

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study



### Introduction

This Bible study features four lessons based on verses from the Gospel of John and other books from the Bible. Each lesson has questions and suggested answers.

#### **READ**

Begin by reading a word of encouragement from Franklin Graham (on the next page) and the Gospel of John.

#### **STUDY**

Then carefully read the lessons and answer the questions following each.

#### **MEMORIZE**

Memorize two verses per lesson, beginning with John 3:16. (Memory verses are found at the end of each lesson.) To make memorization easier, print out the verses and carry them with you. Read more about memorization at the end of this document.

#### **MEDITATE**

Think deeply about the Scripture verses as you study and memorize them. Ask God to help you understand His Word and find specific and practical ways you can apply it to your life.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### A word of encouragement from Franklin Graham

Dear friend,

Whether you are just now becoming a Christian, coming back to Christ after a period of doubt, or sorting out a difficult problem, this is the beginning of a new and enduring relationship with Jesus Christ. **Jesus said, "I have come that they may**



**have life, and have it to the full," (John 10:10).** God wants you to enjoy a full and rewarding life and has made every provision for this. Here are some basic facts about this life:

**First, the Bible is food for the spiritual life,** which needs to be nourished just as your body does. Through His Word, God speaks to you and reveals His plan for your new life. I would advise you to read the Gospel of John before reading any other book of the Bible. Then continue reading the Bible every day, trying to read at least a chapter a day.

In this document, you will find Bible lessons and some Scripture verses at the end of each lesson to memorize. Get started on these right away, for as you study and memorize, the Bible will help you grow.

**Second, prayer is your lifeline to God.** Form the positive habit of starting each day with a few minutes in prayer. Conversation with God may seem strange at first, and you may find it hard to know what to say. But as you continue, your prayers will become more meaningful. So start each day with prayer, and then learn to pray throughout the day as needs arise. Take all your problems and burdens to God, because He is interested in everything you do. **"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you," (1 Peter 5:7).**

**Third, a Christian is to be Christ's witness.** You are to be an ambassador for Him wherever you go. This doesn't mean that you go up and down the street confronting everyone you meet. It does mean, however, that you start living a life that is different, then pray each day that you might share Christ with others and watch God bring the opportunities! As you faithfully study and memorize the Scriptures, you will become better equipped to do this.

**Fourth, you can't be an effective Christian on your own.** If you are not already a member, get involved in a church where the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

Make the attempt to develop friendly relationships with other Christians at your church, as spiritual fellowship is a great encouragement in growth. The ministry of your pastor will provide strong guidance as you walk in a new life with the Lord.

**The step of faith that you have taken does not mean that all your problems are automatically solved.** In fact, you may find you have some new ones! You will find that the devil, who is God's enemy and yours, will try to spoil the work God is doing in you. He will try to make you seriously doubt your faith in Christ. There is only one way to defeat Satan, and that is through the Word of God. Follow the example of Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness. Each time the devil tempted Him, He reminded Himself of God's Word by quoting Scripture (see Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).

The following Bible study lessons and verses contain promises and assurances that are basic to your life as a Christian. Read and reread them often. Learn to go to the Scriptures as an anchor for your faith.

May God richly bless you in this step of faith.

**Franklin Graham**



## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 1 – Knowing Christ

**Whether you have just become a Christian or are renewing your commitment to Christ, it's good to review some basic truths about Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers.**

#### **OUR NEED FOR SALVATION**

Though you may know many people who seem to be "better" than others, all of us make mistakes (Romans 3:23). The consequence of human sin and imperfection is eternal separation from God, who is holy and perfect. And since God is the very source of life, eternal separation from Him means eternal death (Romans 6:23).



#### **PROMISE 1: THE PROMISE OF SALVATION**

The Bible talks about "salvation," which means being saved from eternal death and experiencing peace with God and living forever with Him. John 3:16, perhaps the best-known verse in the Bible, explains clearly that by believing in Jesus Christ, you can have salvation and eternal life:

**"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**

Look at this verse, one phrase at a time, to better understand the simple truth it proclaims:

**"For God so loved the world ..."**

The "world" includes you and every other individual on the face of the earth. God loves you, and the next part of the verse shows just how much He loves you:

**"... that He gave His one and only Son ..."**

God loves you so much that He gave His Son (Romans 5:8). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, paid the penalty for your sins when He died on the cross. He took all your sins and died once for all. As He died, He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), meaning that He had truly done everything necessary for your salvation.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

As the "Son of God," Jesus is equal to God Himself. He is part of what theologians call the "Trinity": God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, however, even though Jesus was equal to God the Father (John 1:1-3; 10:30), He freely chose to become a human being and die for us (Philippians 2:5-8).

### **"... that whoever believes in Him shall not perish ..."**

If you believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, and accept Him as your Savior, you will not have to pay the eternal penalty for your sins because Jesus paid that penalty for you when He died on the cross.

### **"... but have eternal life."**

Instead of eternal death and separation from God, you will have eternal life the moment you trust Christ. You can know that:

your sins are forgiven (Colossians 1:14)  
you are a child of God (John 1:12)  
you possess eternal life (John 3:16)

### **COMMITTING YOUR LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST**

Have you personally trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, then on the authority of God's Word, you have eternal life. If not, you can trust Him right now (Romans 10:13)! You can receive Jesus Christ into your life right now by praying a prayer such as this:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.*

*In Jesus' name, amen.*

Memorize John 3:16, and if you ever have occasion to doubt your salvation, use it as an anchor for your faith!

### **PROMISE 2: THE PROMISE OF VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION**

Satan does not want you to be in relationship with God. He will concentrate on some area of spiritual weakness in your life to pull you down. Don't be surprised when this happens! Instead, learn to take your eyes off your own weaknesses and put your trust in Jesus Christ, who is able to help you. God promises you will not be tempted more than you can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

You may think that you are the only one who is tempted, but all believers go through similar tests. Temptation is not a sin. Even Christ was tempted (Hebrews 4:15). The

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

sin comes only when you give in to the temptation.

To overcome temptation, take the problem to God immediately, before it has a chance to take root. Be positive in your prayers. Don't concentrate on the thing that is tempting you, but think about godly things (Philippians 4:8).

Ask God to bring such experiences and thoughts into your life. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 10:13 and rely on its promises whenever you are tempted.

### **PROMISE 3: THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS**

Learning to live the Christian life is like learning to walk. There will be many ups and downs, especially in the beginning (Psalm 37:23-24).

When you were learning to walk, you often fell down. But did you stay down long? No, you reached out to the extended hand of your mother or father, who put you back on your feet. You can learn to walk with God the same way. When you fall, reach out to God through prayer, and accept His merciful helping hand:

**"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."** —1 John 1:9

Whenever you do something that displeases the Lord, as soon as the Spirit of God has made you aware of it, make things right with God. As you do this, you will come to know — firsthand — the mercy and forgiveness of God and the joy of being in constant fellowship with Him.

Memorize 1 John 1:9 and practice it daily. Take God at His Word and believe Him for forgiveness and cleansing.

### **PROMISE 4: THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE**

Because you are human, it will be natural for you to doubt, to be frustrated at times, and to feel weak and all alone. But you are never alone; Jesus Christ is in you and He wants to help you become the kind of person He created you to be (Philippians 1:6).

He will meet your every need and will take care of you daily (Hebrews 13:5).

Jesus knew His followers' weaknesses and need for greater spiritual strength. He wanted them to know that, even though He would not be present with them

personally, the Holy Spirit, whom we have seen is a part of the Trinity, would take His place and meet their every need (John 14:16).

The Holy Spirit can be your Counselor or, as some Bible translations read, your

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

"comforter." He can also be your teacher. As you read your Bible and ask God to help you understand it, the indwelling Spirit will guide you into the truth (John 16:13). He will also lead you (Romans 8:14), enrich your spiritual life (John 6:63; Romans 8:11), and empower you for Christian living (Galatians 5) and for dynamic witness to others about your faith (Acts 1:8).

The promises of salvation, of victory over temptation, of forgiveness, and of God's abiding presence are yours this very day. Practice God's presence, believe His promises, and walk in absolute dependence on His indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Respond to the questions on the next page.**

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 1 – Your response

**Answer these questions by looking up the verses in the Gospel of John.**

What did Jesus come into the world to do? John 1:29

How did Jesus take away the sins of the world? John 19:16-18

God loved the world and gave His Son to die on the cross. John 3:16 tells how we can personally benefit from what God has done.

Fill in your first name in each of the following blank spaces: **"For God loved \_\_\_\_\_ so much that He gave His only Son (Jesus) so that if \_\_\_\_\_ believes in Him, \_\_\_\_\_ will not perish (pay the penalty for sin), but \_\_\_\_\_ will have eternal life."**

Physical life will end someday, but the life, which God wants to give each one of us, is eternal life — it will never end. What must you do to have eternal life? John 3:16

What new relationship do you now enjoy by believing in Christ? John 1:12

What happens to those who do not believe in Christ? John 3:18; John 3:36

Eternal life is not obtained by being religious, keeping a set of rules, or doing good works, but by believing in a person, Jesus Christ. What does Jesus say in John 11:25-26?

What happens the moment you believe in Christ? John 5:24

Now, review your answers and state briefly how you know that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life:



## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Now that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, claim the assurance of your salvation. As a child needs physical food each day to grow, a child of God needs daily spiritual food.

1. Memorize these verses for Lesson 1:

**Promise of salvation: "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

**Promise of forgiveness: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."**

— 1 John 1:9

2. Go on to the next lesson, "*Growing in Christ.*"

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 2 – Growing in Christ

**God wants to meet with you personally – just you – each and every day.**

That thought may amaze you, but consider it for a moment: When you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you become a member of God's family, a child of God. You can call God your Father.



Any good parent wants to spend time with his or her children — sometimes with all of them together, but often with each one alone. That is how one person gets to know another person well — by spending time alone with that individual.

The best way to get to know your heavenly Father is to spend time alone with Him. You can do this each day by reading His Word and by talking with Him in prayer.

#### **LISTENING TO GOD: READING HIS WORD**

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."  
— Psalm 119:9, 11

If you are just getting acquainted with the Bible, you will likely find the Gospel of John the most interesting because it sums up God's plan of salvation most beautifully.

After you have finished reading John, you may want to read the Book of Acts to see how the early Christians shared their faith with those around them. Sharing your faith is one of the most important things you can do for God.

If you have not read much from the Bible, you may prefer to use a modern version. Ask your pastor or someone at your local Christian bookstore to recommend one.

While you are reading the Bible, meditate on what it says. To meditate simply means to think seriously about spiritual things. It means thinking quietly, soberly and

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

deeply about God — how wonderful He is, what wonderful things He has done for you, what He is going to do for you, and what He wants you to do for Him.

As you read the Bible and meditate, perhaps you will notice:

a special promise to claim  
a principle to help you in your day  
a command you should follow  
a searchlight pointing out a sin or spiritual need in your life  
a meaningful verse to memorize

Don't read too fast or try to finish too much at one time. To begin, a good rule of thumb is to read one chapter a day. Take time to look for all that God has for you in the day's passage. There's no need to rush through your time alone with God.

### **TALKING TO GOD: PRAYER**

**"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him."**

— 1 John 5:14-15

After you have read and meditated a while in God's Word, talk to Him in prayer. Talk to God as you would to a loving parent who wants the best for you and who wants to help you in every way possible.

You can pray to God any time of the day — driving to work, preparing dinner, washing clothes, studying at school. But you also need to find a time during your day when you can give the Lord your full attention, without any distractions.

Perhaps the morning is best for you — when you are fresh, before your active day begins. Or in the evening — at the close of the day, as you consider the next day's plans and prepare for a good night's rest. Better yet, try to spend some time alone with Him both morning and evening (Psalm 55:17)!

Whatever the time of day, be consistent in your meeting with God. Jesus rose early to pray, and He went somewhere that was quiet (Luke 5:16).

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### A PRAYER GUIDE

These suggestions may help you know how to start talking to God:

Praise Him for who He is: Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe, yet interested in you personally!

Thank Him for all He has done, for all He is doing for you, and for all He has promised to do for you.

Admit to Him the things you have done or said or thought for which you are sorry. God is both willing and able to forgive our sins (1 John 1:9).

- Pray for your family.

- Pray for others — for friends or neighbors who have needs, both physical and spiritual.

- Pray for yourself. Ask God's guidance for the day. Ask Him to help you with any problem you have. Ask Him to give you opportunities to serve Him.

- Try listing your prayer requests, so that you don't forget any, and so you can record God's answers. (He may say "yes," "no" or "wait.") Keep your list in a small notebook, on your computer or phone — something small enough to fit in your pocket or billfold or purse.

*Remember, you can pray to the Lord any time, anywhere, and about anything — to ask for something you need or to thank Him for something you have received. As any loving earthly father would be, God is interested in all that happens to you.*

He is looking forward to His time alone with you!

**Respond to the questions on the next page.**

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 2 – Your response

**God speaks to us through the Bible, and we in turn can speak to Him through prayer. As we do this, we become better acquainted with His glorious promises and blessings. This lesson should make Bible reading and prayer more meaningful.**

1. Turn to the following passages in John's gospel, and briefly summarize the statements Jesus made about Himself:

John 6:35

John 8:12

John 10:9

John 11:25-26

2. What does Jesus promise if you keep His commandments? John 14:21

3. What further help is promised in John 14:26?

4. What does Jesus ask you to do in John 13:34-35, and why?

5. Read John 21:1-6. Describe what happened in verses 3 and 6. What important lesson can you learn from these verses? What similar truth is taught in John 15:5?

6. As a believer, what is now your privilege? John 16:24

7. As you grow in Christ, your faith and confidence will increase, and you will pray with greater assurance. What are you promised in John 15:16?

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### FINAL THOUGHTS

God, the Holy Spirit, is your teacher, and He uses the Scriptures to teach you. As you continue to read, study, memorize the Scriptures and pray, Christ will become more real and you will find fulfillment in life.

1. Memorize these verses for Lesson 2.

Confidence in prayer: **"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him."**  
— 1 John 5:14-15

Victory through God's Word: **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."**  
— Psalm 119:9,11

2. Please continue now to the next lesson, *"Obeying Christ."*

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 3 – Obeying Christ

**As you grow as a new Christian, you will find that true contentment and fulfillment comes in surrendering complete control of your life to Jesus Christ. This means letting Him have highest authority over your life as King and Lord.**

Being a Christian is not just worshipping God for an hour on Sunday. A true follower of Jesus Christ is committed to a life of obedience to Him, 24/7, for the rest of his or her life. And it is a full life and an exciting adventure (John 10:10)!

Making Jesus Christ your Lord — living a lifestyle of obedience and dependence on Christ — brings about changes in the way you live.



#### **LIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY**

First, living with Jesus Christ as your Lord is a wholehearted way of life. We are called to serve God with all our hearts! Wholehearted followers are what God is looking for (2 Chronicles 16:9). Surrender your heart each day to Him, ready and willing to be like Him and serve the King of your life (Ephesians 6:7).

#### **A RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE**

Second, living with Jesus Christ as your Lord is a relationship of love. Your love for God is expressed through obedience (Matthew 22:37-40). Love is more than a feeling — it's something we do. When you love your King, you obey His commands (John 14:21).

Obedience relates to every aspect of our lives: relationships with family and friends, our jobs, career plans and future ambitions — everything must be surrendered to God's plans. We need to care more about what God thinks about us than what people think. Our bank accounts, possessions, time and everything we claim as ours, must be under God's control. Even our social life and leisure time should be yielded to Christ. Be willing to obey Christ even when there is personal cost involved (Luke 14:33).

Through obedience to Christ, we come to really know Him, and we become more like Him. Jesus makes Himself real to us.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### **RUN TO OBTAIN THE PRIZE!**

Third, living with Jesus Christ as your Lord means living a focused life aimed at glorifying God. God has a plan for each of our lives. Fulfilling these plans involves our active, disciplined effort. The Apostle Paul described the Christian life as an Olympic competition. In the same way that an Olympic athlete devotes him or herself to rigorous training, so we are challenged to work at our relationship with Christ, growing in our understanding of God's Word, developing our character to be more like Christ, and living by Christ's example (1 Corinthians 9:24).

What we do with the 24 hours we are given each day determines the effectiveness of our Christian life and our service for Christ. God calls us to be productive believers, bearing "fruit" for God. Like a branch that draws life-giving sap from the vine, we draw our sustenance from union with Christ and recognize our dependence on Him (John 15:5). That's how we live our lives in a way that pleases God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### **BE TRANSFORMED**

Finally, living with Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives is a life of transformation. We can't live perfect lives. When we fail, we can bring those failures to Jesus Christ. He promises to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). Every day we need to let go of the old way of living and remember we are new creations (Ephesians 4:24). By turning away from our sins and receiving the new life Christ gave us, we steadily become more like Him (Romans 12:2).

The Christian life often runs against the current of the world around us. So we need wholehearted commitment, true love for Jesus Christ, a disciplined lifestyle and readiness to admit our failures and leave behind our old ways of living in order to live victoriously in Christ. By surrendering to Jesus Christ in every area of our lives, we can live life to its fullest as He intended.

**Respond to the questions on the next page.**



## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 3 – Your response

**Living life abundantly — is it really possible? Is Jesus calling us to follow Him in obedience just to make us good, moral people, or is He really trying to show us the true pathway to joy? Are you ready to trust the leadership of the Good Shepherd and make Jesus the Lord of your life? Perhaps the following questions will help you understand more about the joy of truly surrendering your life to God's control.**

1. Study 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and answer three important questions concerning Christ's lordship over your life:

Now that you are a Christian, what has your body become?

Why do you now belong to Christ?

What should now be your purpose in life?

2. Read Luke 6:46-49 and briefly summarize what you think Jesus was teaching in the parable of the wise and foolish builders:

What must we do if we call Jesus our Lord?

What spiritual truth is represented by the house built on the rock?

What spiritual truth is represented by the house with no foundation?

3. What does the Apostle James say about obeying the Bible? James 1:22-25

4. Obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord is the true test of your commitment to Him. What does the Apostle John say about obedience? Find one thing in each verse in 1 John 2:3-6.

5. What is another sure way of knowing you belong to Christ? 1 John 3:14

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

6. As you grow in Christ, there will be times when you fail Him. No one except Christ has ever lived a perfect life. Be willing to admit you have failed and confess your sin. Briefly summarize what each verse in 1 John 1:8-10 teaches about confession and forgiveness.

7. What can you thank God for right now, concerning your need for God's forgiveness? 1 John 2:1-2

### FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Memorize these verses for Lesson 3:

Applying God's Word: **"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."**

— Joshua 1:8

Confirmation of my love for God: **"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love Him and show myself to Him."**

— John 14:21

2. Please continue now to your final lesson, *"Witnessing for Christ."* This could be the most important lesson of all. It concerns sharing your faith with others.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 4 - Witnessing For Christ

**A witness in a courtroom tells what he or she knows about a given situation. The Christian witness tells others what he or she knows about Jesus Christ and what it means to personally trust Him with his or her life.**

When He began His ministry, Jesus called two fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew, and said, "Come, follow me ... and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Through the ages, the same call has gone out to all those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. He reaches others through the faithful witness of people like you (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).



#### **YOUR LIFE EXAMPLE**

As a witness for Christ, your life is a key part of your witness. You are a new creation; the way your new faith shows itself in your conduct is the greatest testimony you have (Matthew 5:16). This means your habits and lifestyle should reflect a life given over to Jesus Christ. It does not mean that you must be perfect before you can be a witness. We all stumble from time to time as we are learning to walk, but as you learned in Lesson 1, God is willing to forgive your sins and put you back on your feet again.

#### **THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

You also need a power beyond yourself in order to witness. This is the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will give us power to tell others about Him (Acts 1:8). When your life is clean and you walk under the control of the Holy Spirit, He is able to witness through you.

A man named Philip was chosen to serve the church because he was "full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). He was having a successful ministry in Samaria (Acts 8:4-13), when an angel summoned him to go to Gaza (Acts 8:26), where an Ethiopian official was returning from Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was reading from chapter 53 of Isaiah at the time. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Philip began to talk with the Ethiopian using that very passage of Scripture and telling him the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35).

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### **THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD**

The third critical ingredient to effective witness is God's Word: the Bible. In the story of Philip, God put the appropriate Scripture in the hands of the Ethiopian before He sent Philip to share with him. When the seed of God's Word is planted in a prepared heart, it produces fruit — a new believer in Christ (1 Peter 1:23). It's exciting to share your newfound faith in Jesus Christ with others. A great way to start is to tell how Jesus Christ changed your own life. There is great power in a simple and honest personal testimony. Also, be prepared with the facts of the Gospel message in mind.

### **THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**

This is the Gospel message summarized in four basic truths:

#### **Truth 1: God's plan – peace and life**

God created us in His own image (Genesis 1:27). We have the ability to relate to Him and the freedom to choose whether or not to love and obey Him. When God finished creating the world, He declared that everything in it – including people – was “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

#### **Truth 2: Our problem – separation from God**

When God created the first man and woman – Adam and Eve – He placed them in a beautiful garden and gave them one rule: they could eat of the fruit of every tree but one. Eating of this forbidden tree would mean spiritual death and eternal separation from God (Genesis 2:16-17). Unfortunately, Adam and Eve disobeyed (or “sinned”) and were separated from God (Genesis 3:22-24). Every human since then has also sinned (Romans 5:12). Without Jesus Christ, we all experience this separation from God.

#### **Truth 3: God's remedy – the cross**

God did not leave us without hope. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again from the grave. When Jesus did that for us, He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6). It is faith in Jesus Christ and not human effort that brings us to God. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. It is only by God's grace that we can be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).

#### **Truth 4: Our response – receive Christ**

God has provided the way back to Him, but we must accept it. We must admit that we are sinners and then be willing to repent. To repent means to change your thinking and the direction in your life. It means to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19). By faith, we must trust that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and receive Him as Lord over our lives. When we do, we become children of God (John 1:12) and are promised eternal life (John 3:16).

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

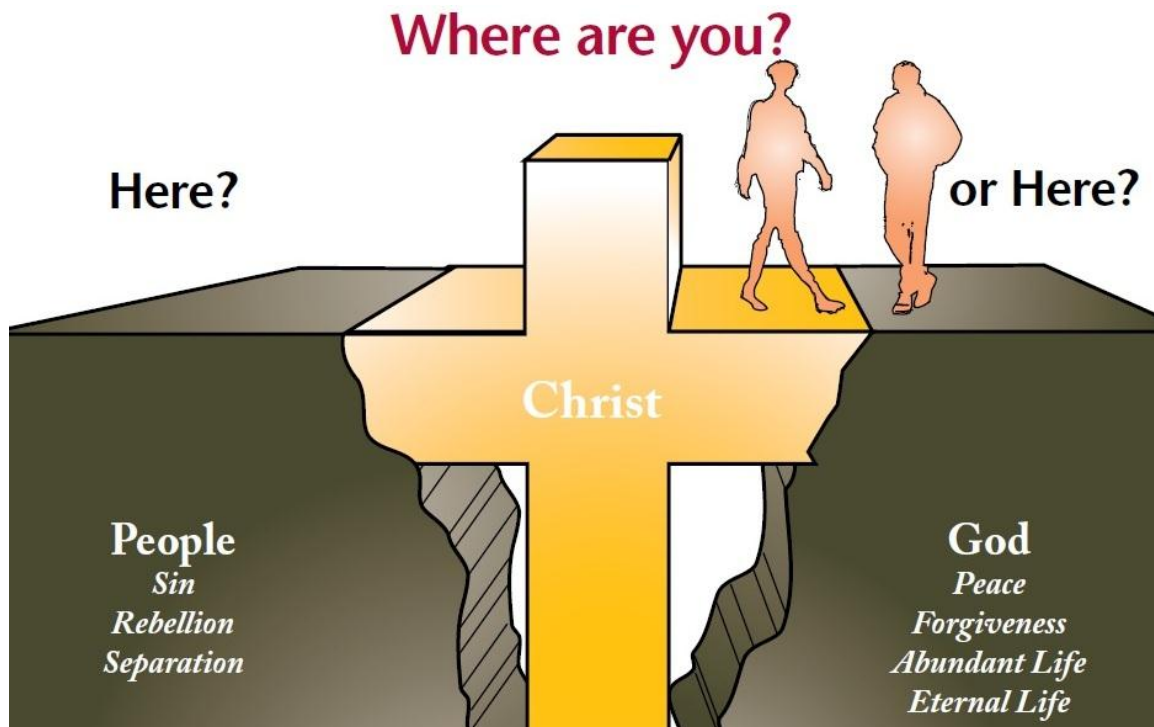
### SHARING YOUR FAITH

When you are explaining the Gospel, it may help to draw it on paper for the friend with whom you are sharing. As you do, try this four-step method:

#### STEP 1: EXPLAIN THE FACTS.

On the top of your page, list the four basic truths of the Gospel. List them one at a time and use a Scripture or two with each one. Draw the graphic of God on one side of the chasm and us on the other. As you draw, share Bible verses that explain how the separation took place. Show how the cross bridges the chasm between God and us and how we can cross the bridge through faith in Christ.

Here is an example of an illustration:



#### STEP 2: INVITE A RESPONSE.

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit and the person is responding positively, offer an invitation, such as, "If this illustration is true — and I believe with all my heart that it is — then all of us are on either one side of the chasm or the other."

Then ask, "Which side are you on? Here ... or here?" If your friend is unsure or knows he or she is on the wrong side, your friend can be sure of his or her position by:

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

1. Admitting your need — that you are a sinner
2. Being willing to turn away from your sins
3. Believing that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave
4. Praying to invite Jesus Christ to be the Lord and Savior of your life and control your life through the Holy Spirit

### **STEP 3: PRAY WITH THE PERSON RESPONDING.**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). Remember, Jesus Christ is the door to eternal life. Through prayer, we can enter that door and receive Him as Lord and Savior. Lead the person in a simple prayer, such as:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **STEP 4: CONFIRM THE NEW BELIEVER IN HIS OR HER DECISION.**

If your friend sincerely prays that prayer, he or she has become a Christian and has been saved from eternal death! You will want to share some Bible verses (such as 1 John 5:12-13) to give your friend assurance of his or her new standing before God.

### **FOLLOW UP**

When you help a person in coming to faith in Christ, remember that this individual is a spiritual baby (1 Peter 2:2). In order to grow, an infant needs nurture and care. This means encouraging the person to begin to read the Bible and pray regularly. You can do so by using this online Bible study. Share what you have learned from Living in Christ. Also encourage this new Christian to find a Bible-teaching church in order to have fellowship with other believers in Christ and continue to grow.

**Respond to the questions on the next page.**

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Lesson 4 - Your response

**A witness in a courtroom tells what he or she knows about a given situation. The Christian witness tells others what he or she knows about Jesus Christ and what it means to personally trust Him.**

1. What is the Good News (Gospel) that we should share? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

2. What power does the Gospel possess? Romans 1:16

3. What are three things an effective witness for Christ must have?

Matthew 5:16

Acts 1:8

1 Peter 1:22-23

4. Review Lesson 3 on witnessing and briefly explain the "Bridge to Life" illustration.

5. Once a person is convinced of his or her sin and need of a Savior, what should that person do?

Acts 3:19

John 10:9

John 1:12

6. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, what can he or she now say with assurance? John 3:16

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Memorize these verses for Lesson 4:

Telling others about Christ: **"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."**

— Acts 1:8

**"'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'"**

— Matthew 4:19

2. Please continue to the next page to learn more about memorizing Scripture.



## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### How to memorize Scripture

**The two memory verses included with each lesson are a very important part of your completion of this Living in Christ Bible study. After each lesson, memorize the two verses for that lesson. As you print out and memorize each verse, keep it in a convenient place for frequent review.**

Do you doubt your ability to memorize these Bible verses? Maybe these tips will help:

#### **SAY IT ALOUD**

Say the verse aloud so that you can hear it as well as see it and think it. Do you ever find yourself thinking about a song you have recently heard? Or about something someone has said to you? The ear remembers! Use this built-in "memory chip" to help you memorize Scripture.

#### **SAY IT THE SAME WAY EACH TIME**

Each of the four memory verse cards includes a topic name, such as "Applying God's Word," along with the verse and the reference. Each time you say the verse, do so in this order:

1. The topic
2. The Scripture reference
3. The verse
4. Repeat the Scripture reference

Reciting these four elements the same way each time will help you to firmly fix the passage in your mind.

#### **SAY IT ONE PHRASE AT A TIME**

If you find the verse "too big for one bite," memorize it a phrase at a time, adding each phrase in order till you have the whole verse. Even if you start with just three or four words, say the reference before and after the phrase.

#### **SAY IT AGAIN AND AGAIN**

The real secret of Scripture memorization is review, review, review. Quote the verses often, asking God for deep understanding and seeking to apply each verse to your life.

## Living in Christ four-lesson Bible study

### Completing the course

Congratulations on completing this study as you begin your new life in Christ. Please remember to pray and spend time in the Bible daily. And if you haven't already done so, we encourage you to find a church home.



Never forget why we should go to church. We don't go to be entertained or just for social reasons. We go because God wants us to grow spiritually, and one of the ways this happens is through our association with other believers. You need them, and they need you. You need to hear God's Word, and you also need

opportunities to serve Christ. Without contact with other believers, our spiritual lives become stale and barren.

The Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25). Ask God to guide you to the church He has for you, then ask Him to help you not only to adjust to it, but to grow in your faith through its ministry.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.