

Come Alive

with Jesus

Lesson 1 Being Born:

A New Relationship with Jesus

Jim pushed himself from his desk, swivelled his chair toward the window and sighed as he surveyed the city eighteen stories below. He had this feeling he couldn't define. Was it restlessness, boredom, despondency or what? He ought to feel good, he told himself. He had a successful career, good health, acceptable marriage, nice kids, money. The "good life" people called it. So why this vague discontent? Had he missed something?

Yes. He had missed something. Jim had a "good life" but he didn't have an "abundant life". An "abundant life" is what Jesus said He came to give to people. "I have come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". (John 10:10 KJV). The extra dimensional life that Jesus offers brings true fulfilment, contentment and happiness.

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

How does the Bible describe this life? Romans 6:23, last part

This life is called “eternal life” which comes “through Jesus” and is a “gift of God”.

Can you get this gift by earning it or deserving it? Ephesians 2:8-9

The Bible says this gift is “not from yourself” and “not by works”. In other words, you can’t earn it and you don’t deserve it. The reason you can’t earn it and don’t deserve it is because:

PEOPLE ARE SINNERS

Has everybody sinned? Romans 3:10, 23

What is sin? 1 John 3:4

Not only does the Bible say everybody is a sinner, and therefore a law breaker, it also says we don’t know how to do any better! Read Proverbs 14:12

What does this verse say about our ability to do what is right? Proverbs 14:12

What is the result of being a sinner? Romans 6:23

Sounds hopeless, doesn’t it? We’re all sinners. We can’t change ourselves and the wages of sin is death. This is why God must give us eternal life. Trying to repair or improve an old life won’t work. It takes a whole new life to live a truly good life. This is why Jesus said, “You must be born again”. (John 3:3,5) And this new birth experience is the gift God wants to give us because He loves us.

GOD IS LOVE

How does God feel about the world? John 3:16

God loves sinners but what does sin do to our relationship with Him? Isaiah 59:2

Sin separates people from God, but what did God do to save us? Keep reading.

JESUS CHRIST

God gave His Son, Jesus, to the world.

Who is Jesus?

In what form did Jesus come to earth? John 1:1-3,14

Jesus came to earth in the form of a man. Yet, He was more than a man. He was God. John 1:1-3 says that He existed as God before He came to earth.

What power did He have? Hebrews 1:2

Jesus is the one who created the world. Do you begin to see why He has such interest in people? It's because He made us and He doesn't want to lose any of us!

What did Jesus do?

What did He come to do? Matthew 1:21

How did He save people from sin? 1 Peter 2:24 (for further reading, Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus, the Creator-God of this world came to earth to bear our sins and take our death penalty. In exchange, He offers us His perfect and eternal life! What a transaction! What a bargain for sinners!

RECEIVING THE GIFT

How can you get this new life? 1 John 5:11-13

These verses say that if you have the Son, you have life.

How do you get Him? John 1:12

Receiving and believing Jesus involves head knowledge and heart action. It means that you believe He has a better life for you. You act on that belief by exchanging your way of living for His way of living.

It means that you ask:

Jesus to be your Saviour

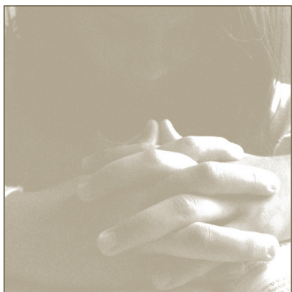
Telling him you're sorry for your sins and asking Him to forgive you.

It means that you ask:

Jesus to be your Lord

Inviting Him to manage your life so that you can:

BE what He wants you to be,
DO what He wants you to do,
GO where He wants you to go.



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Lesson 2

You've been born again

Temptation

Ken was a new Christian. He'd been born again, at least he thought he had. Things went fine for awhile; he felt great and was happier than he'd ever been. Then, somewhere along the line, life unravelled. It began at the factory. The guys started needling him, ridiculing him. Called him "Saint."

For a long time he took it; then one day he blew up. Went completely out of control. Swore. Yelled. Lost his temper just like he used to do before he became a Christian.

By evening he was miserable. He'd let the Lord down; but why? And what to do now?

NOW WHAT?

Like Ken, you've been born again, but does this mean all your temptations and problems are over? Romans 7:18 - 24

What is one reason Christians experience problems and temptations? 1 Peter 5:8

Besides the direct attacks of Satan, how else do temptations arise? James 1:13,14

God is not the author of temptation, but He does allow His people to be tested. What good can come out of temptations that you overcome? James 1:2-4

You're a new baby in the family of God. You live in a sinful environment with a nature that's used to sinning; and you have an enemy, Satan. This enemy tried to destroy Jesus when He was a baby, and he'd like to destroy you.

So your problems are not over. As you begin your new Christian life, you can expect trouble. You'll have ups and downs. Satan will double his efforts to tempt, discourage, and destroy you.

What experience did Jesus have immediately following His baptism? Matthew 4:1

JUST AS JESUS WAS TEMPTED SO WILL YOU BE TEMPTED

What did Paul call the Christian life? 1 Timothy 6:12

Paul compared the Christian life to a fight or a battle and he listed the weapons you need to win in the war with sin.

What are these weapons? Ephesians 6:13-18

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

How does the Bible say you can win over sin? James 4:7 (last part)

How can you resist the devil?

- a) James 4:7 (first part)

- b) Colossians 4:2

- c) Matthew 26:41

What did Jesus say was the secret of a successful Christian life? John 15:4

WINNING OVER SINNING

Winning over sinning takes:

- a) Daily commitment and submission to God. (John 15:4, James 4:7)
- b) Watchfulness and awareness of personal weak points. (Matthew 26:41)
- c) Daily prayer. (Colossians 4:2)
- d) Daily Bible study. (John 5:39)

In spite of following these guidelines, there will be times when you feel like you're being tempted and tried beyond endurance.

What does God promise you? 1 Corinthians 10:13

God also provides for the times when you are overcome and beaten by sin. What does He promise? 1 John 1:9

God doesn't "kick you out of the family" when you stumble and fall into sin. Instead, He wants you to stay in the family, so He promises forgiveness and cleansing when you confess your mistakes. But confession means more than merely saying the words, "I'm sorry."

What else is involved? Proverbs 28:13

You probably feel very weak as you face a world of temptation with a mind and body conditioned to sinning. Like a newborn baby, you're helpless before the power of the enemy. Babies can't survive by themselves and neither can you.

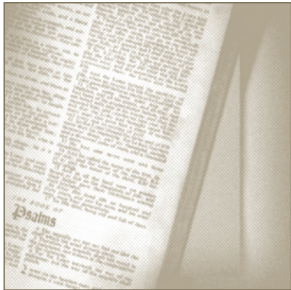
You need your heavenly parent. Your Father in heaven will protect you, guide you, and pick you up when you stumble and fall.

What can you say as long as you stay with Him? Philippians 4:13

When Ken lost his temper at the factory and felt he'd lost his new life in Christ, he called his Bible study mentor and learned the things this lesson brings out:

- a) Being a Christian doesn't mean you won't be tempted. In fact, you may face more temptation because Satan wants to destroy you and you have a body and mind that are used to sinning.
- b) The Bible promises help through study of the Scriptures, prayer and the power of God.
- c) When you do sin, you can confess it to God and He will forgive and restore you.

As Ken learned these secrets for winning over sinning, he thanked God and got up and started walking again with God. You can do the same when you stumble and fall.



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Lesson 3

You've got to eat to grow

Bible Study

"I was really worried about our first baby," a young mother said. "He wouldn't eat. Just slept all the time."

"That sounds great!" the other mothers laughed.

"Yeah, I know, but babies need to eat. We'd wake him up, try to get him to eat but he'd go to sleep again before he'd finished an ounce of milk! Then one day he woke up and started eating and then he wouldn't quit!"

We laughed at this mother's concern about a baby who didn't seem to eat enough; but we also understand how she felt, because everybody knows newborn babies must have food to survive and grow. They must eat often and regularly.

As a newborn Christian, you must eat often, too, or you'll starve!

What will be your diet? Matthew 4:4

Why do you need the Word of God? 1 Peter 2:2 (especially the last part)

God's Word is food for the Christian and if you don't eat, you won't grow. If earthly parents worry about babies who won't eat, how much do you think God feels about newborn Christians who won't "eat" His Word?

Besides helping a baby grow physically, feeding time is a time that builds a relationship between parent and child. The same goes for the Christian. Time spent in God's Word will bond you close to God and build a strong relationship between you and your heavenly parent. God desires to have this time with you. He knows that His Word is vital for your survival.

In fact, the Bible compares the Word of God to an offensive weapon used by a soldier.

What is God's Word called? Ephesians 6:17

A soldier wouldn't go to battle without a weapon; neither can you step onto the battlefield of life and meet the enemy, Satan, without a weapon. Jesus knew this secret, and with each temptation that Satan brought to Him in the wilderness, he answered: "It is written." (Matthew 4:1-11) Christ overcame temptation by using the Scriptures. You can do the same. You don't want to sin and disappoint your new friend, Jesus.

But what can you do to conquer sin? Psalm 119:11

What are some other ways the Bible will help you? 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible claims to be inspired by God. How was it written? 2 Peter 1:20-21

God's Spirit guided the writers of the Bible. Who will guide you in studying His Word? John 16:13

The best way to find out about the value and inspiration of the Bible is to try it. Read it. Study it for yourself.

As you open the Bible to study, for what should you pray? Psalms 119:18,27; James 1:5

HOW DO YOU STUDY THE BIBLE?

Paul speaks of babes in Christ needing milk before they can eat meat. 1 Corinthians 3:1,2

Start with the easy-to-understand things of the Bible before you get into the more difficult.

Many newborn Christians enjoy the gospel of John. So you could begin with it. You'll find it easy to read, but full of God's love.

You may discover the newer versions of the Bible such as The Message or New Living Translation or the New International Version more enjoyable reading because they're written in modern English.

Don't try to stuff yourself with the Bible. You'll get indigestion like the baby that gulps down too much food at one time.

"... there is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained." *Steps to Christ, p 90*

TO GET STARTED

Use the guideline in the "IN YOUR OWN WORDS" section at the end of this lesson and do the following things:

- a) Read the Scripture text.
- b) Using your own words, write what it seems to be saying. You can pretend that you are trying to phrase it in words that a child could understand.
- c) Re-read the passage and write down what you think it means.
- d) Questions may come to your mind about the passage. Jot them down. There may be words you don't understand. Write them down, too, so you can look them up later.
- e) Think about and write down ways the Bible passage could apply to your life.
- f) Probably not enough space has been provided in the lesson for your notes, so have additional paper on hand.

Why is it important to apply the Bible to daily living? James 1:22-25

What is another important way to apply Scripture to your daily life? Joshua 1:8

"Meditate" means to dwell in thought on what you've read. The memory gems given you with each of these lessons are a good way to help you meditate on the Word of God. Take these texts, write them on card or slips of paper, paste them on the mirror or in the kitchen, or carry them in your pocket or purse. As you have moments during the day, or even as you're washing dishes or shaving, you can be meditating on God's Word and storing His promises in your memory.

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

- A Bible dictionary gives definitions of Bible words.
- A Bible concordance lists all the important words of the Bible and where they may be found. For instance, if you want to study the subject of "angels" look up the word "angel" in the concordance and it will list every place in the Bible where the word "angel" is used. Some Bibles contain a small concordance, but you may wish to buy a more complete one. "Young's" or "Strong's" are two good ones. Both Bible dictionaries and concordances are available at Christian book stores. You may even find them on the Internet.
- Children's Bible story books, such as Arthur S. Maxwell's ten volume set *The Bible Story*, make the Bible interesting and informative to adults as well as young people.
- Several MP3 Bibles are online. Download the *New Living Bible* MP3 Bible from the "downloads" link on the SimpleChurchInfo.com web page. The Bible can also be purchased on CD and DVD.
- One of the best ways to grow is to study the Bible in a group. For some practical tips, visit <http://www.SimpleChurchInfo.com>

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Here are some verses for you to study:

Text: John 3:1-17

In your own words, write what it says:

What it means:

Questions I have; words I don't understand:

Application to my life:

TO MEMORISE

Psalm 119:11
2 Timothy 2:15



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Lesson 4

You'll learn to talk

Prayer

Baby's first word is always an important event in a family. Often it gets recorded in "The Baby Book" and it's sure to be talked about to everyone. A proud father boasts: "Her first word was Da-da, isn't that neat!" Or a mother exclaims, "We've been trying to get him to talk for weeks and he finally did it this morning! He said, Ma-ma!"

You're a new baby in the family of God and His family is even more interested in your first words. The heavenly Father is thrilled when you begin talking with Him. Prayer is what we usually call this communication. But it ought to be as natural as "the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." Steps to Christ, p 93.

But many people feel apprehensive and nervous about prayer. They wonder what to say and how to say it. They don't realize that God is just waiting to hear His children talk to Him.

What does God say He will do when we pray to Him? Jeremiah 29:12-13

God says He will listen to us!

What is God like? Psalm 103:13-14

God is like a compassionate father who knows our limitations and weaknesses, yet loves us and wants to communicate with us. Knowing this about Him, makes it easier to talk to Him in prayer.

But if you've never prayed before, you may wonder what to talk about.

WHAT CAN YOU PRAY ABOUT?

As you read about prayer in the Bible, you discover there is much you can talk about with God. When you talk to God, you can:

- Praise Him (Daniel 2:23)
- Thank Him (Daniel 2:23; Ephesians 5:20)
- Confess your sins to Him (Psalm 32:5; 51:3)
- Ask for forgiveness and cleansing (Psalm 32:5; 51:1-4,10)
- Ask for His will to be done (Matthew 6:10)
- Ask for necessities of life (Matthew 6:11)
- Ask for power to overcome temptation (Matthew 6:13; 26:41)
- As for wisdom (James 1:5)
- Pray for your friends (Job 42:10)
- Pray for your enemies (Luke 23:33-34)

WHEN CAN YOU PRAY?

When should you pray? Ephesians 6:18

Some translations read "pray at all times," "pray - on all occasions." This doesn't mean Christians must literally pray every minute of the day and night, but rather that there is no time that it is inappropriate to pray.

When else should you pray? Psalm 55:17

You can pray anytime. Most Christians find it helpful to have a definite time each day for prayer. Often this is first in the morning. Devote 10 - 15 minutes each day to communion with God. You will be better equipped to cope with whatever happens that day.

WHERE CAN YOU PRAY?

Where should you pray? 1 Timothy 2:8

Matthew 18:20

Matthew 6:6

You can pray anywhere - in your car, in the kitchen, in a church, among crowds, or alone. But it is best to have a quiet time alone each day.

Pick a place where you can be undisturbed. One mother of preschoolers found that the only place where she could be undisturbed was in the bathtub! Another man pulled his car into a parking lot and prayed each day after work before going home. But plan a definite time in a definite place each day. And pray aloud, it helps you keep awake.

Some folks find it helpful to keep a prayer journal, entering the date and items they wish to talk over with the Lord, then noting how and when answers come.

To whom should you direct your prayers?
Matthew 6:9

UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Sometimes prayers are not answered the way we'd like. Why is this so? James 4:3

The New International Version of the Bible translates this text: "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." James 1:5-6

What motives and attitudes should you have as you pray? James 1:6

1 John 3:22

1 John 5:14-15

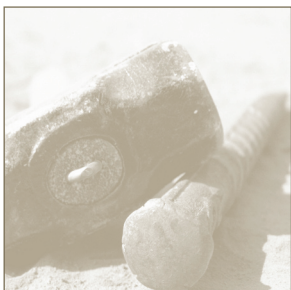
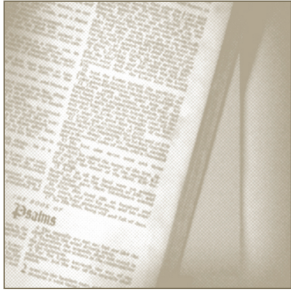
Faith, obedience and submission to God's will are important attitudes in prayer. But maybe you don't feel you have these attitudes. Perhaps you're afraid to pray because you "don't have everything just right."

But what does God promise you? Romans 8:26-27

You don't need to worry. The Spirit will help you pray. Go ahead. Start talking to God. So what if you're a baby in Christ and your words may seem like baby talk! God is more delighted to hear your first words to Him than your parents were to hear you first speak to them.

Why not experiment? Devote ten minutes to prayer each day for six months and see what happens.

As long as you come to God with a sincere, willing and needing heart, what does He promise? Psalm 102:17



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Lesson 5

**You're growing!
How can you tell?**

Obedience

A small boy in St Louis won a newspaper competition on "Whom I want to be like" with an entry choosing the evangelist, Billy Graham. Billy wrote to the boy, Dan Fotsch, "I am greatly honoured and humbled. I too, chose a Man a few years ago to be like. I have failed miserably on many occasions, but with all my heart I am praying that I will continue to grow and be like Jesus."

FRUIT BEARING

The secret to growing and becoming more like Jesus is to spend time with Him. Growth will naturally take place in your life when you have a strong relationship with Jesus.

How did Jesus illustrate Christian growth and what did He say would be the result of staying close to Him? John 15:5

a) _____

b) _____

Just as a branch bears fruit because it is attached to the vine, so you will bear fruit if you stay attached to Jesus.

What is "fruit"? Galatians 5:22-23

You, and others around you, have probably already noticed that you have developed some new characteristics. Where you once hated, you now love; where you once doubted, you now have faith. You aren't perfect, but your Christian experience is beginning to show in your deeds and words. And that's all a result of your relationship with Jesus.

What will your faith in God produce? James 2:14-17

OBEDIENCE THROUGH FAITH

What is another result of knowing Christ? 1 John 2:3-4

(For further reading: 1 John 5:3)

What is the basis for keeping God's commandments? John 14:15

You have begun to love Him. Why? 1 John 4:19

Hearing the gospel, the unbelievable news that God loved you so much He died for you, awakened love for Him in your heart. Now that same love will make you obedient to His commandments. Your obedience is not something you can do all by yourself.

Who is working in you? Philippians 2:13

"While we cannot do anything to change our hearts or bring ourselves into harmony with God; while we must not trust at all to ourselves or our good works, our lives will reveal whether the grace of God is dwelling within us. A change will be seen in the character, the habits, the pursuits." *Steps to Christ, p 57.*

"We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the fruit of faith." *Steps to Christ, p 61.*

When you love God, you want to obey Him.

What are His commandments that you will want to obey? John 13:34-35

What is love? Romans 13:8-10

How did Jesus illustrate that love is the fulfilling of the law? Matthew 22:36-40

Take a look at the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:3-17) See if you can discover how love is the fulfilling of each one. As an example, the first commandment says: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." If you really love God, will you put anything, any other god, ahead of Him? No.

Now look at the sixth commandment. "Thou shalt not kill." If you love your neighbour, will you kill him? No.

As you analyze God's Ten Commandments through Jesus' words, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" and "Love thy neighbour as thyself," you can see that love is the only way to fulfil or keep any of them. Keeping the first four commandments show our love to God. Keeping the last six shows our love to man.

JESUS' EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE

Jesus lived a perfect life of love and obedience to God. Notice how completely He kept His Father's commandments:

In His Life:

What did He say He came to do? John 6:38

In His Words:

From where did He say He got His words? John 12:49

In His Death:

What other commandments did Jesus say He received of His Father? John 10:17-18

Even Jesus' death was an act of obedience. "He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8.

Jesus asks you to live the same kind of life of obedience. He says, "If any man will come after me, let him take up his cross daily, and follow me." It sounds impossible to achieve, doesn't it? But Jesus promises you help.

GOD HELPS YOU OBEY

How did Jesus say He was able to do what God wanted Him to do? John 5:30, first part; John 10:30.

Jesus said His power to obey came from His connection with the Father and He desires you to have the same power.

What did He pray for His followers? John 17:21

How can you be “one with Jesus and the Father?”
John 15:4 first part.

How else will God help you to keep His laws and
be obedient to Him? Hebrews 10:16

All the way through, God will help you so that:

Your **DOING** will be an outgrowth of
Your **LOVING** which is an outgrowth of
Your **STAYING** with Him.

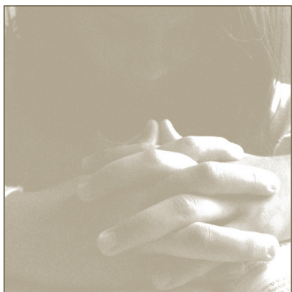
So choose every day to stay with Him.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Has Jesus ever pointed out to you from His Word, the Bible, some ways that you should be obeying Him? Take a minute to think about it and ask Him to speak to you about something specific He would like you to start doing. Did you think of anything? If you did, write it down; then pray and tell Jesus that you want to start doing what He wants you to do. Ask of His help, then thank Him for giving you help in obeying Him.

TO MEMORISE

John 14:15
Philippians 2:13



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Lesson 6

Get your exercise

Christian fruits

Newborn babies start moving as soon as possible; kicking, stretching, rolling, crawling, sitting, standing, walking. This is natural for them. It will be natural for you, too, as a newborn Christian to exercise your faith by witnessing to others about Jesus.

“Strength comes by exercise; activity is the very condition of life. Those who endeavour to maintain a Christian life by passively accepting the blessings - and doing nothing for Christ, are simply trying to live by eating without working. And in the spiritual as in the natural world, this always results in degeneration and decay. A man who would refuse to exercise his limbs would soon lose all power to use them. Thus the Christian who will not exercise his God-given powers not only fails to grow up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had.” Steps to Christ, p 80,81.

So get moving with Christ, sharing Him with those around you!

What did Andrew do as soon as he met Jesus?
John 1:40-41

What did Philip do after he met Jesus? John
1:45-46

Jesus healed a madman. You can read about it in
Mark 5:1-19. This man, when he saw how Jesus
had cleansed and changed his life, wanted to
stay with Jesus.

But what was Jesus' reply? Mark 5:19

After His resurrection and just before He
returned to heaven, Jesus gave similar
instructions to all Christians.

What were His directions? Matthew 28:19-20

It sounds hard, doesn't it, to go and teach people
about Christ. It even sounds frightening, but
when you think of what Jesus has done for you it
doesn't seem quite so difficult.

More than a century ago, a traveller hired an
old black man to row him across the Mississippi
river. Midway through the journey, the boatman
dropped his oars and shouted, "Look! Look!
There's the captain!"

The traveller looked in the direction of the
boatman's excited gestures and saw a man
leaning against the mast of a sloop coming
towards them.

"Who is that man?" the traveller asked, "and
what has he ever done for you?" "He's the man
that saved me," the black man answered. "I fell
into the water and he jumped in and flung his
arm around me and saved me!"

Then he added, "I'd like to be his slave all my life,
only my rheumatiz's so bad, I'm no good even
for a slave. He runs by here in his boat once a
month, and I watch for him. I do love to point
him out. Isn't he the kindest lookin' man you
ever saw? I just love to point him out."

That's what witnessing is all about. It's simply
pointing out to others the man who saved you,
Jesus Christ.

BUT WHERE DO YOU START? TO WHOM SHOULD YOU GO?

To whom and in what order did Jesus tell His
disciples to go? Acts 1:8

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

The disciples were to begin witnessing where
they were, in Jerusalem, and expand their work
from there until it encompassed the whole
world.

Notice to whom Andrew first went: John 1:41

Your witnessing can start in the same places,
with your own family and friends.

"We need not go to the heathen lands, or even
leave the narrow circle of the home - in order
to work for Christ. We can do this in the home
circle, in the church, among those with whom
we associate, and with whom we do business."
Steps to Christ, p 81.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO PEOPLE?

What did Jesus say the ex-madman should tell his friends? Mark 5:19

He was to tell his friends how Jesus had made him a new person. You, too, can tell people how Jesus has made you a new person. Your friends may even ask you what's happened to you as they see your changed life. That's your opportunity to explain how Jesus has forgiven your sins, made you right with God, and put new desires into your mind. After you've told your listener what's happened to you through Christ, explain how it can happen to him. To do this, you could take lesson one, "Being Born" and go through the Bible steps to conversion with him. Then ask him if he wouldn't like to let Jesus into his heart.

WHAT IF SOMEONE TURNS YOU DOWN?

What did Jesus say about those who refuse the invitation to accept Him? Luke 10:16

Jesus said that those who turn you down, actually are turning Him down, not you. But don't forget those people. Pray for them. Your witness has planted seed for thought in their minds. Ask God to water it that it might germinate some other time.

For additional study on how to be an effective witness, read Colossians 4:2-6

Jesus used an interesting illustration to describe the influence His followers will have in the world about them.

What did Jesus say? Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus said our lives will be like lights in a dark world, and our "good works" will help people around us see the Lord. We've heard many times that "actions speak louder than words," so it shouldn't be surprising that our lives will be the strongest witness we can give of what Jesus means to us.

What are some of the "good works" Christians will do?

James 1:27

Matthew 7:12

Micah 6:8

Through neighbourliness, kindness, a loaf of bread, a plate of cookies, a smile as you pass on the street, a helping hand with a yard job, honesty in business dealings, compassion and care for the unfortunate, you can be used by God to reach hearts.

There are many ways you can live a sharing, Christian life. Some families have adopted a lonely grandmother or grandfather, others use their mechanical and handyman skills to help a single mother fix a leaky faucet or change the oil in a car. Why don't you take a few ways you might share yourself with those around you?

Go to the "IN YOUR OWN WORDS" section and use the blank space there to write in your witnessing plans.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

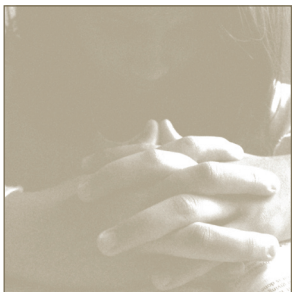
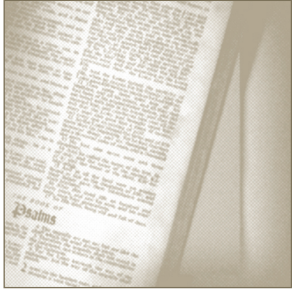
Write down the names of some of the people with whom you would like to share Jesus:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Now write down some ways you could share Jesus with those people:

TO MEMORISE

Matthew 28:19-20
Matthew 24:14



Come Alive

with Jesus

Lesson 7

As you grow, you'll need friends

Church

Imagine, if you can, a newborn baby being dropped into a sterile bed as soon as he's born; then left to grow alone. Gowned but silent nurses would change him when necessary or prop a bottle within his reach; but there would be no talking, no smiling, no holding. He wouldn't go home to a family. There would be no grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins to admire him. He'd be given the best physical care: food, clean surroundings, and medical checkups. But no companionship or communication with other humans.

It's impossible to believe that such an infant could grow into a balanced adult. In fact, it's not difficult to wonder if he'd survive at all. To grow properly, babies need loving companionship and caring, as well as food and warmth.

Christians need loving companionship too; and God plans that His children should enjoy fellowship together.

What attitude did Jesus say Christians should have for each other? John 13:34-35

If Christians love each other, what will be the result? John 17:21

Love will unite Christians so they can present a solid witness of love to the world and by this love, the world will see Jesus.

What does the Psalmist say about Christian unity? Psalm 133:1

How else will Christians relate to each other? Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5

Submission doesn't mean you'll become a doormat, but it means you'll build up the other person rather than yourself.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and write what it says about the relationship Christians should have with each other.

The New International Version of the bible translates this verse: "Encourage one another and build each other up." Don't you like that? Christians are to love, comfort, encourage and help each other.

What else are they to do together? Hebrews 10:24-25

What did Jesus promise to even small groups of believers? Matthew 18:20

The Bible makes it plain that Christians need to meet together, so you'll want to gather with other Christian believers because you'll be encouraged and strengthened as you grow. And you can know that Jesus will be among you because He promised to be there were two or three are gathered.

But how can you find the right group of Christians? The Bible says that His people living in the last days will have two characteristics.

8. What are these characteristics? Revelation 12:17 (last part)

- a) _____
- b) _____

Finding a group with these two characteristics may take some time. You will need to continue your own study of the Bible so you will know all God's commandments and so your relationship with Jesus will grow; but basically, you should look for Christians who obey all God's commandments and have a testimony about Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

If you contact the Simple Church Network we can help you find this kind of group described in Revelation 12:17. Call 407 429-7281.

For another interesting description of Christians as a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

To what does Paul compare the church? 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Paul compares the church to a body. The body has many parts - arms, legs, ears, eyes, mouth, etc. Each organ has a different function, but each part is important, no matter how small. So church members are different - each has a different gift or ability, but each is important to the whole.

10. But who is the Head of the Church? Ephesians 5:23

(For further reading: Colossians 1:18)

Christ is the head of the body of believers and you must look to Him for a perfect example of how to live. If you look at how others live (even Christians) you may stumble because they stumble. *God's people are not a collection of perfect people, but a group of growing people.* Enjoy fellowship with other growing Christians but keep your eyes on Christ for your standard of living.

What is the purpose of the various "gifts" or talents in the church? Ephesians 4:11-13

The many talents found among God's people are for one purpose; to help each other grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." "Fullness" can also be translated to "full-grown" Christians that you will be. Your association with other growing Christians can help you reach your ideal.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Are there some specific ways you can demonstrate love to other Christians? Write down some of the ideas that come to your mind.

TO MEMORISE

Matthew 18:20

John 13:34

Come Alive

Summary

What does it mean to COME ALIVE with Jesus?

It means:

- **YOU'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN** by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **YOU'RE A BABY** who will stumble and fall as you learn to walk. But Jesus will pick you up, forgive you and put you on your feet again.
- **YOU'LL HUNGER AND THIRST** after righteousness and find your needs met as you read the Bible daily.
- **YOU'LL LEARN TO TALK** to God through prayer each day.
- **YOU'LL OBEY GOD** and begin producing the fruits of obedience in your life because of your connection with Him.
- **YOU'LL EXERCISE YOUR LOVE** by witnessing to others about the good news of salvation.
- **AND YOU'LL ENJOY GROWING** in a gathering of other Christians.

BUT DON'T STOP HERE: KEEP GROWING!

How can you keep growing?

1. KEEP STUDYING THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.

This is the last *Come Alive* lesson. The *Stay Alive* Bible study lessons will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus as you learn more about Him. Tell your instructor that you would like to start the *Stay Alive* studies. Or visit www.SimpleChurchInfo.com and send an email requesting the *Stay Alive* studies.

2. KEEP PRAYING EVERY DAY.

3. LOOK FOR A HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUP OR SIMPLE CHURCH WITH WHICH TO CONNECT.

Your spiritual mentor may be able to help you find a group you would enjoy. Of course you can always contact the Simple Church Network.

God's wish for you:

"In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation." 1 Peter 5:10 *New Living Translation*