



A NEW
BEGINNING



A NEW BEGINNING



Stonecroft

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A FRESH START

Have you ever wanted to start over? To make a fresh start.

Maybe you are discouraged. Perhaps things have not gone the way you planned. Maybe you want to give up, because no one seems to care or understand.

Someone does care. Someone who loves you very much!

No matter what has happened, no matter what you have done, no matter how you have lived your life, God is personally interested in you, and He cares what happens to you.

He loves you!

He understands your frustration,
your loneliness,
your heartaches.



One of our greatest needs is to be loved. Unconditionally loved. The way to experience this depth of love, this unconditional love is through a relationship with God.

Something gets in the way. It's called sin.

Because God loves you He made a way—the only way to be in relationship with Him.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

—Romans 5:8

Right amidst our sin, while we were making bad choices, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us.

Jesus Christ not only died to pay the penalty for your sin but He conquered death when He rose from the grave. He is alive today, and will come to live in you by the Holy Spirit. He will give you a new beginning—a fresh start—as you surrender control of your life to Him.

When you receive forgiveness for your sin and He enters your life, God enables you to live in a way that is pleasing to Him. He will give you a new life that will last forever.

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

—John 3:16

MY PRAYER FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Jesus, I do believe you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sin. Forgive me. I turn away from my sin and choose to live a life that pleases you. Enter my life as my Savior and Lord.

I want to follow you and make you the leader of my life.

Thank you for loving me with a love that never ends and for your gift of eternal life and for the Holy Spirit, who has now come to live in me. I ask this in your name.

Amen.

Signature

Date

A NEW LIFE

You have a new life in Jesus Christ!

God accepts you just the way you are. All of your sin is forgiven. God gives the Holy Spirit to guide you, and now you have eternal life.

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

—Romans 6:4

You put your faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to Earth and lived among us. He brought truth, hope, and healing to the world. He died on the cross, rose from the grave, and ascended into Heaven. He is alive today.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

Placing your faith and trust in Jesus transformed you and you became a member of God’s family! You are now God’s redeemed child.



“... to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.”

—John 1:12



I BELONG TO CHRIST

When you trusted Jesus Christ to enter your life as Savior and Lord, your name was written in the Book of Life.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

—Revelation 21:1, 27

Where were you when you became a follower of Jesus Christ?

Now that you belong to Jesus Christ, you will want to grow in your knowledge of Him. The following three mini Bible studies are designed to introduce you to this wonderful new life in Jesus Christ. You can study on your own or with a friend.

In each mini-study, you will find Bible verses which give the answers to the questions.

CHRIST IN YOU

1. Now that you have received Jesus Christ, what is happening in your life?

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

—2 Corinthians 5:17

You gave God your old life. He gave you His new life, which gives you right-standing with Him.

“Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

—Ephesians 4:24

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

—Galatians 5:22-23



YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

2. Briefly summarize what the following verses say.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

—Romans 6:23

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

—John 3:36

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life.”

—John 6:47

Romans 6:23

John 3:36

John 6:47

3. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, what did you do to earn eternal life?

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”

—Ephesians 2:8-9

Nothing! None of us deserve it; it is a gift!

4. What gift does 1 John 4:13 say confirms the fact that you have become a Christian?

“And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.”

—1 John 4:13

As a Christian, you have received God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. According to 1 John 4:14, what special title is given to Jesus?

“Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

—1 John 4:14

God sent Jesus Christ to be your own Savior, as well as the Savior of the world.

6. How can you apply the above Scripture to your life in today's world? How has God changed you?

FEED YOUR NEW LIFE

God's Word is powerful! In it, God tells us the truth about Himself, about ourselves, and about our relationship with Him and with others.

1. **Your spiritual life, as well as your physical life, needs nourishment. How can you feed your spiritual life?**

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation...”

—1 Peter 2:2



We need the nourishment of God's Word so that we will grow spiritually.

2. How did Jesus Christ say our spiritual life is to be fed?

“... ‘The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’””

—Matthew 4:4

Read the Bible daily, think about what you read, and consider how you can put each biblical truth to work in your life.

3. What do the following verses tell us about how God’s Word guides us?

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”

—Psalm 119:105

God’s Word (the Bible) is a light, showing a Christian how to live.

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

—2 Timothy 3:16-17

In light of this verse, why is Bible study necessary?

READ YOUR BIBLE
EVERY DAY.

4. What do the following verses call the Word of God?

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation . . .”

—1 Peter 2:2

God’s Word is _____

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”

—Psalm 119:105

God’s Word is _____

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

—Ephesians 6:13, 17

God’s Word is _____

One way to remember what you read is to memorize it. As we memorize God's Word, it is readily available when we need it.

5. Memorize Matthew 4:4 (on page 13).

Write it here:

6. Read Colossians 3:1-11 aloud.

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.”

“Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.”

—Colossians 3:1-11

7. How are you going to apply these instructions?

PRAYER: TALKING WITH GOD

Communication is an important part of both our physical and spiritual lives. Prayer is communication with God. We can talk with Him as we talk with a friend. God hears and delights in our prayers.

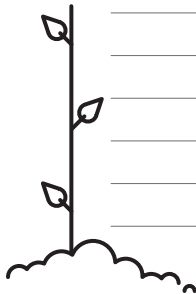
1. Does God want us to pray?

*“The Lord . . . delights in the prayers of the upright.
The Lord . . . hears the prayers of the righteous.”*

—Proverbs 15:8, 29

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

—Philippians 4:6



2. Does God hear us when we pray?

“The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

—Psalm 145:18

“But I will call on God, and the LORD will rescue me. Morning, noon, and night I cry out in my distress, and the LORD hears my voice.”

—Psalm 55:16-17

We are not limited to a certain time or a place when we pray. God is eternal and always present with us wherever we are.

3. What do the following verses say about prayer?

“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do . . . repeating their words again and again.”

—Matthew 6:7

“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.’”

—Matthew 6:5-6

“The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

—Psalm 145:18

4. Summarize the following verses.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

—James 1:5

“But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against . . .”

—Mark 11:25

5. What do the following verses tell us about God?

“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.”

—1 John 5:14

“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”

—John 15:7

“Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

—John 14:14

6. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

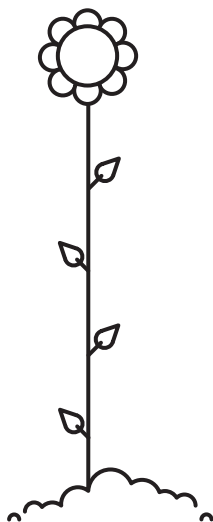
—2 Corinthians 5:17

7. How has your life been transformed?

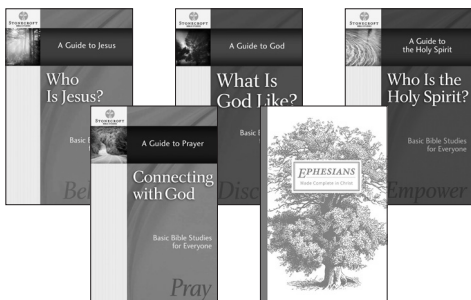
8. What old things are disappearing from your life?

PRAY

Thank God for His unconditional love, great salvation, and all of the wonderful things included with the gift of new life.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD'S WORD?



Grow in your relationship with God.
Stonecroft Bible Studies can help!

*Who Is Jesus?, Who Is the Holy Spirit?,
What Is God Like?, Connecting with God,
and Ephesians: Made Complete in Christ.*

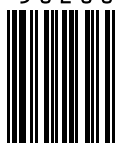
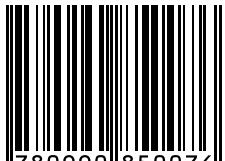
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