

Growing In Jesus

A nine-part study of foundational truths for new and growing followers of Jesus.

Using the *JESUS* film to help you better understand what it means to follow Him.





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Introduction



The apostle John writes in the book of Revelation:

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

— Revelation 7:9-10, English Standard Version

It is God’s heart and plan that people from every people group on earth will learn about Jesus and that believers will grow in Him. Growing In Jesus offers you an opportunity to understand key concepts so that you can become a committed disciple and in turn, can share those concepts with others. You will watch nine segments from the *JESUS* film to learn more about Jesus and what is true about us as followers of Christ.

Here are the general topics for each segment:

1. How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian
2. How You Can Experience God’s Love and Forgiveness
3. How You Can Be Filled With the Holy Spirit
4. How You Can Be a Fruitful Witness
5. How to Help Fulfill the Great Commission
6. How You Can Love by Faith
7. How You Can Pray With Confidence
8. How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving
9. How You Can Continue to Grow

The last lesson of *Growing In Jesus* is about continuing to follow Jesus. In the segment for this lesson, Jesus tells the parable of the four types of soil representing four types of people and the ways they respond to the call to follow Jesus. Prayerfully consider which of the four soils best represents your life. If you wish to continue to learn and grow in Christ, other opportunities and materials are available to help you! Simply reach out to the contact who gave this material to you and they can let you know of additional opportunities!



Lesson 1 – How You Can Be Sure You Are a Christian

“Invitation to Know Jesus Personally”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Introduction

Millions of people have invited Christ into their lives but they are not sure of their salvation. They have no confidence that if they died today, they would go to be with the Lord in heaven. Are you confident? A commitment to Christ involves intellect, emotions and will.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What does the word “sin” mean to you? How did Jesus pay the price for your sin?
3. Christians are called to live by faith, not emotions. What place does emotion have in your Christian life? How and when can emotions be misleading?
4. Why is it important that you be sure of your salvation?

Conclusion

There are four essential truths you need to understand to be sure you are a Christian:

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
2. We are all sinful and separated from God; therefore, we cannot experience His love and plan for our lives apart from Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience His love.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love.

Watch the segment one last time, this time praying with certainty to receive Jesus if you’re not sure you have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You can be sure you are a Christian based on the promises of His Word.



Lesson 2 – How to Experience God’s Love and Forgiveness

“Sinful Woman Forgiven”

Luke 7:36-50

Introduction

Jesus loved and spent time with tax collectors, prostitutes, outcasts and the sick. In those days, sick people were sometimes assumed to be sinful because of their illness. Jesus never condemned these people; in fact, the only people He ever condemned were religious leaders who considered themselves better than others. Those religious leaders focused on a specific set of rules and regulations called “The Law” that people had to keep in order to earn God’s forgiveness and approval. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, has set us free—free from sin, free from having to earn God’s approval by our own works, and free from the bondage of guilt that comes from our inability to obey all that The Law demanded.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Why do you think the young woman was crying?
3. What was the reaction of the Pharisee to what the woman did? How did Jesus react?
4. What do you think was the point of the story about forgiveness that Jesus told the Pharisee?
5. How did the woman show that she believed in Jesus?
6. Why do you think Simon did not offer any hospitality to Jesus?
7. When Jesus says to the woman “Your faith has saved you,” what do you think she was saved from?

Conclusion

To experience the same forgiveness as the young woman in this story, you must confess your sins by faith. The Bible promises that if you confess your sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive and purify you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). The word “confess” doesn’t mean to tell God something He doesn’t know. Rather, the word means “to agree with God.” Specifically, we are called to agree with God in three ways. First, we agree that our sins are wrong and grieve God. Second, we agree that God has already forgiven our sins through Christ’s death and the shedding of His blood on the cross. Third, we agree that we need to yield that area of sin to the Lord and repent. We allow the Holy Spirit to change our attitude. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, we turn from our sins, and our behavior begins to change.



Lesson 3 – How You Can Be Filled With the Holy Spirit **“Teaching About Prayer and Faith”**

Luke 11:9-13, 12:22-30, 17:5-6

Introduction

When Jesus taught about prayer He used three pairs of words: ask and given, seek and find, knock and opened. His description emphasizes the Father’s desire to give us the fullness of the Holy Spirit, if we ask. As the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they received a supernatural power from God that changed them from fearful people to bold witnesses for Christ. God used them to change the course of history. This same power of the Holy Spirit is available to you to empower you to live a holy and fruitful life for Jesus Christ.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What conditions does Jesus put on how He will answer prayer? Why might there be some prayers God might not answer? Give an example.
3. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “If you then being evil”? Why is it that people can be both good and evil?
4. Read Ephesians 5:18 in your Bible. What command does God give us in this passage?
5. Why do you think it would be important for us to have the power of the Holy Spirit in us?
6. How might the Holy Spirit’s power be seen in the life of a Christian?

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is God Himself. He came to live inside you the moment you received Christ as your Savior. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ and to lead believers into all truth. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the fullness of God. We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith. First, each of us must desire to live a life that will please the Lord. Second, we must be willing to surrender our lives totally to Him. Third, we must confess every known sin which God brings to our remembrance. Then by faith, we must trust God to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and to give us the power to live the life He has in store for us.



Lesson 4 – How You Can Be a Fruitful Witness

“Miraculous Catch of Fish”

Luke 5:1-11

Introduction

Jesus performed this miracle to show His disciples that He was the Messiah, and that they should follow Him and become “fishers of men.” They recognized that Jesus was the Messiah, and they left their fishing nets and followed Him. There is no experience in life more exciting than helping others come to follow Christ. Jesus invites you to follow Him so that you, too, can lead many people to become followers of Jesus.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Was it a suggestion or a command?
3. What was Peter’s reaction to Jesus’ words?
4. Why do you think Peter said that he was a “sinful man”? Why would he ask Jesus to go away?
5. How did Peter, James, and John show their commitment to Jesus?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when He said they would become “fishers of men”?
7. What are some things that may keep you from talking to others about Jesus? What might encourage you to talk to others about Jesus?

Conclusion

In our earlier lessons we learned that to be a fruitful witness, you should be confident in our salvation, have confessed the sin in your life and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Last, you must be prepared to share your faith by learning the story of the gospel. You can tell the gospel in your own words or show the last segment from the *JESUS* film to a friend or neighbor who needs to know Jesus. Most importantly, you need to love people and take the initiative to go and tell the good news. Pray for opportunities and expect God to use you.



Lesson 5 – How You Can Help Fulfill the Great Commission

“Great Commission and Ascension”

Luke 5:1-11

Introduction

Have someone in your group read Matthew 28:16-20 in their heart language, if possible. Jesus' command to His followers to tell others the message of salvation is called the Great Commission. Every Christian is commanded to be involved in reaching the world for Christ. That means each of us has a God-given role to play in helping to fulfill His Great Commission.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What are the specific commands that Jesus gives His disciples in the Great Commission?
3. Is this commission meant for the disciples only, or is it a calling for all believers? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think Jesus tells us as His followers that He has “all authority in heaven and Earth?” How might that be significant to us as we seek to share Christ with others?
5. Read Acts 1:8-9. (This is another account of Jesus' Great Commission and ascension.) Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to start first in Jerusalem? Why was that significant? Then what does Jesus say they are to do next?
6. Based on the passage we just read from Acts 1, to whom were the disciples commanded to take the gospel? What might this tell us about how Jesus views all people?
7. Can you think of a people group in your country that needs to hear the gospel? How could you be the one to GO and TELL them about Jesus?

Conclusion

How can you help fulfill the Great Commission? First, be sure you are personally committed to Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. Second, pray for God to guide you. Third, as God answers your prayers, plan where you will GO. Fourth, seek training from other mature Christians. Fifth, take the initiative and GO. Find a Christian friend to go with you to share the gospel with others who desperately need Him.



Lesson 6 – How You Can Love By Faith

“Parable of the Good Samaritan”

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

Love is the greatest privilege and power known to man. In this story, a lawyer spoke the truth when he said we should love God and our neighbor. But then he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered by telling a story in which a Samaritan (a people group hated by the Jews) is the only person who helps a man in desperate need. Only by God’s power and strength can we truly love our neighbors unconditionally, just as God loves us.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What question is asked of Jesus at the beginning of this story?
3. How does Jesus answer the man? What does this tell us about the significance of the Bible?
4. What do you think is revealed about the lawyer’s heart by the second question he asks Jesus?
5. Who were the people that did not help the man who had been robbed? Why do you think they failed to help the wounded man?
6. How did the Samaritan show that “he loved his neighbor”? What did this love cost the Samaritan?
7. How can our group show love to others in our community?

Conclusion – Five points to remember about Love

- God loves us unconditionally.
- We are commanded to love others.
- We cannot love in our own strength.
- We can love with God’s love.
- We love by faith, just as we received Jesus by faith.



Lesson 7 – How You Can Pray With Confidence

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Luke 11:1-4

Introduction

Prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other—God and man. Simply put, prayer is communicating with God. Prayer is much more than words, however. It is an expression of the heart towards God. It is an experience within a relationship more than an activity. As a child of God, you are invited to come boldly before Him in prayer.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Why do you think one of the disciples would ask Jesus to teach them to pray after He had finished praying?
3. To whom does Jesus say that we should direct our prayers? Why is this important?
4. When Jesus says, “Your Kingdom come,” what is He indicating about the future?
5. What does it mean when Jesus asks God to supply “our daily bread”? What do you think is the significance of the word “daily”?
6. Why do you think Jesus connects our asking God for forgiveness with our willingness to forgive others who sin against us?
7. Why do you think it is sometimes hard to forgive those who have hurt or wronged us?
8. How might God help us in times of temptation?

Conclusion

God commands us to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). At the same time, prayer is a privilege. We pray to have fellowship with God, to express our needs and desires to God, to bring our concerns and fears to Him, to ask God to help those we care about, to ask God to help others understand the gospel and come to Christ, to confess our sins, to express our thanks and to praise and adore Him. We pray to the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We pray to God in adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. As we abide in Him, we can pray with confidence.



Lesson 8 – How You Can Experience the Adventure of Giving “Widow’s Offering”

Luke 21:1-4

Introduction

God loves widows and orphans. In Jesus’ day, widows were usually the poorest group in the community. In this story, we find a widow giving everything she had as an offering to God. She demonstrated a concept called “stewardship.” This is a belief that everything we possess belongs to God and we are simply “managers” of God’s possessions. Your life can also exhibit stewardship. Giving by faith is meant by God to be an exciting privilege. When you honor God through your commitment and obedience to stewardship, He showers you with joy. He turns your giving into a thrilling adventure in Christian living.

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. Do you think it is easier for rich people to give money than for poor people?
3. Why would the widow give everything she had to live on? What does this tell us about her personal faith in God?
4. Share a way in which you might be tempted to give less. How might you overcome this?
5. How can our group share our abundance with others in both material and non-material ways?
6. Do you think Jesus expects even poor people to give to the church?

Conclusion

All that we have, we possess because God has provided it for us. So everything we have belongs to Him. Our task as “faithful stewards” is to manage those blessings to bring glory to His name. When we give freely of ourselves, and of our possessions, we are making a material expression of our spiritual dependence upon Christ. God knows our needs and He wants us to trust Him to provide for us. The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NIV). By faith, God supplies all of our needs as we trust Him and as we give generously.



Lesson 9 – How You Can Continue to Grow

“Parable of the Sower and the Seed”

Luke 8:4-15

Introduction

Jesus taught the people through sermons, through questions and answers and in “parables.” Parables were a common way of teaching others through telling stories. A parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

Watch the segment twice.

Thought Questions:

1. What did you like most about the story? What caught your attention?
2. What are the four soils that Jesus talks about in this parable? What does each soil represent?
3. What do you think that Jesus means when He says, “Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear?”
4. What kind of temptation might cause people to give up their faith in God?
5. Jesus says the good soil will yield a harvest of fruit. What spiritual fruit Jesus is talking about?
6. What can we do to prepare our soil so God can produce fruit in our lives?

Conclusion

In this story, Jesus explains how the Word of God brings about spiritual growth. The good soil represents those who produce fruit in their lives and the lives of others. In order to become that “good soil” we need to continue following Jesus by learning more about Jesus and obeying God in our daily lives. It also involves serving Christ by helping others to hear the gospel and learn to follow Jesus. Do you desire to be good soil?

Although this concludes *Growing In Jesus* material, Jesus Film Project offers other opportunities to help you continue to learn and grow spiritually. Do you wish to learn more about following Jesus? If so, please reach out to whoever gave this material to you and they can share additional opportunities with you!



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