

New Life for All

Being a Witness for Christ

**A curriculum developed
by Evangelism Resources**



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Part 1

The World Needs *New Life*



LESSON ONE: The Aim of *New Life for All*

Opening Prayer: Ask that God may use this course of lessons with your class or group to make them all stronger Christians, better able to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Reading: Read together John 14:6.

TODAY WE ARE MEETING for our first *New Life for All* class, but what is *New Life for All*? What is its purpose? Life for many people is to have plenty of money, a fine house, good food, nice clothes and many pleasures to enjoy: yet they are not satisfied. *New life* is more than having things and doing things. *New life* is much more than Hi-Life!

1. *New life* is God's life in man - the life of Jesus Christ himself.

Jesus said, "I am...the life." (John 14:6) "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) When we invite Jesus Christ to come into our lives and allow Him to live His life through us we have *new life*.

The Bible says, "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A *new life* has begun." (2 Corinthians 5:17, Living Bible) When we do not have *new life* from Jesus Christ, we live to please ourselves and our lives produce these evil results: "impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism (that is, having dealings with evil spirits), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms,... envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties and all that sort of thing.

"But when the Spirit of Christ controls our lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:19-23, Living Bible)

2. *New life* must be preached to all people.

The aim of *New Life for All* is to introduce people to God's real life in Christ. If we have *new life* in Jesus, we have something worth sharing with others and something

which they desperately need. Before Jesus returned to heaven He commanded His followers to “go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone, everywhere.” (Mark 16:15) His followers did what they were told and as a result they turned the world upside down with the message of *new life*. Today we too must obey our Lord and take the message of *new life* “to everyone, everywhere.” We must show lost souls what *new life* is - who needs this life - why they need it - where they can find it - and how they can obtain it.

3. *New life must be preached by the whole church.*

If everyone, everywhere is to hear and fully understand the Gospel then *every* Christian must be a witness. *All* Christians of *all* denominations must join together to seek *all* the lost souls of their area. This means *you*, not just your pastor, must be a witness. Every believer is needed and must make *new life* known in every business, shop, school and home.

4. *New life must be preached systematically.*

If we are to be sure that everyone hears the message of *new life*, our witnessing must be done systematically. Your local Evangelism Committee will unite and organize all the churches in your town or district so that all people will be reached with the gospel.

5. *New life must be preached now!*

Today many are deceived by the devil. They think that natural life is sufficient. Their lives are bound by bad habits which they cannot break. They desperately need the power of God’s life to set them free and produce good fruit in their lives. Let us go and begin to introduce them to Christ, who is “the Life” today!

Memory verses: 1 John 5:12; John 20:31

For discussion: What is life to you? How do you feel that you can get the best from life? Do you believe that all men need *new life* in Christ? Do you believe that every Christian must be a witness? How can you begin to do this now?

Closing prayer: Ask that God may use this course of lessons with your class or group to make them all stronger Christians, better able to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Questions for you to answer:

1. Where is true life found? (1 John 5:12) _____
2. How does the life of this world end? (1 John 2:15-17) _____
3. Why did Jesus Christ come to this world? (John 10:10; John 20:31)

4. What is the aim of *New Life for All*? _____
5. What is your responsibility in *New Life for All*? (Luke 24:48) _____

LESSON TWO: *New Life, the Church and the World*

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week's questions.

Reading: Read together Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 8:1-6; and answer questions about any points which are not understood by the class.

IN HIS LAST WORDS to His church as found in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said seven important things.

1. **Jesus has all authority. (verse 18)**

Firstly, Jesus has authority over each of us. Therefore, we must obey Him when He tells us to take the Gospel to others. Secondly, it means that Jesus' authority extends over everyone, including the Devil himself. Because of this we can be bold in witnessing for Him. We may be outnumbered by unbelievers, but we can take comfort from the knowledge that even the demons bow before His authority.

2. **The whole church is involved. (verse 20)**

When Jesus gave this command, He was not speaking to the eleven disciples alone, but to the entire church in every century: He says, "... and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Many people today think that it is the minister's job to win souls, and that the layman's only responsibility is to provide financial support. But Jesus never intended that all the work would be left to the minister. Rather, God's pattern is that the minister helps the layman to evangelize. In Ephesians 4:11-12 we are told that God has given the church "pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (evangelism)." In Acts 8 we read that "all the church in Jerusalem *EXCEPT* the apostles...went about preaching the Word." (Acts 8:1-4)

Clearly, all Christians are to be witnesses. It is impossible for the ministers to reach "every creature." Furthermore, the ordinary Christian is in the ideal position to contact outsiders. Unbelievers will take us seriously when we go to them without being paid to do it, and naturally and enthusiastically tell of *new life* in Jesus.

3. **We are to go. (verse 19)**

Firstly, we must go because we have something the world does not have – *new life* in Christ; we alone have this good news. Secondly, we must go because the world is lost and blind, and cannot find its way to God.

The vast majority of lost sinners will never attend a church. Therefore, we must get up and go out into the streets and marketplaces seeking them as Jesus did. We must go to those in our neighborhoods and to our workmates or fellow students.

4. **We are to make disciples. (verse 19)**

To "make disciples" means to win followers for Jesus Christ. We are to do this by preaching the gospel; by calling people to repent (meaning change their mind) about sin, and to follow Christ as Lord. In calling people to follow Christ we must not forget the conditions of discipleship. Jesus said we must "hate" our family, take up our cross, and

renounce all that we have (that means we must put Him before our relatives, our ambitions, and our possessions): otherwise we cannot be His disciples. (Luke 14:26, 27, 33)

5. We are to baptize. (verse 19)

New disciples of Jesus are to be baptized. The form of baptism will vary from church to church, but in every case it is a public confession of the death and resurrection of Christ and identification with a visible church – church membership.

6. We are to teach. (verse 20)

It is not enough that people become disciples of Christ and join a church. They must also be taught to obey all Christ’s commands. Notice what we are to teach is neither what *they* want to hear, nor what **we** want to say, but what *Christ* has taught. This teaching is found in the Bible. Like the first disciples we must daily, in the church and in the home, preach and teach Christ. (Acts 5:42)

7. To do all these things, we have Christ’s promised presence and power. (verse 20)

Jesus says, “I am with you.” He is with us in the person of the Holy Spirit to direct us, encourage us, and give us power. Without the presence and power of Christ in our lives “we can do nothing.” (John 15:5) But as we obey Christ’s Great Commission to go and win the lost we can claim the fullness of His promised presence and power.

The Great Commission is God’s purpose for His church: It is His plan for reaching a lost world. This is the whole purpose of *New Life for All* – to mobilize every church and every Christian believer to witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. *All* Christians of *all* denominations must join together to seek *all* lost souls in the world. This means *YOU* must obey your Lord’s command.

Memory verse: 1 Peter 2:9

For discussion: Why is it important that ordinary Christians witness? Make a list of some of the places to which we can go and witness.

Closing prayer: Thank God for His gift of life in Jesus Christ.

Questions for you to answer:

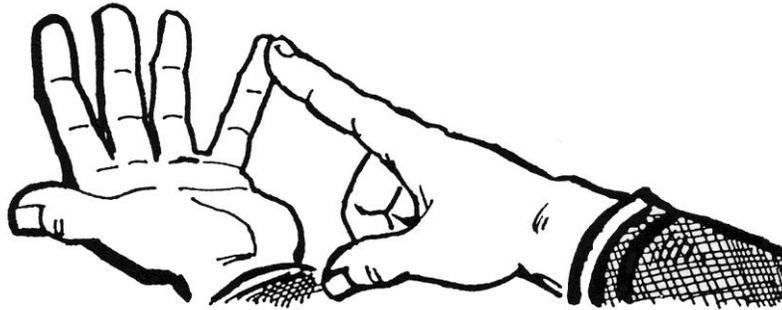
1. Who has all authority? (Matthew 28:18) _____
2. Why has God chosen us? (1 Peter 2:9, John 15:16) _____

3. To whom does God give His Holy Spirit? (Acts 5:32) _____

4. Will you obey our Lord’s command? _____

Part 2

The Message of New Life: The Five Points of the Gospel



LESSON THREE: God Gave Life to Man

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week's questions.

Reading: Read together Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-17; and answer questions about any points which are not understood by the class.

WE ARE MEETING today for the *New Life for All* class: but why are we alive at all? Where does man come from, and how did life begin? The Bible tells us, "In the beginning, God..." God created the whole universe, including this earth. He created life – plant and animal life. Last of all, he created man and woman.

1. God is the life-giver, and provides good things for man.

Man is very clever. He can make wonderful machines and produce great works of art: but he did not, and cannot, create life.

Read James 1:17, and make a list of the things God has given man. (see Genesis 1:26; 2:8-14) Everything God made is good. (Genesis 1:31)

2. Man is like God.

God created man "in His image, after His likeness." That does not mean that God is like a bigger and better man (having a nose, two eyes, and so on): It does mean that man is like God in some ways:

- a. God can think about Himself and other people: Man too has the gift of reason.
- b. God makes a difference between good and evil: Man's conscience enables him to recognize the difference.
- c. God is free: He can choose to do what He likes. Man cannot do everything God can do, but He also has free will, and therefore is responsible for his actions.

- d. God makes friends with the people He has made: man can also enter into conversation and relationship with God and with other people. Therefore man, unlike animals, can get in touch with God: and he can obey God.

3. Man is in other ways very different from God.

- a. God is holy; that means He does only what is good. Man is quite the opposite – he usually does what is bad.
- b. God is not limited: He is everywhere at all times. Man is limited by time and space.

4. Man has a unique position in creation.

If you go away and put someone in charge during your absence, you are sure to ask him for an account of what he has done when you come back. In the same way, though God has given us free will, He has also given us definite orders to obey (Genesis 1:28): we shall one day give account of the way we have used our freedom. (Romans 14:12)

God does not force us to obey. He gives us commandments and lets us choose for ourselves. But the penalty for disobedience is death. (Genesis 2:17) We lose the life God gave us.

5. We are sons of Adam.

We too are made “in the image of God.” We too are entrusted with good things. We too have commandments to obey, and we suffer the punishment of death because we disobey.

Memory verses: James 1:17; Genesis 2:7

For discussion: What does it mean to say that God created man in His image? Why do you think God created man? Look around you and list the things that were made by man and the things that were made by God.

Closing prayer: Thank God for His gifts to us in creation.

Questions for you to answer:

- 1. How did life begin? _____
- 2. Did God create anything evil? _____
- 3. What is the penalty for disobeying God’s commands? _____
- 4. Name at least one Bible verse which says that we shall give account of our lives to God. _____

LESSON FOUR: Man Rejected Life

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week's questions.

Reading: Read together Genesis 3:1-19 and answer questions about any points not understood by the class.

GOD WANTS all men to enjoy friendship with Him. But as soon as we reject God and do wrong, that friendship is broken.

1. Man rejected God's Word.

Eve began to go wrong when she started to listen to other voices. (Genesis 3:1-6) She rejected God by not believing what He had said about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: instead she and Adam chose to listen to the serpent (Satan), and to follow His lies, in spite of all God's goodness to them.

2. Man refused to give God the central place.

Sin is more than doing wrong things. It means failing to put God first, failing to believe and obey Him. The first and great commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30) The greatest sin is not murder or adultery, but refusing to give God the central place in our lives.

The devil tries to make us reject God and doubt His Word. (Genesis 3:1-4) If you never bother to pray, you are rejecting God. If you fear evil and witchcraft and don't trust God to protect you, you are inwardly rejecting Him. If you think anyone or anything other than God can heal you when you are sick, you are rejecting God. (Medical treatment by genuine doctors, nurses, and herbalists will help us, but it is always God who heals.)

3. Rejecting God brings us under Satan's power.

Since man rejected God and God's life, he has been under the control and power of Satan. (Romans 1:28-32) Only the life of God in us can keep us from the sort of behavior described in these verses.

4. Man cannot blame God for the sin in his life.

Man cannot say, "God made me like this, so I can't help it!" God gave us free will – a personal power of choice; so it is entirely our own fault. (James 1:13-15; Genesis 3:6)

5. The result of rejecting God and His Word is death.

God said to Adam, "In the day that you eat of it you shall die." Did Adam really die? Yes. His body lived on, but his soul (or character) died.

Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, capable of happy relationships with God and with one another. But as a result of their disobedience they were cut off from God and thrown out of the Garden of Eden. Spiritually, they died.

Have you ever tried to pray and found it difficult? (Isaiah 59:1-4)

Memory verses: Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23

For discussion: The Bible says all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and all have died (Romans 5:12). Do you agree? What about you and the members of your church? What about the people in your town or city? Are they really alive, or are they separated from God, spiritually dead?

Closing prayer: Confess that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

Questions for you to answer:

1. What breaks our friendship with God? _____
2. How does the devil attack us? (2 Corinthians 4:3-4) _____
3. Read Romans 1:28-32 again. How many of these things do you recognize in your own life? _____
4. Read Galatians 5:19-21. Will you inherit eternal life? _____

LESSON FIVE: God Has Provided New Life in Jesus

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week’s questions.

Reading: Read together Isaiah 53:4-9 and Acts 13:26-31, 38-39 and answer questions about any points which are not understood by the class.

GOD DESCRIBES sinners as not only sick, but dead. A dead man can do nothing to help himself – so when we are “dead in sin” we cannot regain life by our own efforts.

1. Man needs a Savior.

- a. We are fighting against spiritual forces too powerful for us – evil spirits... and the devil himself. (Ephesians 6:12)
- b. We try to keep God’s law, but we can never be good enough to please Him and earn our way to heaven. (Romans 3:20)
- c. Even if we do good for a while, our past sins must still be punished. (Romans 6:23)
- d. Once we have started doing wrong it is almost impossible to stop by our own strength. (John 8:34) We can’t win the battle by our own efforts. We need someone to help us.

2. God promised to send a Savior. (Isaiah 53:4-9)

In Old Testament times sinful men offered animal sacrifices to God and asked for forgiveness and salvation. Isaiah, hundreds of years before Jesus was born, foretold another sacrifice – not an animal but an unnamed “suffering servant.”

He said the servant would be innocent (verse 9); he would be silent before his accusers (verse 7); he would die (verse 8); he would bear the punishment we deserve (verses 4-6); and his suffering would make us whole (verse 5).

3. The gospel: Jesus came to be our Savior. (Acts 13:26-31)

Isaiah’s amazingly accurate prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was crucified. He was innocent (Acts 13:28); He was silent before his accusers (Matthew 27:12-14); He died (Acts 13:28-29); He bore our punishment, and His suffering can make us whole (Acts 13:38-39). Most amazing of all, He rose from the grave (Acts 13:30-31) and He is still alive – “He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

This message is called the “gospel” or good news.

What does this gospel mean to you and me?

- a. It means that all our sins can be forgiven right away.
- b. We can start on the great adventure for which God created us.
- c. We can receive *new life* as the risen Jesus Himself comes and lives in us.

4. A simple illustration

Jesus Christ bore our sins in His body on the tree. (1 Peter 2:24) Hold out your hands, palms up, and get someone else to stand beside you and do the same. Your hands represent man, his hands represent Jesus. Now place a piece of wood or stone on your hands to represent sin, which separates man from God. Next, transfer the wood or stone to your helper’s hands: the load of sin is now on Jesus and not on man; man is now free to be in friendship with God again – to enjoy *new life* – because Jesus bore the punishment which man deserved.

Memory verses: Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24

For discussion: How can we be sure that Isaiah 53 really refers to Jesus? How does the death of Jesus affect men?

Closing prayer: Pray that every member of your church, and everyone in your town, may have *new life* in Jesus.

Questions for you to answer:

- 1. Give two reasons why we cannot save ourselves by our own efforts. _____

- 2. What advantages do we receive because Jesus rose from the grave? _____

- 3. Express the gospel message in your own words. _____

LESSON SIX: Man Must Accept *New Life* in Jesus

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week's questions.

Reading: Read together John 3:16; Mark 1:15; and John 15:1-5.

JOHN 3:16 is the gospel in a nutshell. It says firstly that all men are included in God's loving plan of salvation. "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." But it says secondly that only those who believe get the benefit of what He has done. (John 3:16 does not promise that all the world will have eternal life – only "whoever believes in Him.")

NEW LIFE IS A GIFT: but the gift has to be received. It is like a medicine which you can get free of charge from a local clinic. The medicine is given to you freely: it is therefore for you to use. But you get no benefit from it unless you go to the clinic, admit that you are suffering from a disease, and receive the prescribed treatment.

1. You accept *new life* by turning from sin. (Mark 1:15)

You cannot have the *new life* of Jesus Christ unless you first turn from the old life of selfishness and disobedience. Before you accepted *new life* in Christ, you were dead to God: when you accept *new life* you must die to the old life. This can be painful. You are used to those old habits of disobedience, and when you throw them off it feels as if you are dying. Paul puts it like this: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

2. You accept *new life* by believing in Him. (Mark 1:15)

You cannot have the *new life* of Jesus Christ if you don't really believe in Him. Thousands of people believe *about* Jesus and think that makes them Christians: but it doesn't, because even the devils believe *about* God. (James 2:19)

Believing *in* Jesus is a very different thing. It means:

- a. knowing that you need His forgiveness;
- b. knowing that He died to forgive you;
- c. asking His forgiveness and believing that you are forgiven;
- d. deciding to give Him all you have and all you are from now onward.

3. You accept *new life* by inviting Him in. (John 1:12)

To have *new life* means inviting Jesus to come into you and take control. You can do this by praying *from your heart* a prayer like the following:

Lord Jesus, I need You. I know that I have sinned and as a result I am separated from You. I confess my sins and turn from them to follow You.

I believe You died for me. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Come into my life and take control.

Thank you, Lord for hearing my prayer as You promised. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The leader may now invite all those present to repeat this prayer together. There may be some in the class who have never before made the great decision to accept Jesus Christ

as Savior and Lord: if this simple prayer really expresses their sincere desire, it can be a turning point in their lives. (Repeat the prayer together.)

4. Can I be sure that I have *new life*?

“I have given up every sin of which I am conscious. I sincerely believe that Jesus Christ died for me. I have asked Him to forgive me and to share my life day by day. But I don’t feel any different. I am not sure that I really have *new life*.”

Don’t rely on *your feelings*. Rely on *God’s promises*. Look for *God’s promises* in these verses:

- a. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
- b. “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31)
- c. “Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

Carefully study these three verses. You will find that each one contains something God expects us to do: and something He promises to do as a result. If you have done your part, you can be very sure that God has done His part. And if you rely on God’s promises now, your feelings will soon confirm what He has done.

Memory verses: 1 John 1:9; Acts 16:31; Revelation 3:20

For discussion: Do you think everyone in the world will be saved? Give your reasons. How would you answer someone who asked you how to accept *new life* in Jesus? Is it possible to be sure that you have *new life*? If so, how? If not, why not?

Closing prayer: Ask that all members of your church may have *new life*.

Questions for you to answer:

1. When we confess our sins to Jesus, what will He do? _____

2. When we believe that Jesus died for us, and accept what He did, what happens?

3. When we invite Him into our lives, what will He do? _____

LESSON SEVEN: *New Life* is Seen in Man’s Behavior

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week’s questions.

Reading: Read together Ephesians 2:8-10; and Galatians 5:22-24.

ACCEPTING GOD’S GIFT of *new life* is the most important decision you will ever make. It may be a sudden decision, or it may happen gradually – so gradually that you can’t say exactly when it happened. But there must certainly be a turning point. Before

that turning point your life was going in the wrong direction: but what happens *after* the turning point?

1. You are saved to bear fruit. (Galatians 5:22-25)

When you receive *new life*, the Spirit of God Himself comes to live in you. Jesus put it like this: He said, “I am the vine and you are the branches.” (John 15:5) The purpose of branches is to bear fruit, and when Jesus and the Spirit of God come to live in you, God expects to see two kinds of fruit.

First, your life should produce a higher kind of behavior than you could ever produce before. Paul calls this the “fruit of the Spirit.” (See Galatians 5:22-24.)

Secondly He expects the fruit of new Christians. A mango tree bears mangoes: a palm tree bears palm nuts; and you can recognize a Christian by the fact that he “bears” Christians – other people around him find *new life* in Christ.

2. You are saved to serve. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

It is wonderful to know Jesus as your Savior and Friend, but beware of two common mistakes:

- a. Many people imagine salvation is the great goal or objective of life: it is not – it is only the beginning, a means to an end.
- b. Many people imagine God gives them *new life* for their own comfort: but He has a much greater purpose – He wants us to be useful to others.

Salvation is not a cushion to be sat on: it is a spring which should launch us into active service for God. As soon as Paul met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, his first question was, “What shall I do, Lord?” (Acts 22:10)

3. What happens if you fall back into sin?

With Christ living in you, it should be possible to live a perfect life. Sadly, we must admit that no Christian ever succeeds in being perfect: in fact, those who live nearest to Christ are most conscious of falling below His perfect standards. (1 John 1:8) What can we do when we fall?

- a. Don’t hide it – confess it at once. (Do you remember the promise in 1 John 1:9?)
If the driver of a car does not turn on the windshield wiper when it begins to rain, the windshield will soon become so covered with little drops of rain that he can’t drive properly. In the same way, if you don’t claim forgiveness at once for every little sin you commit, your whole life will quickly be spoiled.
- b. Don’t be depressed by it – triumph over it. It is good to be deeply sorry for what you have done. But don’t keep thinking about your mistakes: for a list of good things to think about turn to Philippians 4:8.
- c. Don’t continue in it – flee from it. To go on committing the same sin shows that you have not seriously repented and received Christ into your life. It is perfectly true that our temptations are too strong for us – we are bound to fail if we face them alone. But we don’t face them alone! The Christian has Jesus living in him, he has *new life*: “No one born of God goes on committing sin; for God’s nature abides in him, and he cannot go on sinning because he is born of God.” (1 John 3:9)

Memory verses: Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:9

For discussion: So far as you have seen, do Christians behave differently from those who do not believe? To what extent do the lives of our church members display the qualities mentioned in Galatians 5:22-24? Why do you think we are failing?

Closing prayer: Ask that all members of your church may live a life that draws other people nearer to Jesus.

Questions for you to answer:

1. Why did Jesus choose you? (John 15:16) _____

2. When you have done wrong, is it right to be depressed about it? _____
3. What three things should you do when you do wrong? _____

LOOKING BACK

In lessons 1-2 we learned what *new life* is: we learned about God’s plan for the church to take the message of *new life* to the world. We saw that God’s purpose is that every church and every Christian should be involved.

In lessons 3-7 we studied the message – the basic facts of Christianity. You should now be able to explain these to another person. It may help if you write out the titles of lessons 3-7 (the five points of the gospel) below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

LOOKING AHEAD

In Lessons 8-9 we shall study the messenger or witness – that means *you!* Are you properly qualified to be a witness to other people about Jesus? You know the outline of the gospel: but can you pass it on to others? You are a full member of your church: but do you have the ability to spread the gospel? You may have qualified as a local preacher or lay reader: but are you fully equipped to witness to unbelievers?

Part 3

The Messenger of *New Life*



LESSON EIGHT: A Witness Must Have *New Life*

Opening Prayer

Review: Repeat from memory the titles of Lessons 3-7.

Reading: Read together John 3:1-18.

1. What makes a good witness?

Imagine you are trying to choose a pair of sandals in the market. Two people recommend two different kinds of sandal. One says, “I have a doctorate from the University of London in economics. I have studied industrial engineering. These sandals are advertised in magazines around the world and everyone says they are good. I advise you to buy them.” The other is an illiterate laborer, who says, “I bought a pair of sandals just like this from this woman two years ago. Look, I’m wearing them now – they are still strong.” Which one do you think is the better witness? Why?

2. A witness must have personal experience.

John 3:1-14 describes two people. One was highly educated and very religious: he was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, (verse 1): he was a teacher of Israel. (verse 10) He was probably a good man, and he certainly knew the Old Testament Scriptures. But unfortunately he wasn’t qualified to be a witness – he had never accepted God’s gift of *new life*.

Everyone in the world has sinned – Nicodemus had sinned too, but because his sins were pride and selfishness (not murder or adultery) he did not realize he was a sinner. He did not realize he was cut off from God. So Jesus told him, “You need *new life*: you must be born again!”

The other person described in John 3 is Jesus himself. Jesus was fully qualified to be a witness: He said, “We speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen.” (John 3:11)

3. You too must have a personal experience.

If you want to be a witness and a messenger of *new life* to all men you must, of course, be a regular member of your church and a student of the Bible: but you must be more than that! You must have a personal, born-again experience with your Lord and Savior: You must have *new life* yourself!

Many church members live unchristian lives. They are known to be untruthful, cruel to employees and members of their household, dishonest, lazy, or corrupt. Some are thieves: some are drunkards, others make excessive profits. Such people will not succeed as witnesses of Jesus Christ – people will not take their message seriously.

Other church members are like Nicodemus – they appear to lead a good life, but they have never experienced an inward change from self to God. They have never realized that:

- a. selfishness is sin;
- b. sin separates them from God;
- c. they must confess their sin;
- d. God has provided *new life* for them;
- e. they must accept *new life*;
- f. *new life* must be seen in their behavior.

Everyone's situation is different and people will experience *new life* in various ways: but if Jesus has never made a basic change in your life, you may “preach” but you cannot witness. (Matthew 7:15-23) “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE OTHERS, YOU YOURSELF MUST CHANGE FIRST. (1 John 5:10-12)

4. You can be certain about it.

Review Lesson 6, part 4: “Can I be sure that I have *new life*?”

You are going to teach others that they should rely on God's promises of forgiveness and salvation. You are going to tell them that if they have done their part (repenting, trusting Christ, and welcoming Him into their lives) they can be very sure that God has done His part.

Are you sure about this yourself? You can be sure. You ought to be sure. If you are going to be a messenger of *new life* to others, you *must* be sure.

Memory verses: John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

For discussion: Can a very wicked person receive *new life*? Is it possible for someone to be a full church member and yet not be “born again?” Have you ever confessed that you were a sinner and called on God to forgive and save you? If someone is recommending something to you, what do you expect him to be able to do?

Closing prayer: Ask God that each member of your class may be fully qualified to be a witness of *new life*.

Questions for you to answer:

1. Is eternal life given to us in the future, or do we have it now? (See John 5:24 and 1 John 5:11-12.) _____
2. To receive *new life*, one must know that he is a _____ and put his trust in _____ who was lifted up on the _____ for him.
3. Name at least four things you can be certain of if you have *new life*.
 - a. Acts 10:43 _____
 - b. Romans 5:1 _____
 - c. John 5:24 _____
 - d. John 14:1-3 _____

LESSON NINE: A Witness Must Be Prepared

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week’s questions.

Reading: Read together Acts 8:26-40.

THE WITNESS must not only have *new life* himself: he must also be prepared to tell other people about it. How can you prepare? We believe this little book is helping you, and we believe the leader of your group or class is a good teacher, but you cannot prepare properly unless you have an even better Teacher and study a much more wonderful Book.

1. Philip relied on the Holy Spirit.

Philip gave up his life to God and allowed the Holy Spirit to fill and control him. (Acts 6:3, 5) He lived and witnessed for Jesus by the Spirit’s power. We too must be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:18) and witness in His power. It is only as the Holy Spirit gives us power and controls our lives that we can bear fruit. (Zechariah 4:6)

Philip was a man of prayer. Prayer means communicating with your Teacher: it is not just asking for things – it also means listening until we are sure what God is saying to us. In today’s passage, find two cases in which Philip heard what God was saying to him.

Philip obeyed his Teacher. Look back at the two verses you have just found. Did Philip do what he was told? Only the Spirit of God knows those who are ready to hear the good news of *new life*: like Philip, you must listen to what God is saying to you, and speak to those to whom God sends you.

2. Philip relied on the Word of God. (Acts 8:31-35)

The Bible was Philip’s textbook, and he evidently knew the Old Testament Scriptures thoroughly. Imagine that you meet someone reading the Bible – perhaps reading Ezekiel or Titus: do you know the Bible so well that you would be able to explain the passage to him – or even find the place in your Bible? The Bible is a very long book. If you really want to understand it you must read it systematically. Fix a definite time every day for Bible study, and never miss it. A Bible reading system like *Light for Our Path* or *Daily Guide* will help you.

Philip used the Bible in talking to the Ethiopian. It is good to talk to others about your life with Christ, using your own words: but God’s Word has a special power to give light and understanding, (Psalm 119:130) to give teaching and correction. (2 Timothy 3:16) A witness must know the great chapters of the Bible, and where to find them: he must be able to choose the right passages to meet the need of the person he is talking to, and he must memorize the most important verses.

Philip used the Bible to preach about Jesus. It is no good talking about “*new life*” unless you talk about Jesus: explain why He died, and describe how He rose again. “Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) Never condemn other religions or other churches, but “beginning with the Scripture, tell the good news of Jesus.” (Acts 8:35)

3. Philip led the Ethiopian to a definite decision. (Acts 8:36-38)

The Ethiopian realized that it was not enough to talk about Jesus or agree with what Philip was saying. He made a definite decision to accept this *new life* for himself. As a sign of repentance and a new beginning, he asked to be baptized. In the same way, anyone who wants to be a Christian must turn away from his old life: he must realize that Jesus was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and believe Jesus did it for him: and he must ask the risen, living Jesus to be not just the “Savior of the World,” but his own personal Savior.

If you, like Philip, want to be a messenger of *new life*, it is not enough to pass on what you have learned in these lessons: you must be prepared to lead people to definite decisions. We shall learn more about this in Lesson 11.

Memory verses: Romans 8:14; Romans 10:17

For discussion: How can you know what the Holy Spirit wants you to do? Why should we use the words of the Bible in talking to others about Jesus?

Closing prayer: Ask God to prepare all church members to be effective witnesses and messengers of the gospel.

Questions for you to answer:

1. What is the most important subject to talk about in witnessing? _____

2. In what two ways can you train yourself to know the Bible better? _____

3. When you speak about Jesus and someone agrees with you, have you finished your task? _____ If not, what else remains to be done? _____

ARE YOU GOING TO BE A MESSENGER?

“A witness must have *new life*” – do you have *new life*? You want to change others – have you changed? Have you turned away from everything in your life that displeases God, and have you accepted Christ’s forgiveness?

If not, will you examine yourself now, put away every sin you are aware of, and ask Jesus to be your Savior and Master from now on?

“A witness must be prepared” – are you prepared? You want power to speak about the good news – have you asked the Spirit of God to live in you? You want to use the Bible to help other people – are you preparing by regular daily Bible study?

MY PROMISE

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for all You have done for me and the whole world. I believe You want everyone to hear the good news of Jesus. So I offer myself to You to use in any way You want. Please fill me with Your Spirit. Prepare me to be a real witness. Use me together with all other Christians to spread your word to every corner of my town, my nation, my continent, and the world. Amen.

Signed _____

Date _____

Part 4

Taking *New Life* to Others



LESSON TEN: How to Give People the Good News

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the promise printed at the end of Lesson 9, and what it means to sign it.

Reading: Read together Acts 20:18-28.

YOU HAVE offered yourself to God: you want to be His messenger; and He wants to use you.

1. How you can spread the message

- a. *By your behavior* (Acts 10:18-28) - We must preach “by lip and by life.” If your life does not agree with what you say, you will only confuse people. But if you are filled by the Spirit of God and people see the fruit of the Spirit in your behavior, then you are already “speaking” even before you open your mouth. (See Galatians 5:22-23.)
- b. *By your conversation* - Christians are not always keen to talk about their faith. Some Christians are afraid that others will think they are strange. But keen supporters of a football team are not afraid to discuss football. Drunkards are not ashamed to talk about drink. Christians have a much better reason to talk about their Savior. Are you doing it? How can you start?
- c. *By your testimony* (See Paul’s testimony in Acts 22 and 26.) - Don’t just talk about the church or about Christianity. If Jesus has done something in your life, talk about Him and describe what He has done for you.
- d. *By literature* - There are places where you cannot go, but a letter can go. Out of 27 books in the New Testament, 21 are personal letters. Can you write to others about what Jesus has done for you? You cannot preach repeatedly, but a booklet can go on delivering the message for months or even years. Do you know where to buy Christian literature? Try getting Christian books to sell or give to your friends – if *you* find a book interesting, others will find it interesting too.

2. Where you can spread the message

- a. *In your own house* - Invite a few friends to a Bible study in your home or to meet one of the leaders in your church.
- b. *In other people's houses* (Acts 20:20) - Paul went from house to house. You can do the same. Tell them who you are, then say why you have come: "I am (your name), from the (your church). I want to tell you something about *New Life for All*. Do you have time to hear about it? Here are some suggestions about what you can do next:
 - tell them how you yourself received *new life*;
 - explain that God has provided *new life* for everyone;
 - invite them to a meeting in your house, or in church;
 - read a passage from the Bible and briefly discuss it;
 - pray for them and bless them.
- c. *At school, at work, anywhere* - Let everyone know that Jesus has changed your life and that He is still helping you day by day. "If anybody asks you why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him." (1 Peter 3:15, Living Bible) Carry tracts with you when you travel reference omitted or when you go shopping; they will help you to get talking with other people.
- d. *By open-air preaching* - Go with a small group from your church, or better still, gather a few people from each of the churches in town: for instance, from each of the youth groups or the women's fellowships. Preach outside a church, or in the market, or by the roadside. For a larger meeting you should get police permission. The preacher should always mention the five main facts of the Christian message.

3. Suggestions for spreading the message

- a. *Pray before you speak*. Pray for people by name.
- b. *Be humble*. (Acts 20:19) Never speak against another religion. Be prepared for criticisms and rebuff, but never argue or get angry.
- c. *Let the love of Christ control you*. Jesus loved the people of Jerusalem so much that He wept when He thought of the punishment they would suffer. Paul was so serious about his duty to preach that he wept when he thought of it. (Luke 19:41; Acts 20:19; compare with Psalm 126:6)
- d. *Record your work*. Keep a diary showing the visits you have made. Later you will look back on those visits and pray for the people you have spoken to.

Memory verses: Acts 20:24; Ezekiel 3:17

For discussion: Decide on three ways in which you and your church can spread the good news in your town. Let each member of the group choose one way in which he or she personally will be a messenger for God.

Closing prayer: Ask God to show each member of the class two or three ways in which He wants them to witness.

Questions for you to answer:

1. Did Paul value his life? _____
2. Where have you decided to be God’s messenger? _____
3. How are you going to pass on the message? _____

4. If someone abuses you, how will you reply? _____

5. How much do you spend each month on:
 - daily newspapers and other secular literature? _____
 - Christian books and booklets for your own use? _____
 - tracts and Christian literature for giving to friends? _____
 - Christian literature for giving or sale to friends? _____

LESSON ELEVEN: How to Introduce People to Jesus

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week’s questions.

Reading: Read together Ephesians 3:7-9 and 14-17. Verses 7-9 describe your task of introducing people to Jesus: you can use verses 14-17 as a prayer for those whom you are going to help.

WE LEARNED in Lesson 6 that “man must accept *new life* in Jesus.” This lesson will help you to advise or counsel enquirers who want to get to know Him. As you witness at work or at school, in the market, from house to house, or in special evangelistic meetings, people will say to themselves, “Yes, I too need Jesus.” You must always be looking out for such people; and you must be prepared to counsel them personally and to lead them to Him.

1. Four rules for counselors

- a. Pray seriously about the task. If you let God guide you, you may help someone to make the most important decision of his life. If you are careless or unprepared, you may hold up the work God is doing in him.
- b. Introduce people to Jesus, not to the church. Don’t mention the church you belong to: mention the Savior you belong to.
- c. Never discuss with other people the problems or experiences revealed to you during counseling. These are a private matter between that person and the Lord.
- d. So far as possible, seek opportunities of counseling members of your own gender. You may not be able to help members of the opposite sex as well.

2. Find out what the enquirer is thinking.

You are speaking to someone who has his own personal needs and problems, so get to know him as a friend, and speak to him as a friend. Shake hands and exchange greetings as you would anywhere else. Introduce yourself and find out his name.

Then ask why he has come to speak to you. Don't suggest the reason – get it from him in his own words. Make sure you understand his need before you suggest the solution, otherwise you may confuse him.

- a. Some people may come to you just out of curiosity, or because they hope to get some free literature. Try to help such people understand what Jesus has done for them, and encourage them to start reading the Bible daily; but don't imagine they are ready to make the great decision to give their lives to Jesus.
- b. Some may come for counsel about marriage problems. Students may mention difficulties with their studies. Workers may bring problems from their work. Some will be unemployed. Others may be troubled by witchcraft, fetish, or occult practices. In each case Jesus can solve the problem, but the enquirers may not at first realize that. So it is wise to spend some time discussing the problem itself; then show them that if they receive Jesus in their lives, He will lead them to a solution.
- c. Some may clearly understand that they need Jesus, and yet not know what to do about it. They may say, "I want to be a real Christian," or "I want to lead a better life." Others may have a deep sense of guilt about some sin they have committed. Explain to such a person the "five points of the gospel." (lessons 3 to 7, especially lessons 4, 5, and 6)
 - Does he recognize that *he* has rejected God's gift of life?
 - Does he recognize that Jesus' death was for *him*?
 - Is he ready to turn from sin, to believe in Jesus, to invite Him into his life?

Never force anyone to make a decision. If you are not sure whether he is ready, say, "Go away and pray about it; make your decision at home; then come and tell me what you have done (or write me a letter)." That is better than to push him through a "decision" that he does not really mean. However, by God's grace some will be ready to speak to God, confess their sin, ask for forgiveness, and give their lives to Him.

- d. Some may be Christians who have turned back from following Christ, and who want to find Him again. Help these people to see that God promises to forgive those who confess their sins, (1 John 1:8-9) and that they can claim victory over temptation. (I Corinthians 10:13; Romans 6:14)

3. Use your Bible in the conversation

We learned in lesson 9 that Bible study is an important part of your preparation. You must memorize important verses, and you must be able to choose the right passages to meet every person's special needs. So in your conversation you should speak on the authority of God's Word: you should open the Bible and read passages together with the enquirer: and you should write down the references afterwards for him – they will be a valuable reminder of the discussion.

4. Arrange to keep in touch with the enquirer.

When you counsel an enquirer, think of yourself as the midwife and of him or her as a new baby who is going to need your help for weeks after his new birth.

- a. Don't say goodbye to an enquirer without writing down his name and address and giving him yours. Find out where he lives and works.

- b. Invite him to visit your home for fellowship, prayer, and Bible reading. The Christian atmosphere of your home may teach him more than a dozen sermons. Visit him in his house too.
- c. If visiting is impossible, write to him regularly, enclosing helpful tracts or booklets.
- d. Recommend good books and lend him some of yours.
- e. Introduce him to a good correspondence course (and if you have never taken a Bible Correspondence course, it is worth doing one yourself so that you know what they are like). addresses?
- f. Keep in touch by prayer. Pray for enquirers daily by name – remember Ephesians 3:14-17.

Memory verses: James 5:20; 1 Corinthians 4:15

For discussion: What parts of the Bible would you use in advising someone with marriage problems? What would you say to someone who was unemployed? How would you deal with the problems of witchcraft or fetishes?

Closing prayer: Pray that all members of your group may become effective counselors.

Questions for you to answer:

1. Your job is “to make all men see the plan.” (Ephesians 3:9) Is your job completed when someone makes a definite decision to find Christ as his Savior? _____
2. In what ways can you continue to help an enquirer whom you have counseled?

LESSON TWELVE: How to Build People Up in the Church

Opening Prayer

Review: Discuss the answers to last week’s questions.

Reading: Read together Colossians 3-4:6.

WE LEARNED in lesson 7 that salvation is not the great goal or objective of life, but only the beginning. It will be your business to help new Christians to grow and go on in the Christian life. You can learn something from what Paul says in Colossians 3 and 4 about new Christians being built up in the church.

1. New aims (verses 1-2)

What were your great aims in life before Jesus Christ became your Master? What are your aims now? Help new Christians to find new aims in life: if their aims haven’t changed, their Master hasn’t changed.

2. Continuing repentance (verses 5-11)

When a person first repents, he gives up every sin he is aware of. Later on, he discovers more things in his life which have to change – things which he did not think

were wrong before. Repentance is a continuing process; it has to be repeated daily, all through life. So although the Colossians were already Christians and had already repented, Paul has to tell them, “Put your lower nature to death.”

3. New behavior (verses 12-15)

“Put on” – the new Christian must not think of the Christian life as a list of things he must stop doing: there are new things he must begin to do, good things, which he could not do before.

4. A new book (verse 16)

The new Christian will discover the Bible is much more interesting than it was before – the Bible hasn’t changed, but *he* has changed! How can the word of Christ dwell in you “richly?” By systematic, daily reading. Make sure that converts start on a daily reading scheme like *Light for Our Path* or *Daily Guide*. Follow it yourself so that you can check up on them and ask them whenever you meet, “What did you read this morning? What did you learn from it?”

5. Steadfast prayer (4:2-4)

Each of us has a daily program which includes work, eating, sleeping, leisure, taking our bath, and so on. If the new Christian is to be serious about prayer he must fit prayer into his daily program. Many people find the early morning most convenient. But whatever time he fixes, make sure that every new Christian sets apart a definite time daily for prayer and Bible study.

Teach him to pray specifically: not “God bless my church,” but “Help the minister as he prepares next Sunday’s sermon; settle the dispute between Mr. X and the choirmaster: show me what work you want me to do in the church.” Teach him to pray for people by name. Show him how by his actions he can help fulfill his prayers.

6. New fellowship (3:15-16 and Ephesians 2:17-22)

His fellowship may have been at the beer bar or the dance hall before. Now you must build him into the fellowship of the church. This will mean changes on both sides. The new Christian will fit into the church more easily because Christ is changing him; but the church must change too. Will new converts feel at home in the women’s fellowship, the men’s society, the youth group, or the class meeting? Look at the programs of these organizations for the current quarter – will new Christians get the help and benefit they need by attending the meetings you have arranged?

Some new converts may not be baptized. Your church will have to run a class in preparation for adult baptism. But take care that this course of training does not separate these converts from the regular life of the church. They need fellowship with you at this point. It will help if you are willing to join with them in the same course of training, and you yourself will benefit by going through the syllabus. (Look out for the new booklet, “What Church Members Should Know,” published by Asempa Publishers, which is designed for use as a course of preparation for baptism or confirmation.)

7. New relationships (3:11, 18-21)

A new relationship with Christ leads to a new relationship with other people. The new Christian may have to make apologies for past behavior.

8. New attitude to work (3:17-22-25)

The Christian serves two masters – an earthly employer and a heavenly Lord. These verses teach us that we should do our daily jobs not to please our employers, but to please the Lord. You may say, “But I am a laborer, a data entry clerk, a secretary - I can’t do

that for the Lord!" The Bible says you can and you must, "whatever your task." Doing your job to please God brings greater satisfaction than doing it for man.

Memory verses: Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 3:23

For discussion: The Colossians had already been reconciled to God by the death of Christ. (Colossians 1:22) Why did Paul tell them to "put to death" what was earthly in them? Had they not repented already?

If you go to church regularly, is it necessary to read the Bible and pray daily? If so, why?

In what ways is your church unprepared to receive new converts into its fellowship?

Closing prayer: Pray that all new converts who join your church through *New Life for All* may be built into the fellowship and grow up in Christ..

Questions for you to answer:

1. In our society there are divisions of language, income, education, and so on; should these divisions affect relationships between Christians? Which verse answers this question? _____

2. It will be your job to teach these lessons to new Christians. Which of the above eight points do you first need to learn yourself? _____

3. Are there some jobs which you really cannot do for God? If so, which? _____

What advice should you give to a new Christian who finds himself in such a job?

MY PRAYER LIST



ASK GOD to show you three people whom he wants you to witness to – people whom you meet daily at home or at work.

Write down their names below.

Now start praying for them every day. You can use Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____