

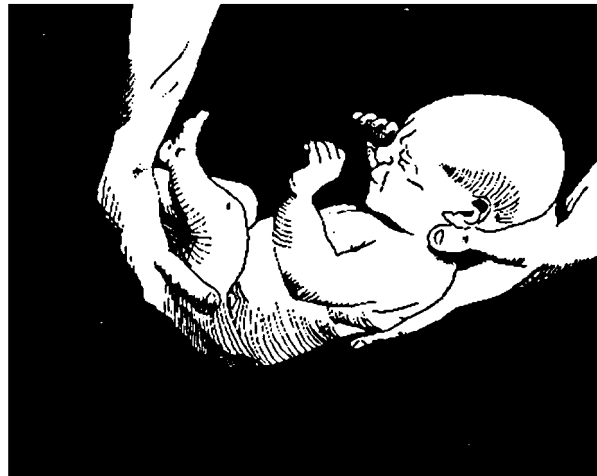
Lesson
1

You've Begun a New Life

What happens when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly? How does a seed become a great tree? Natural life is at work in each one, and it produces an amazing change. Now that you are a Christian, spiritual life is at work in you. The change will be much greater than what happens to a caterpillar or a seed. God will make you like Jesus Christ, His Son!

Like the butterfly, you will soar above the ground on wings. You will no longer drag yourself along through life, bound to the earth. Like the tree, you will grow strong and fruitful. All this will happen because you have been born into God's family. You are now His child in a very special way.

In this first lesson you will examine what the Bible says about the change that has happened to you. You will learn about your new privileges and responsibilities. You will discover the new family into which you have been born. And you will find out about the new relationships that God wants you to build with your brothers and sisters in the Lord.



In this lesson you will study . . .

What Happened?
What Must You Do About It?
Your New Family

This lesson will help you to . . .

- Discover what the Bible says about the change that has taken place in you.
- Explain what you must do in order to grow strong as a Christian.
- Describe the new relationships you have as a child of God.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Objective 1. *Identify descriptions of the new life you have as a child of God.*

The minute you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you began a new life. He is the giver of life—wonderful, rich, and joyful life that never ends. You gave your life with all of its sins and failures to Him, and He gave you His life of victory over sin. You have begun a life full of glorious privileges as a child of God.

In each of these *For You to Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have studied. Be sure to answer the questions before you look at the answers.



For You To Do

1 Circle the letter in front of the correct sentence completion. Your new life comes from

- a) trying to be a Christian.
- b) Jesus Christ, the giver of life.
- c) joining a church.

2 You began a new life

- a) the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior.
- b) after you understood everything about being a Christian.
- c) when you decided to become a better person.

You have this new life because Jesus lives in you. God’s Word, the Bible, tells you about it.

Colossians 1:27. Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God.

Note: The reference at the beginning of the quotation you have just read (Colossians 1:27) tells you where you can find the quotation in your Bible. It lists the name of the book, the number of the chapter or chapters, and the number of the verse or verses.



For You To Do

3 You learn about the life that comes from Jesus Christ living in you through

- a) science and philosophy.
- b) different religions.
- c) God’s Word, the Bible.

Christ living in you makes you a Christian. Some people think that a Christian life is a dull prison-like existence. They think it means keeping a long list of rules. They couldn’t be more mistaken! Your new life in Christ will be richer, fuller, and happier than you ever dreamed life could be.

John 10:10. “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.”



For You To Do

4 Read the words of Jesus in John 10:10 several times until you can say them by memory.

- 5 Jesus Christ came to give you
- a) punishment for your sins.
 - b) life . . . in all its fullness.

In this new life that Jesus gives, you will find new understanding, a new outlook, new goals, and a new purpose for living.

The burden of guilt is gone; your sins are forgiven. A new love for God and for others fills your heart, bringing you peace and joy. You have a new appreciation for all that is good and beautiful and a new sense of God’s presence, power, and goodness. New desires to please God and help others are beginning to change the direction of all your actions.

When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it can do things it never could before. It can fly above the places where it once crawled. The same is true for you, but even more so. The change that the Holy Spirit has made in you affects everything. You have actually passed from death to life! You are no longer a guilty sinner. You have received God’s pardon, and you are now His child. You can now have a life of true freedom and joy.



For You To Do

- 6 In your own words, describe one way your life has changed since you asked Jesus Christ to be your Savior.

.....

- 7 When you were born into God’s family, you began a life of
- a) escape from all problems.
 - b) freedom to act any way you please.
 - c) love for God and others.

WHAT MUST YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Objective 2. *State how you can continue to live the new life God has given you.*

As a newborn baby in God’s family, you will enjoy His loving care. You must also accept the provisions that He made to keep you healthy and strong. He has given you a new nature, and now you must do your part to develop it.

This book will help you develop your new nature. As you study these lessons, you will learn about your new privileges and responsibilities as a child of God. Enjoy them to the full during your life on earth. Then, someday Jesus will take you to live with Him in His heavenly home, a home that will be a thousand times more wonderful than anything in this world.

The main thing you must do is to remain in union with Christ and grow strong in the life He gives.

John 15:4-5. “Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you . . . for you can do nothing without me.”

Colossians 2:6-7. Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.



For You To Do

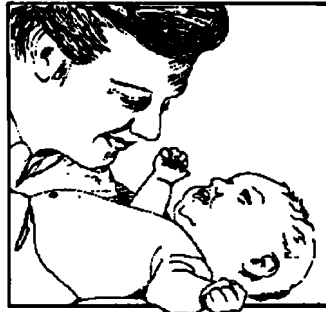
- 8** The purpose of this course is to help you
- a) discuss religion with each other.
 - b) learn rules that a Christian must follow.
 - c) know how to act in church.
 - d) enjoy all your privileges as a child of God.
- 9** You develop your new nature as a Christian by
- a) remaining in union with Christ.
 - b) trying hard to be like Jesus.
 - c) acting like other Christians.

YOUR NEW FAMILY

Objective 3. *Describe the new family you have when you become a child of God.*

God, Your Father

The Almighty God, who created the universe, is now your loving Father. Don't think of Him as being stern and far away. He is at your side right now, eager to help you in all your problems.



Now that you are a child of God, your Father wants you to talk with Him frankly and confidently, just as a child does to a kind and understanding father. Talk things over with Him in prayer every day, at any time of the day or night. Tell Him all your problems. Thank Him for His blessings. He is interested in you and everything that affects you. You don't have to use beautiful words or memorized prayers; just tell Him whatever is in your heart.



For You To Do

- 10** In your new life, you have God as a
- a) far-off Being.
 - b) loving Father.

11 Circle the letter before each phrase that gives an example or description of how you can pray now that you have new life in Christ.

- a** Thoughts from your heart
- b** Memorized, carefully chosen words
- c** "I come to you, heavenly Father, as your child."
- d** Any time of day or night
- e** Knowing that He loves you
- f** Only when you are in a church building



For You To Do

Jesus Christ, Your Older Brother

Jesus Christ is your Older Brother in the family of God. He loves you so much that He died to save you. Now He wants to help you live a joyful life of victory over sin. Because He became a man and lived on earth, He understands the kind of problems you have. Thank Him now for saving you and for the help that He will give you each day.

12 Complete the following sentence in your own words. Jesus Christ is my Older Brother who understands me because He

.....

The Holy Spirit, Your Helper

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, is the one who performed in you the mysterious miracle of the new birth. He changed your sinful nature and made you a child of God.

You will still have to fight against the old nature at times, but the Holy Spirit has come to live in your heart and help you. As you cooperate with Him in faith and obedience, He will teach you what to do and give you strength to do it.

13 The miracle of new life in you has been produced by the

- a) Holy Spirit.
- b) evangelist.
- c) pastor.

14 The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to

- a) punish you each time you make a mistake.
- b) force you to do what God wants you to do.
- c) live in you and help you do what is right.

Other Christians, Your Brothers and Sisters

Every true Christian who has been born again is a child of God. Since God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

The older Christians all welcome you, their new brother or sister, into the family of God. They want to do everything they can to help you grow spiritually and become a strong, healthy Christian.

When you have a problem, talk it over with the pastor and your older brothers or sisters in the church. They will pray with you about it and do whatever they can to help you.



For You To Do

15 In your new life, other Christians are your brothers and sisters because they

- a) attend services.
- b) believe that religion is a good thing.
- c) have the same heavenly Father that you do.
- d) live near you and follow the same customs.

16 Write the number of the person or persons in your new family (right) before each phrase that describes the special relationship you have with Him or them (left).

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a Lives in you to help you do God's will | 1) God |
| b Can share your problems and pray with you | 2) Jesus Christ |
| c Is your Older Brother who understands you | 3) The Holy Spirit |
| d Loves you and is your Father | 4) Other Christians |
| e Died to save you | |



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study questions are not given in the usual order so that you will not see your next answer ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 10** b) loving Father.
- 1 b) Jesus Christ, the giver of life.
- 11** a) Thoughts from your heart
c "I come to you, heavenly Father, as your child."
d Any time of day or night
e Knowing that He loves you
- 2 a) the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior.
- 12** Your answer should be something like this: lived on earth as a man and faced the same kinds of problems that I do.
- 3 c) God's Word, the Bible.
- 13** a) Holy Spirit.
- 5 b) life . . . in all its fullness.
- 14** c) live in you and help you do what is right.
- 7 c) love for God and others.
- 15** c) have the same heavenly Father that you do.
- 8 d) enjoy all your privileges as a child of God.
- 16** a) 3) The Holy Spirit
b) 4) Other Christians
c) 2) Jesus Christ
d) 1) God
e) 2) Jesus Christ
- 9 a) remaining in union with Christ.