Given that we are guilty, is there a chance we will escape punishment? How can Jesus successfully defend guilty clients like us? According to 1 John 2:2 he is the _____ for our sins. This means that he is the sacrifice that satisfies God's wrath and makes possible the forgiveness of our sin. Since his blood satisfies God's just demands against us, our heavenly father doesn't demand anything else (like our good works, penance, etc.)

Some truths about our lawyer:

- ✓ He is just. He doesn't win with legal tricks or maneuvering that distorts the truth. He cannot be bribed, nor does he use lies.
- ✓ Christ defends guilty clients. Without him, we would have no defense or hope of triumph.
- ✓ Jesus defends us alone before God, without calling us to testify. What could we possibly say in our defense since we are without excuse?
- ✓ The devil accuses us continually before the father. (Rev. 12:10-12). Jesus refutes the accusations with his blood which paid the price of our guilt.
- ✓ He doesn't proclaim our innocence, but rather admits our guilt. He argues that the debt has already been paid in full by his death.

8. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 says there is only one God and one _____ between God and man, the man _____ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. What is a mediator? It is someone who intercedes between two parties, trying to reconcile them when there are problems.
9. How many mediators are there according to 1 Timothy 2:5? _____ Many people don't believe that Jesus is the only mediator between God and man, instead they look to others to intercede for them.
Who or what are some of the intermediaries people seek to intercede for them before God? _____



The truth is that we are in no condition to defend ourselves before a holy God. Only Jesus can!

Have you contracted Jesus Christ as your lawyer or are you trusting in yourself or someone else? _____

If not, read and sign the **"Contract with my Attorney"** in the column at the left if you are in accord with what it says.



Jesus, My Attorney

After living a “decent” life, my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table.

As I looked around I saw the “prosecutor.” He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat my lawyer, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed familiar to me. The corner door flew open and there appeared the judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as he moved across the room. I couldn’t take my eyes off of him. As he took his seat behind the bench, he said, “Let us begin.” The prosecutor rose and said, “My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell.” He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn’t look at anyone, even my own lawyer, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn’t that at least equal out part of the harm I’ve done? Satan finished with a fury and said, “This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.”

When it was his turn, my lawyer first asked if he might approach the bench. The judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned him to come forward. As he got up and started walking, I was able to see him in his full splendor and majesty. I realized why he seemed so familiar. This was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior. He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge, “Hi Dad,” and then he turned to address the court. “Satan was correct in saying that this man has sinned, I won’t deny any of these allegations. And yes the wages of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.” Jesus took a deep breath and turned to his Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, “However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted me as his Savior, so he is mine.” My Lord continued with, “His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.” As Jesus sat down, he quietly paused, looked at his Father and replied, “There is nothing else that needs to be done. I’ve done it all.” The judge lifted his mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from his lips...

“This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed.”

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, “I won’t give up, I’ll win the next one.” I asked Jesus as he gave me my instructions where to go next, “Have you ever lost a case?” Christ lovingly smiled and said, “Everyone that has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, Paid in Full.” 9

**PAID IN FULL
CASE DISMISSED**



My Refuge

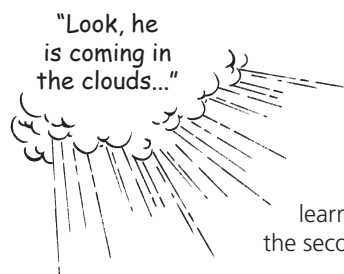
A group of pioneers were making their way across one of the central states to a distant place that had been opened up for homesteading. They traveled in covered wagons drawn by oxen, and progress was necessarily slow. One day they were horrified to note a long line of smoke in the west, stretching for miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly.

They had crossed a river the day before but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames would be upon them. One man only seemed to have understanding as to what could be done. He gave the command to set fire to the grass behind them. Then when a space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it.

As the flames roared on toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror, "Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?" The leader replied, "My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been!"

What a picture of the believer, who is safe in Christ! He is our refuge who suffered the fire of God's judgment on our sin. All those who trust in Christ are safe forever from the fires of God's wrath.

*"On Him Almighty vengeance fell,
Which would have sunk a world to hell.
He bore it for a chosen race,
And thus becomes our Hiding Place."¹⁰*



From the passages on the right we can learn the following about the second coming of Christ:

- ✓ Everyone will see him come. Now he is invisible but on that day he will be seen by all.
- ✓ He will be recognized in all the earth and in the heavens as the King of Kings.
- ✓ Before establishing his kingdom, Christ will judge the unbelieving nations with fury. They will cry out when they realize that they have chosen the wrong side, yet it will be too late.
- ✓ His kingdom will never end. There will be stability, unlike the insecurity of the present world.

My King is Coming

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Philippians 2:9-11

*Look, he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and all the peoples of the earth
will mourn because of him.
So shall it be! Amen.*

Revelation 1:7

*"The kingdom of the world has become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign for ever and ever."*

Revelation 11:15

*Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword
with which to strike down the nations. "
He will rule them with an iron scepter."
He treads the winepress of the
fury of the wrath of God Almighty.
On his robe and on his thigh
he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Revelation 19:15-16

Think About It

1. How does it make you feel when you read these passages?
 - I'm afraid because I don't know how I will fare on judgement day.
 - I feel secure.
 - These passages encourage me to follow Christ even if others laugh at me.
2. Do you have your passport into Heaven ready?

3. Will you be among those who rejoice or among those who weep when Christ, our great King returns? _____

Step 6 Christ the King



True or False

- _____ Some day Christ will reign, bringing the peace that the world so desires.
- _____ For many, the return of Christ to earth will be a moment of lament and tears.
- _____ The world is lost and there is no hope for anything better than the chaos in which we currently live.

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, ... forever."
Isaiah 9:6-7*

THE COMING KING

Isaiah prophesied that baby Jesus, who was born into a humble home and began his life as a carpenter, would not only be worshiped by the shepherds and wise men, but one day would reign over God's kingdom and be proclaimed the *Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6-7). Let's learn more about Jesus, the coming King!

1. What did the angel tell Mary in Luke 1:31-33 about her son's future?

The mention of "David's throne" refers to the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus Christ, a descendent of King David, would reign over Israel forever. History tells us that Jesus presented himself as the promised king, yet instead of being acclaimed, he was rejected and crucified. This doesn't mean the prophecies will not be fulfilled, only that we will have to wait a bit more to see his kingdom.

2. What does Philippians 2:7-8 say about Jesus? _____

Jesus humbled himself as a servant, becoming a man and dying on the cross; yet... does the story end there or is there more to come? Let's keep reading.

3. Even though he was rejected in the past, what will his future be like? Philippians 2:9-11 _____

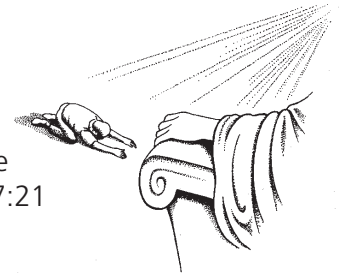
4. Can we truthfully say that every knee on earth is bowed before Jesus today? _____

In fact, what is the condition of the world today? _____

We live in a world that is at war with Jesus Christ and his law. Today many openly reject him, while others pretend to be Christians, yet their lives reflect a different reality.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

5. Although Jesus often spoke about the *kingdom of God*, we don't see a visible kingdom today. Instead, Christ reigns in the hearts of his followers. How can we tell today if someone has really submitted to God's rule in their life? Matthew 7:21



We can't say that Christ is our king if we don't do what he says. A king is to be obeyed!

6. Matthew 13:31-32 compares the kingdom of heaven to a _____
 _____. The mustard seed is the smallest of the seeds, yet
 it grows to become the biggest of plants. When someone joins Christ's
 kingdom, he is part of something big. He is on the winning side when
 all is said and done. Many today don't give much thought to follow-
 ing Christ. They would rather seek the approval of their friends and the
 comfort of their possessions, yet time will show that the most important
 things in life aren't what we see but the eternal things that are invisible.

**FOLLOWING
 MY KING**



To get an idea of the values
 that govern the kingdom of
 God, read the Sermon on the
 Mount in Matthew 5-7.

7. Matthew 13:45-46 compares the kingdom of heaven to a merchant looking for _____
 When he found one of great value he went and sold _____ and _____
 What does this parable tell us about the value of belonging to Christ's kingdom? _____

8. What is needed to enter the kingdom of God? John 3:3 _____
 One is born again when he receives Christ by faith as his Saviour and becomes a child of God.

9. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness. What does this passage tell us
 about our duties as members of Christ's kingdom? _____

**Which kingdom
 do I belong to?**



**Do I
 already have my
 passport to heaven?**

First, I must seek his kingdom, which means to submit myself to Christ as my
 king. He needs to be number one in everything I do? Who rules my life?

In light of the above, we should ask ourselves:

Am I a member of the kingdom, a citizen of heaven? Yes No Not sure

If not, whose kingdom do I belong to? _____

Am I living as a faithful citizen of the kingdom? Yes No I struggle

Who rules my life? Christ Me and my own wishes

Want to be closer to the king? Think about ***"Talking with my King"*** (below)

TALKING WITH MY KING

Oh King Jesus. I recognize you as maker and supreme ruler of all creation. I humble myself before your power and majesty. I invite you to the throne of my life. Control my mind so that I may begin to think as you do and control my feet so I can follow your ways.

I want to proclaim your glory when you come to reign. I want you to rule, not just in me, but in the whole world. Oh eternal king, I eagerly await the day when every knee will bow before you.

The world is sunk in confusion and injustice. Its people doubt and scoff at you. They think they are so wise and



important, as if the universe revolved around them. That was the way I was too, but I realize now that I am only a little fish in a vast ocean.

I feel pressured by the world which wants to mold me into its ways. Help me to resist the temptation to follow any other king or to declare myself the ruler of my own life. You are my hope for the present and for all eternity.

Your humble servant,

 Signature

WHAT WILL THE COMING OF CHRIST BE LIKE? See ***"My King is Coming"*** on page 17.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

If you accepted Christ as your personal Savior while studying this manual, your teacher will be able to give you advice about what to do next. If you haven't had a teacher, then take the following advice into account:

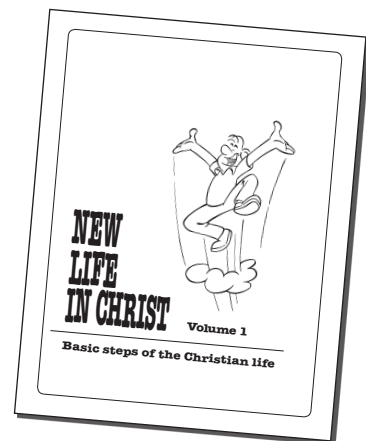
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!". 2 Corinthians 5:17



You have been born again! Your sins have been forgiven and you have become a new person in Christ! God is just beginning to change your life. Live by faith, entrusting yourself to his care, letting the Holy Spirit do the work of transformation in your life. It is God himself who will change you.

As a newborn in Christ, you now begin the process of growth. This is called discipleship. There are certain spiritual disciplines or exercises that will strengthen you as a new believer. The more you practice them the stronger you will become.

1. Pray to God constantly throughout the day, every day. Prayer is talking with God, telling him of your joys and burdens. You can praise him, thank him, confess your sins to him and ask for his help.
2. Read the Bible every day. A good place to start is with the book of John in the New Testament. Before you begin tell God: "Here I am Lord, ready to hear your voice." Read the Bible slowly, meditating on its meaning. It is often wise to read the passage several times to understand it better before moving on to the next passage. Above all, remember that in addition to being read, God's Word is to be obeyed.
3. Look for and attend a Bible believing church. The believers from church are your brothers and sisters in Christ, your new family. Ask the pastor for help in becoming involved in your church.
4. Speak to others about Christ. Tell them what he has done in your life.
5. Separate yourself from the world of sin in which you previously lived. Pray to God, asking his help to resist temptation. If for some reason you fall into sin, confess your sin directly to God as soon as you become aware of it.
6. Submit yourself to Christ moment by moment, letting him control all areas of your life.
7. Begin to study the ***New Life in Christ*** series of discipleship books. There are three volumes that you may download for free from the following website: www.newlifediscipleship.com



BIBLE PASSAGES TO ACCOMPANY EACH LESSON

Step 1

John 1: 1-4

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.
- 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
- 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

Ephesians 2:1-5

- 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
- 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
- 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
- 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
- 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

John 3:16-18

- 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.
- 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
- 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to 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

Step 2

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!.

1 Peter 1:18-19

- 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,
- 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:3-7

- 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
- 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Revelation 12:10-11

- 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.
- 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Step 3

John 10:1-15

- 1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.
- 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep.
- 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.
- 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.
- 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.
- 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
- 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:27-29

- 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
- 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Step 4

Matthew 28:1-6

- 1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
- 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
- 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Matthew 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Acts 1:9-11

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Romans 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord,

1 Corinthians 15:12-13

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

John 5:28-29

28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

29 and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Acts 17:30-32

30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

2 Corinthians 4: 14, 18

14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Eph 1:20-21

20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Step 5

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 2: 1-2

- 1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
- 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

- 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
- 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

Step 6

Luke 1:31-33

- 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.
- 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
- 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

Philippians 2:7-11

- 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness.
- 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!
- 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
- 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 13:31-32

- 31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.
- 32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”

Matthew 13:45-46

- 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.
- 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Quotes

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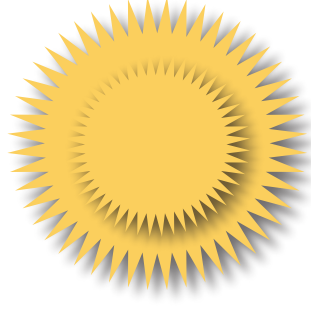
Certificate

This certificate is presented to

_____ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

Who is Jesus Christ? Discovering New Life in Christ

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten
Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life. John 3:16*



Pastor or Teacher

Date

