

15. Now that you have become a child of God (John 3:3-7), you will need spiritual food to help you grow. In Matthew 4:4, besides bread, what does Jesus say will sustain you?

These studies will help you begin to grow spiritually. Below are some other steps you can take to strengthen your relationship with Christ.

- **Read your Bible every day.** Set aside some time each day to read God's Word. You may want to begin by reading the Book of John. Expect God to speak to you through what you read in His Word.
- **Pray every day.** Talk to God right from your heart. Speak as though He is sitting right beside you. You can pray anytime and anywhere. God is always listening; in fact, He is waiting to talk with you!
- **Attend church.** Find a church where the Bible is preached as the truth and Christ is worshipped. Being in a community of believers is important because you will be strengthened and supported by your family—the family of God.
- **Listen for God's voice and obey.** God has ideas about how He wants you to live your life as a Christian. He will find special ways to communicate with you. If you don't know whether a particular action is right or wrong, use your Bible, pray, and ask trusted Christian friends or your pastor for guidance.
- **Share your new faith.** Tell someone what the Lord has done for you. When you share your faith, you are giving someone great news. Christ is counting on you to spread His love to the world.

This is only the beginning of your greatest adventure. Take it one step at a time, and know that Christ is walking right beside you.

Memory Verse

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20, NIV).

How to Use This Study

Each of the following Bible studies will contain some questions about the basics of beginning a relationship with Christ. Read the question, then look up the answer to that question in your Bible. When it says John 1:12, it means the Book of John, chapter 1, verse 12. The table of contents in the front of your Bible will list the page number for each book. Read the answer from the Bible, then write it in your own words.

The Bible has been translated into several versions, and the wording in each version of the Bible is a little bit different. There is a memory verse for each week that is provided in the *New International Version* (NIV). You should memorize the verse in the version that appeals most to you.

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1 Your New Life in Christ

If you have invited Christ into your life, then you have begun a relationship with Him. The scriptures in this study will help you to better understand what it means to begin your new life with Christ living inside you. And like in any new relationship, there will be highs and lows in your walk with Christ as you learn to navigate your journey together!

1. When you received Christ by personal invitation, you became a _____ of God (John 1:12).
2. When Christ comes into your life, He forms a personal relationship with you. (Revelation 3:20)
 - a. Who is knocking at the door? (See also Revelation 1:1.)

 - b. Who may answer His voice and knock? _____

 - c. What does He want you to do? _____

d. What will He do if you open the door? _____

e. How do you open the door? (See Revelation 3:19.) _____

f. Have you opened the door? _____

g. Where is Jesus Christ right now? _____

3. The reason Christ came to seek and to save you was because you were _____ (Luke 19:10)

4. According to Romans 3:23, why were you lost? _____

5. In Romans it says the wages of sin is what? (Romans 6:23)

6. Who has already died for your sins? (Romans 5:8-9) _____

7. When you confessed your sins, what did God do? (1 John 1:9) *(Make sure you look up 1 John, which is near the end of the New Testament and not the Gospel/Book of John.)* _____

8. Isaiah 55:7 tells what you should do about the sins you've confessed to God and apologized for. (Underline the words that tell you what you should do about your past sins or wicked ways, and circle what God will do.)

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he [God] will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon."

9. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, the way to receive salvation is (check the correct answer):

- _____ a. To do many good works
- _____ b. To try your best to do right
- _____ c. To accept God's forgiveness by faith

10. Once you have received salvation and have been made a new creation in Christ, what does God want you to do? (Ephesians 2:10) _____

11. Whom do you get to know through Jesus Christ? (John 14:6, 9)

12. You who truly believe or have put your faith in Jesus Christ may _____ ;
_____ you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

13. John 6:47 says that if a person believes, he or she has _____

14. How do you know you are a child of God? _____

2

Walking with God

Once a child is born, he or she begins to grow. An important step in this process is learning to walk. The same is true spiritually. The child of God must learn to walk with God. To describe the Christian life as "walking with God" indicates that Christianity is a relationship that is going somewhere every day, if only one step at a time. Micah, the Old Testament prophet, said you should "walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

1. As you read the Gospel of John, you may have noticed several different expressions that mean the same as walking with God. What are some of these?

a. John 1:37 _____

b. John 2:5 _____

c. John 5:14 _____

d. John 8:12 _____

2. Who doesn't want you to walk with God? (1 Peter 5:8)

3. What did the devil do in Matthew 4:1? _____

4. Did Jesus give in to temptation? (Hebrews 4:15) _____

Are temptation and sin the same? _____

(Note: Temptation says, "Will you?" Sin says, "I will!")

5. What should you do when the devil attacks you? (James 4:7)

6. In your own words, what is sin? (See 1 John 3:4 and James 4:17.)

7. Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

The only thing that can separate me from God is _____
_____.

8. Can Christ give you the power to keep from sinning deliberately?

(1 John 3:9) _____

Why? _____

According to 1 John 1:9 and 2:1, if you do sin, what should you do?

9. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does this verse say God promises to do when you are tempted or tested?

10. If you sin and confess your sin, what will God do? (1 John 1:9)

11. According to John 14:21, what does keeping Christ's commandments prove? _____

12. According to John 10:27-29,

a. Who has eternal life and is held by God's power?

b. To be Christ's sheep (v. 27), you must hear Christ's voice, be known

by Him, and _____

This study can be summed up in three simple words. Walk with God! That means you should resist temptation, obey God, and follow Jesus.

Memory Verse

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV).

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3

God's Word

If you were to discover that God's plans for the world and for you had been written down in a book, what would that book be worth to you? If you got your hands on that book, how much time would you spend reading it? Rather, how much time do you spend reading it? That book exists. It's called the Bible, and it's full of things God wants you to know.

1. What does John 17:17 say about the Word of God? _____

2. How can you be assured that the Bible is true? (2 Timothy 3:16) _____

3. What will God's Word (message or commands) do for you, according to:

a. 2 Timothy 3:15? _____

b. John 15:3? _____

c. Acts 20:32? _____

4. As you are reading John's Gospel, you may notice teachings about the importance of the Word.

a. What did Christ do with the Word (command or saying) of His Father?

(John 8:55) _____

b. What place does God's Word (message or truth) have in the lives of some people? (John 8:37) _____

c. If you belong to God, what will you do about His Word? (John 8:47) _____

d. What will a true disciple of Christ do with His Word (revelation or teaching)? (John 8:31) _____

e. What should you do with the Word (command, teaching, or saying) to maintain spiritual and eternal life? (John 8:51) _____

5. If you love Christ, what will you do? (John 14:23) _____

6. John 20:31 says the written Word points you to the person of _____
_____ and by believing you might have _____

7. The devil may try to defeat you, but God has given you a weapon with

which to defeat him. Ephesians 6:17 says it is the sword of the Spirit, which _____

8. How did Jesus resist the devil in Matthew 4:4, 7, 10? _____

9. According to Psalm 119:11 (see this week's memory verse), what can you do with God's Word to keep from sinning? _____

10. What truth from God's Word has especially helped you recently?

11. Why should a Christian study the Bible every day? _____

Memory Verse

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV).

4

Talking with God

To maintain any relationship, you have to communicate. It's no different in your relationship with God. And since you are dealing with the Creator of the universe, it is not too much to expect that you should give Him some time each day. Whatever the time, and in a private place, you can talk to Him and He speaks to you! The writer of the Book of Psalms said it this way: "In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation" (Psalm 5:3).

1. How did Jesus demonstrate the importance of prayer in Mark 1:35?

2. When should you pray? (Luke 18:1) _____

3. What attitude or expression should be a part of every prayer? (1

Thessalonians 5:17-18) _____

4. What is a major cause of unanswered prayer? "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) _____

5. What determines if God hears your prayer? (1 John 5:14) _____

6. The Book of John has many lessons on prayer. Some of them are given below.

- a. What privilege does every Christian have? (John 16:24)

b. By answering your prayer, what does Christ want to do? (John 14:13)

c. What does Christ ask of you in order for Him to answer your requests? (John 15:7) _____

7. In order to receive an answer, what must you do when you pray?

(Matthew 21:22) _____

8. Some specific things you can pray for are:

a. Matthew 6:11 _____

b. Matthew 9:38 _____

c. Philippians 1:9 _____

d. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 _____

e. James 1:5 _____

9. What can keep you from being tempted or tested? (Matthew 26:41)

10. The best prayers are those that (*check the best answer*):

____ a. Use proper religious words

____ b. Sound like prayers

____ c. Come right from your heart

11. When and where are you planning to have your daily time of prayer?

You probably never realized what a privilege it was to be able to talk with God. And you may not have known that prayer doesn't have to be something that just happens before a meal or in a time of need. Can you imagine what your friendships would be like if you only called when you needed something? God is available to talk anytime about anything!

Memory Verse

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:24, NIV).

12. List five specific ways that you can share yourself with God:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

These lessons will help you understand the joy that comes from sharing yourself with God. You will also find a special joy in telling others about Christ. That kind of sharing is called witnessing, and the next study tells you more about it.

Memory Verse

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV).

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5 Sharing with God

A Christian's Prayer:

"If I really believe in something, I'm going to support it 100 percent. And, God, I really believe in You now, like I never have before! So I want to please You and serve You, and share all I am and have with You."

The apostle Paul put it this way, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). In the big things and in the little things, in whatever is done, you should ask, "Does it glorify God?"

1. According to Matthew 22:36-40,
 - a. How much should you love God? _____
 - b. How much should you love your neighbor? _____
2. How do you express love to God and others? (1 John 5:2-3) _____

3. What did Jesus have to say about this total dedication to God and His cause?
 - a. For a grain of wheat to produce a great harvest, what must it do?
(John 12:24-25) _____

 - b. If you serve Jesus Christ instead of selfish interests, what will the Father do? (John 12:26) _____

4. As a new Christian, you will have new attitudes toward all of your

relationships in life because of your new relationship to God. When you are "in Christ" (a Christian, united with Him), the old has gone and is replaced by _____. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

5. How does Luke 6:38 say your new relationship with Christ should change your attitude toward material things? _____

What else does Ephesians 4:28 say about your attitude toward material things? _____

6. How has your new relationship with Christ changed your attitude toward others? _____

You are to be _____ to others. (Ephesians 4:32)

7. How has your new relationship with Christ changed your attitude about yourself:

a. In the care, appearance, and use of your body, you must remember it is _____ . (1 Corinthians 6:19)

b. You should _____ your time and your opportunities. (Ephesians 5:16)

8. You should love _____ (1 John 2:10), and yet you should not love _____ (1 John 2:15-16).

9. Why does God expect you to glorify Him? (1 Corinthians 6:20)

10. If you put God's kingdom and His righteousness (justice or holiness) first, what is the result? (Matthew 6:31-33)

11. When, in response to God's love, you share your whole life with Him, who ends up receiving the most? (Mark 10:28-30) _____

15. An effective witness or testimony includes three elements: (1) What your life was like before you became a Christian; (2) How you became a Christian; and (3) What Christ has done in your life. Write out a brief testimony that you might give to a friend. _____

16. List the names of three people you know who need Christ. Now commit to pray for them, realizing that God's grace is already at work in their lives. Pray that God will provide an opportunity for you to witness to them.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Although you know you must tell others about Jesus Christ, you may be afraid to do so. Knowing that God's grace is present before you say anything helps. But where will you get the power to speak out despite your fear? That's the topic of the next study.

Memory Verse

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men!"
(Matthew 4:19, NIV).

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6 Telling Others About God

Can you remember the last time you got great news? Did you have trouble keeping it to yourself? When something great happens, you might find yourself telling complete strangers your good news. Witnessing is telling others what Christ has done for you. It's sharing the good news of God. Once Christ has entered your life, you should want to share His love with everyone!

1. Christ's healing of the demon-possessed man was followed by a specific command. What possible definition of "witness" do you find here?

(Luke 8:39) _____

2. John's Gospel teaches much about witnessing.

a. Based on John 3:32, to witness (or testify) is to share (*check correct answer*):

- _____ (1) What you have been taught to be the truth.
- _____ (2) What you've heard from someone else.
- _____ (3) What you've seen and heard (experienced yourself).

b. What was Andrew doing in John 1:40-41? _____

c. What did Jesus say God wants Christians to do? (John 6:28-29)

d. What is the work He tells you to do in John 15:16?

3. Spiritually, what is the greatest thing that has ever happened to you?

4. What is the greatest kindness you can show to another person? _____

5. What does Jesus command you to do in Matthew 28:18-20?

6. What event did early Christians participate in as an evidence that they had accepted Christ? (Acts 8:12, 35-38)

Have you made this public expression of your faith? (*check one*)

Yes No Thinking about it

Why, or why not? _____

7. What is the condition of those who do not believe in Christ? (John 3:18)

8. What does God make abundantly available to people even before you witness to them? (Romans 5:15) _____

9. If you are faithful to follow Christ, what does He promise to do? (Matthew 4:19) _____

10. According to 1 Peter 3:15, how can you be prepared to witness for Christ? _____

11. Where did Paul meet people in order to share Christ with them? (Acts

17:17; 20:20) _____

12. Why must your witness center on Christ? (John 14:6) _____

13. As a witness for Christ, what should your message be to those without Christ?

Romans 6:23 _____

Romans 3:23 _____

Isaiah 53:6: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray . . . and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." _____

John 1:12 _____

14. After a person has accepted Christ, what is your responsibility to that person? (Acts 14:21-22) _____

15. Since you accepted Christ, have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?

What is the Holy Spirit doing in your life right now? _____

16. The cleansed and empowered Christian life is one that is filled with the Spirit. It overflows to others. Would you like to be filled with the Spirit?

There are four simple steps:

- a. Ask God to give you the Holy Spirit in His fullness. (Luke 11:13; Ephesians 3:16, 19)
- b. Give your whole life to God. (Romans 12:1-2)
- c. Admit your need for inner cleansing or purity. (Acts 15:8-9)
- d. Receive the sanctifying fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith. (Acts 15:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

When God fills you with His Spirit, you will receive the Spirit's witness to this work of grace. This witness may happen the moment you believe or soon after, but the Holy Spirit will give you an inner assurance of what God has done.

Memory Verse

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18, NIV).

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7 Filled with God's Spirit

Have you ever thought, "I want to do more for God, but I don't know if I can"? There is only one answer to this. Of course you can, but not alone. You must have more of God's power through His Spirit already dwelling inside you. That is why Paul said to the Christians of his day, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

- 1. Jesus spent a lot of time teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit, and John has recorded some of that teaching.
 - a. Who did Jesus say would give you an overflowing experience with God (like rivers of living water)? (John 7:38-39) _____

 - b. Who will teach you? (John 14:26) _____
 - c. About whom does the Holy Spirit of truth testify? (John 15:26-27)

 - d. At what stage in a Christian's life is the Holy Spirit first at work? (John 3:5) _____
- 2. From whom did the disciples of Christ still need to get the necessary power to witness? (Acts 1:8) _____

3. What did Saul (Paul) need spiritually, even though he had already accepted Christ? (Acts 9:17) _____

4. In 1 Corinthians 3:1, 3 the members of the Corinthian church showed wrong attitudes, like jealousy or envy, which proved they were not Spirit-filled, but instead were still _____

5. What is the special work that the Holy Spirit performs that removes your hindrance to His full possession and makes you pure, or holy, and set apart for God? (1 Peter 1:2) _____

6. What did Jesus pray for His disciples? (John 17:17) _____

7. When God gave the early Christians the fullness of the Holy Spirit, what did He do about the impurity or uncleanness in their hearts? (Acts 15:8-9) _____

8. What are you to do with any impure or sinful attitudes in your life? (2 Corinthians 7:1) _____

9. How complete does God wish your sanctification (cleansing or

holiness) to be? (1 Thessalonians 5:23) _____

10. Who will sanctify you wholly or entirely? (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

11. The law or principle of _____ sets you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

12. The wrong attitude of the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:1-13) showed that they lacked the characteristic that is the most important in the Christian life. What does 1 Corinthians 13:13 say that it is? _____

13. You can receive that love of God from _____ (Romans 5:5)

14. After you are filled with the Holy Spirit, what kind of relationship with Him must you maintain? (Romans 8:4)

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8

United for God

Did you realize that when you received Jesus Christ, you gained not only a Heavenly Father but also a whole new family? Every other Christian became your brother or sister. This new family to which you are related is called "the Church." And God has ways He wants His family to act and relate.

1. The Bible refers to the followers of Christ in different ways. List three terms describing followers of Christ in Acts 11:26.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Since Christians should work together, the Church is sometimes called _____

_____. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

3. Who is the Head of the Church? (Ephesians 5:23) _____

4. What action of Christ shows how important the Church is to Him? (Ephesians 5:25) _____

5. To be a part of the Church, how must you be related to Christ? (Ephesians 5:24) _____

6. Where had Paul taught the ways of Christ? (1 Corinthians 4:17)

7. What lessons has John's Gospel taught you about the Church?
- a. How will the world know that you are of the Church (the followers of Christ)? (John 13:35) _____

- b. What is the pastor's responsibility in the church? (John 21:16)

8. What is the special way Christians remember Jesus Christ and what He has done? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) _____

9. How should you treat a fellow member of the Church? (Galatians 6:2)

10. Why does the Holy Spirit give special gifts to different individuals? (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7) _____

11. Some churches are powerful and loving, some are not. Which of the following two churches is most like the one you'd wish to help create or belong to? (*Check one*)
- _____ a. The church at Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-33)
- _____ b. The church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-17)

12. What was the extent of interest of the early Christians toward the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer? (Acts 2:42) _____
13. What should you be careful about if you wish to please the Lord? (Hebrews 10:25) _____

14. Why is it important to be committed to a local church?

Now that you have found Christ and have become a part of His family, you ought to consider the official step of joining the church. Fellowship with other believers is important, and with the help of your church and pastor, you will continue to grow in Christ. More wonderful days are ahead as you journey with God!

Memory Verse

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25, NIV).