



Session 1: Beginning Your New Life in Christ

Congratulations on giving your life to the Lord Jesus and becoming his follower!!

Heaven and we, your Watoto church family rejoice and celebrate this most important decision you've made.

To help you start your new life in Christ with confidence, there are some foundational Christian teachings we would like to take you through.

First, let us review what the Gospel is.

The Gospel

The Gospel is the Good News of what God has done through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This "Good News" of Jesus is the power of God to save people from the penalty of sin and to unite believers with Christ so that his resurrected life is lived out through them. This powerful truth focuses a believer's attention on the life transforming work of Jesus Christ both for now and eternity.

The Gospel Explained

God created us to enjoy a relationship with himself.

Our sin has separated us from a holy God and caused spiritual death in us.

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became human, lived on earth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead.

Trusting in Christ, eternally unites us with him and other believers.

Our new relationship with Christ gives us purpose in life. Paul says: "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

1. Learning about Your New Relationship with Christ

a. The Bible

If you received a special letter or email from Jesus telling how much he loves you and giving you guidance, you need for daily life matters, would you read it? Of course, you would!



That's what the Bible is — God's love letter to you! The Bible is God's word for you and to you. It is the source of truth about your new life in Christ. Like reading a love letter increases your love for the author, reading and studying the Bible will help you to know God better. You will discover many treasures in your new relationship with Christ.

b. Some Bible Basics

The Bible is one book containing a collection of 66 books combined for our benefit. The Bible is divided into two main parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story of the beginning of the world and God's promises given through the nation of Israel. It tells how the people of Israel obeyed and disobeyed God over many years. All the stories and messages in the Old Testament lead up to Jesus Christ's coming to the earth.

The New Testament tells the story of Jesus Christ, the early Christians, and God's promises to all those who believe in Jesus. You can think of the Old Testament as "before Christ" and the New Testament as "after Christ."

Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters and verses within those chapters to make it easier to study. Bible references include the book name, chapter number and verse number(s). For example, Ephesians 2:8 refers to the book of Ephesians, the 2nd chapter, and verse 8 within that 2nd chapter. Printed Bibles have a "Table of Contents" in the front to help you locate books by page number. Bible apps also have a contents list by book.

So, in each lesson in this booklet, you will use the Bible to answer questions as you discover the treasure of your new life with Christ. Let's get started!

Key Question: How can a person who trusted in Christ know with certainty that he or she will spend eternity with God?

Certainly, you can know that you have a secure and personal relationship with God. The next section will highlight some Biblical truth to help ground you in this security in Christ. Read each Bible verse and think through the answers.

2. Confidence in Your New Relationship with Christ

You can be confident in your new relationship with Christ because you have been completely forgiven and accepted by God. Only Christ's death on the cross is sufficient to provide this proper relationship with God

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In **Ephesians 2:8-9**, three important words explain the basis of our acceptance before God:

GRACE: Unmerited favor, an undeserved gift

Question — What role did grace play in establishing your relationship with God?

Answer — You didn't deserve this relationship, nor did you earn it by any good works. It is a free gift from God that you accepted when you received Christ through faith.

SAVED: Rescued, spared from disaster, spared from God's anger, judgement, and eternal separation from him.

Question — What do you think Ephesians 2:8-9 means by saying you are saved? From what are you rescued?

Answer — **Romans 6:23** says that the final result of sin is death. When you received Christ, you put your trust in Christ and his death for your sin. You have been rescued from death and eternal separation from God.

FAITH: Belief, trust, commitment of mind and heart, attitude, action

Question — What does faith have to do with receiving Christ?

Answer — Simply put, faith is believing or trusting God and his Word. When you received Christ, you put your trust in Christ and his death for your sin. Instead of believing in your own ability to earn God's favor, you must now trust that you have been reconciled to God through what Christ has done for you.

Key Question: Suppose you were standing before God and he asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?

3. Discovering Truths about Your New Relationship with Christ

Many exciting things have happened since you surrendered your life to Christ and came into a relationship with Him. Discovering these truths will help you build a firm foundation to your faith.

a. Christ forgave your sin (Colossians 1:13-14). When you trusted Christ for the forgiveness of your sin, all your sins were forgiven...past, present, and future. What difference does it make to you to know that your sin is forgiven?

b. Christ made you a child of God (John 1:12). When you received Christ, you were ushered into a loving relationship with God as his child. How important is that to you?

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c. Christ came into your life and will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). Under what circumstances might Christ leave you?

d. Christ began a new life in you (2 Corinthians 5:17). When you trusted Christ to be your Savior and Lord, you began a new spiritual life. God will increasingly produce many new qualities in you as you respond to him. Are you grateful that God has made all things new for you?

e. Christ gave you eternal life (1 John 5:11-13). On what is eternal life based? When does a person's eternal life begin? When will it end?

Key Question: If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God? Circle your answer: 0—25—50—75—100%

These wonderful benefits are based on what Jesus Christ has done for you. None of them can be earned. You received them the moment you placed your faith in Christ. Are any of these truths especially meaningful to you right now? If so, why?

Memory Verse for week 1:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).

c. This week, read **chapters 1-6 of Mark** to learn more about Jesus who is now your Saviour and Lord.