

# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

One of the most rewarding experiences Christians have is the opportunity to tell others how to begin a personal relationship with God's Son, Jesus Christ. The first part of this section, "God's Plan of Salvation," is designed to be placed in front of those with whom you are sharing your faith. You can use it to lead them through the questions and Scripture passages toward a faith commitment to Jesus. The second part of the section, "Plan of Discipleship," provides ideas for helping new Christians grow in their faith.

## **God's Plan of Salvation**

God promises forgiveness and eternal life to anyone who asks Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross and resurrection three days later, has already paid the price for our sins.

## **Our Relationship with God**

*Through Sin, Humans Have Separated Themselves from God*

Though we like to think of ourselves as basically good, we're deceiving ourselves if we claim we haven't sinned (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 1:8-10).

Fortunately, Jesus came to help people who have sinned (Mark 2:17).

What would you say to someone who was obviously sick but refused to go to a doctor? How is a person making that decision like someone who sins but refuses to seek forgiveness?

*The Way Back to God Is through Jesus Christ, God's Son*

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way back to God (Jn. 14:6).

Forgiveness or salvation, cannot be earned; rather, it is a gift offered to everyone (Titus 2:11) to bridge the separation of human beings from God. Have you ever received a gift you didn't earn? Were you surprised? Uncomfortable? Joyful? Why would God offer such a wonderful gift?

## *The Be Forgiven, We Must Admit We're Going the Wrong Way*

We must ask God to forgive our sins, and we must choose to turn to God's way (Acts 20:21).

- Do you fear that you've done something so terrible that God won't forgive you?
- Was there a major event that has changed the way you want to live your life?
- How does that new outlook affect you now?

## *Jesus Died on the Cross to Provide Salvation*

Jesus' death and resurrection provided the only way to restore our relationship with God. To receive salvation and eternal life, we must trust in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and confess Him as Lord (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:9).

- Have you ever trusted someone fully? Explain.
- What would it be like to know someone who loved you enough to die for you?

## *Salvation through Jesus Restores Our Relationship with God*

When we ask Jesus to be our personal Savior, he gives us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives within the believer, gives power to live a Christian life (Rom. 8:2, 6), and provides strength to withstand trials and temptations.

- What would it be like to have a personal relationship with God?
- What would it be like to have God's help every day?

## *God Has Done Everything Necessary to Provide Salvation for Us*

To receive eternal life, all we have to do is accept in faith what God has already done for us through Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9)

- What keeps you from making a faith commitment to Jesus right now?
- Would you like to receive the salvation God is offering right now?

## **Scriptural Answers to Common Questions**

- "How do I know God wants me to accept His gift of salvation?" (Lk. 15:3-7)
- "Is salvation really a part of God's plan for my life?" (1 Thess. 5:9)

- “What does it mean to be spiritually reborn?” (Jn. 3:1-7)
- “How do I know God will really forgive me?” (Ps. 103:2-4; 1 Jn. 1:9)
- “How should I ask God for forgiveness?” (Ps. 51)
- “After I have accepted the gift of salvation, what kinds of things does God expect of me?” (Ps. 15; Eph. 4:1-3)
- “Don’t I need to straighten my life out and stop sinning before I can receive salvation?” (Rom. 5:8)

### Additional Scriptures about God and His Gifts

- Salvation (Acts 10:43; 16:31; Titus 3:5-7; Heb. 5:7-9)
- Unconditional Commitment to Christ (L; k. 9:57-62)
- Belief in Christ (Jn. 6:28-29; 10:38; 12:44; 14:11)
- Repentance (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 2 ; Pet. 3:9)
- Baptism (Matt. 3:16; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:7)
- Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:38-39; 11:15-16; Rom. 5:5)
- Eternal life (Jn. 3:15-16, 38; 5:24; 6:40; Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 1:16)