

# CHAPTER 1

## Becoming A Christian

### “How To Live Forever With God”

#### A. THE BIG QUESTION

How do you know if you are a Christian? What must you do to be “saved” and on your way to heaven? Does going to church or being a good kid make you a Christian? Are you a Christian just because your parents are Christians? Does it really matter what you believe? Have you ever thought about where you will spend eternity? Where will you go after you die? God has told us how to know for sure where we will go after we die. He has given us the map to Him and to heaven in His book, the Bible. Let’s look at it.

#### B. THE ROAD MAP TO GET TO HEAVEN



1. John 3:16

What is God’s heart toward the world? \_\_\_\_\_

What did He give us? \_\_\_\_\_

If we believe in Jesus, what does God give us? \_\_\_\_\_

2. 1 John 5:11-13

Who gives us eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is this life? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

Who doesn’t have eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you have if you believe in Jesus and have Him as your Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, what is eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_

## C. DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Do you know for sure where you will go when you die?

\_\_ Yes, I know that I have eternal life and I am going to heaven.

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ No, I am not sure if I have eternal life and I don't know if I will go to heaven.

If you are not sure you have eternal life, or if you have questions you would like answered, then our study in the Bible will help you to know for sure if you have eternal life.



**MY STORY:** *I remember when I was 6 years old; I wondered where I would go when I died. My sisters and I would talk about it. I didn't know how to be sure I was going to heaven. We would try to figure out how long eternity was and we could never get to the end of forever. I didn't know where I was going to go when I died and it sometimes scared me or made me sad. Finally, when I was 19 years old, I found out that Jesus was the way to heaven. I asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life and to come into my heart to forgive my sins. He did! I knew that I was a Christian and that I would go to heaven when I died. It was a happy day for my heart!*

## D. WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the most important person in history! He is more important than any president or king or any sports hero or movie star. Jesus is in a different league than any other religious leader in history. For example, many religious leaders, like Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed and others, have made claims to be prophets or teachers of God, but we believe according to the Bible that they were false prophets and false teachers. *(We live in a country where we allow others to have a free choice to believe whatever they want. We have freedom of religion. We are to respect the freedom of religious belief that others have, even when we disagree with them and believe they are wrong. We try to kindly share our beliefs with them and we allow them to make up their own minds.)*

Jesus is different from any other religious leader. Here's why. Jesus didn't claim to be only a prophet, or teacher – He claimed to be God! Jesus is God! Have you ever thought about that? God became a Man and walked on the planet He created!





**MY STORY:** *I am the oldest of four sisters. When we were little, we would talk about Jesus. One day we kept talking about how amazing it was that Jesus was God and that God came to his own planet. He walked on the planet He made. We really wanted to go to Jerusalem so we could walk on the dirt that Jesus walked on!*

1. Luke 1:68-70

What does this verse tell us that God sent us? \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 4:24-26

What is God looking for? \_\_\_\_\_

What is Jesus called? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Colossians 1:15-17

Who is Jesus the visible image of? \_\_\_\_\_

How long has Jesus existed? \_\_\_\_\_

4. John 10:11

What did Jesus call Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

What does He do for people? \_\_\_\_\_

## E. WHY DO WE NEED JESUS?

We need Jesus because we have sinned. Jesus is the only One who can forgive us of our sins. Think of it this way.



**TAKING A TEST:** Think about taking a test at school. What if your teacher told you that the only people that could pass the test were those who got 100%? Only the students who got every question correct could pass the test. If you took the test and missed one question, you would not pass. If you took the test and missed all the questions, you would not pass. How many people do you know who would flunk the test? What if this happened...what if your teacher said that if just one person in the class got 100% on the

test, she would give everyone in the class 100%? That would be a pretty good deal, wouldn't it? If one student got all the answers correct, you would get an A! Guess what? That's why we need Jesus! All of us have flunked God's test. We have not been perfect. We needed someone else to get 100% on the test and then if we accept it, God will give us that perfect score by forgiving all our sins.

Do you see how exciting this is? We need Jesus, and thank God He wants to help us! Let's look at this.

1. How Does God Define Sin?

God is primarily concerned with our hearts. What kind of things are going on in our hearts and coming out of our hearts? Our hearts are filled with all kinds of things that are not acceptable to God when we are not Christians, but when Jesus becomes the Lord of our hearts, He forgives all our sins and makes us acceptable to God.

a. Mark 7:15-23

What did Jesus say would "defile" us, or mess us up? (verse 15)\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was describing our "thought life" in verse 20 – what things make us unacceptable to God?

b. James 4:17

When your heart or conscience tells you to do the right thing and you disobey your heart or conscience, what does God call this?\_\_\_\_\_

Think about a time you were tempted to do something that you knew was wrong, how did you handle it? How did your heart feel when you were tempted to say bad words, be mean to others, or to do something that you knew was wrong and you did it? Did you feel something "scratchy" on the inside? That was your heart or conscience trying to tell you to do the right thing. It is always a good idea to obey and follow your conscience.



**LYING:** Think about a time you were tempted to lie. Let's say your parents asked you a question. You knew that if you told the truth you would get in trouble, so

you were being tempted to tell a lie, so that you wouldn't get in trouble. Has that ever happened to you? What was going on inside your heart? What was going on inside your mind? You were the only one who knew the truth and your conscience was trying to tell you to be honest. Here's a piece of advice: it's always better to tell the truth and follow honesty! Your heart will feel right, even if you get in trouble!



**MY STORY:** *When I was growing up, my mom always said, "Honesty is the best policy." She hated lying! I knew that I would get in more trouble for lying than I would for being in trouble, so I remember at times I told the truth even when I knew it meant that I would get in trouble. I wanted my heart to be clear and not feel guilty. Anytime I told a lie, my heart felt so guilty that I would usually have to confess to my parents the truth so that my heart could feel clean again. Has that ever happened to you?*

## 2. What Happened When We Sinned?

### a. Isaiah 59:2

What is the result of sin? \_\_\_\_\_



**SIN:** To sin means, "to miss the mark". Have you ever shot a bow and arrow? To sin means to miss the "bull's eye" of God's perfect target. When an arrow hits any of the rings outside the bull's eye, it has missed the mark. In the same way, our sin has caused us to miss the mark of God's perfection. Did you know there is a difference between our "sin nature" and our "sinful acts"? Sinful acts are the result of our sin nature. For example, have you ever seen dandelions growing in your yard? Those pretty yellow flowers are nothing more than weeds! If you wanted to get rid of the dandelions, what would you have to do? What if you mowed the lawn, would that get rid of the dandelions? Not really. They would only be gone for a day because the dandelion root is still in the ground: dandelions will be springing up all over the yard once again! The only way to totally get rid of the dandelions is to remove them from their very roots. Think of the dandelions as our "sins" and think of their roots as the "sin nature". God's biggest concern is with our sin nature. God knows that when he changes the root, our "sin nature", that our "sins" will also change.

b. Romans 6:23

What is the “paycheck” we get for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

What free gift does God give us when we believe in Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_



**DEATH:** Death is not a pleasant topic to discuss. For many people, talking about death is a sad and scary subject. The good thing is that Jesus came to take away the sadness and scariness of death. The Bible describes three types of death: spiritual death, physical death and eternal death. These are big topics, so we will just introduce them to you now. Physical death is what happens when a person stops breathing and their heart or brain stops functioning. Physical death is when a person’s body dies. Spiritual death is when a person is separated from God. If a person is not born again and doesn’t know Jesus as his/her personal Lord, then that person is spiritually dead. To be spiritually dead means that a person is separated from God. Eternal death is the final condition of all those who don’t know Jesus as their Lord. They will be separated from God for eternity.

3. How Many People Sin?

Romans 3:22-26

We are made right in God’s sight when we do what? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of us have sinned? (verse 23) \_\_\_\_\_

God declared that we are not guilty because Jesus did what for us? \_\_\_\_\_

## F. JESUS HAD TO DIE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US

Jesus died for people just like you and me. We might look like nice kids, and we may even go to church, but apart from Jesus we really are empty and sinful. Jesus came to solve the sin problem once and for all in order to give us a new forgiven heart; but He had to give His life in order to do that. Jesus died upon a cross and gave His life so that we could have eternal life.

Romans 5:6-11

How did God show us His great love? \_\_\_\_\_

Since we have been made right in God's sight, what are we saved from? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this make you feel in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_



**BUMBLE BEES:** Have you ever been stung by a bee? It hurts, doesn't it? Did you know that after a bumble bee stings you, it dies? Did you know that some people are allergic to bee stings? If they get stung, it can kill them. Imagine you were allergic to bumble bee stings and one day you and your dad are driving in your car when suddenly a bumble bee flew in the car! How would you feel? What if your dad saw the bumble bee and he put his arm out so that the bumble bee would land on him and sting his arm, instead of yours? That would sure be a loving dad, wouldn't it? If the bumble bee stung your dad, it would hurt him, but it would also take the stinger out of the bee and the bee would die! Then, you would be safe! Did you know that Your Heavenly Father loves you and He did just that? We were allergic to the sting of sin and it would cause us to die and be separated from our Heavenly Father. God sent Jesus to earth to take the sting of sin and death for us. When Jesus died on the cross for us, it was like He was stung by the "bee of sin" and He took all the pain for us. When He did this, He also took the "sting of death" away and now everyone who believes in and receives Jesus will never die, but they will spend eternity in Heaven with Him!

## G. JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Do you know what we celebrate on Easter? Jesus Christ is Risen! He's not in the tomb. The tomb is empty because Jesus is alive!

a. 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Jesus died for our sins and He was buried. What happened on the third day? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people saw Jesus after He was risen from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Matthew 28:1-10

What happened after they put Jesus in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe this story in your own words: \_\_\_\_\_



**MY STORY:** *When I was in third grade, God filled my heart with a song about Jesus being risen from the dead. Has God ever put a song in your heart? I'll bet He has. Be sure to sing those songs to God. If you remember the words, write them down. God is blessing you with words from heaven! When I look back to third grade, when I was around 8 or 9 years old, God was filling my heart with songs from heaven. I was looking outside at the sunny, blue-sky day and I started to sing this song:*

*The hills are sunny, the flowers are in bloom,  
The bees buzz around us, the birds fly by.  
The air is clean and the grass grows green,  
The children are playing in the sun.  
They are rejoicing for Jesus has risen,  
They are happy for what He did.  
He has picked this day to wash our sins away,  
Jesus Christ has risen.*

## H. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

Jesus is God's only Savior. There is no one that can replace Him. He is the most important person in all of creation. Let's look at this.

1. Matthew 7:13-14

How did Jesus describe the entrance to God's kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Jesus describe the highway to hell? \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 14:6

Jesus said He was the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

Who can go to the Heavenly Father without Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Acts 4:12

Is there any other name, besides Jesus, that people can call on to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_



## 4. 1 Timothy 2:5

How many mediators are there between God and man? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the Mediator? \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Ephesians 2:1-10

This passage summarizes everything we have discussed in this section and describes the reason we need Jesus.

What was the result of our sin? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God do for us? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we take any credit for being saved? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God call "salvation"? \_\_\_\_\_

What does God call us? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you see that God has a plan for your life now that you are a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

## I. JESUS WILL GIVE US A NEW LIFE

## 1. 2 Corinthians 5:17

When we believe in Jesus and receive Him into our lives, we become Christians.

What happens to us when we become Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of life has begun? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. John 3:1-7

Jesus told Nicodemus that a person cannot see the kingdom of God unless he is what?

\_\_\_\_\_



**BORN AGAIN:** Being born again is also called the “new birth”. When you are born again, you don’t go back into your mother’s tummy to be born again, but your heart is born again! God gives you a brand new heart (or spirit) and now from your heart you can be friends with God. God welcomes you into a new Father/child relationship with Him. You are actually adopted into the family of God. You become a child of God and a member of His family when you accept Jesus as your Lord and are born again. Maybe you have a very loving mom and dad or step-parents and a wonderful family, and when you become a born-again Christian you’ll get to be in God’s family, too! Maybe you don’t have a very happy family. Maybe your parents are divorced and you are being raised by a single parent in a difficult family situation. Maybe your home life makes you feel sad sometimes. Just remember when you become a born-again Christian, you become a member also of God’s loving, healthy family and He really cares about you!

3. John 1:12-13

Who gets to become a child of God? \_\_\_\_\_

## J. HOW DO I RECEIVE JESUS?

You can receive Jesus into your life by simply inviting Him to come into your heart. Have you ever heard your friends knock on the door of your house? When you heard the knock, what did you do? You opened the door and invited them inside, right? It’s the same way with Jesus. He is knocking on the door of your heart and He wants you to answer His knock and invite Him into your life. When you receive Jesus as your Lord, you become a “Christian”! You are “saved.”



**CHRISTIAN:** This really means to be a follower of Christ. Acts 11:26 tells us about the first believers in the New Testament, who were called Christians.



**SAVED:** Generally, this means to save, to keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, to deliver or protect, heal, and preserve. When we accept Jesus as our Lord, we are saved from the penalty of our sin. We are saved from hell.

1. Revelation 3:20

What is Jesus doing? \_\_\_\_\_

What does He want us to do? \_\_\_\_\_

If we open the door to Jesus, what will He do? \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 3:16

Who can believe in Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the results of believing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Romans 10:8-10

Salvation comes from trusting whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you supposed to confess with your mouth? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you supposed to believe in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the results? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Matthew 10:32,33

What does Jesus promise if you publicly acknowledge Him? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know that God wants you to believe in Jesus from your heart, and He also wants you to say that Jesus is your Lord with your mouth?



**CONFESS:** To confess means to agree with God or to say that same thing about Jesus that God says. To confess our belief in Jesus means to agree and to say that Jesus is Lord. Confessing Jesus as Lord means that you are saying He is your Lord.

**K. JUST DO IT - TAKE ACTION**



Now it's time to just do it! Let's take action on what we have studied. Are you a Christian? Are you certain that if you were to die today you would spend eternity with God? Would you like to make the decision to invite Jesus to be the Lord of your life? Would you like Jesus to forgive you of all your sins and give you a brand new heart? Answer these two questions before we pray.

1. Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "yes" to these two questions, you are ready to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life by inviting Him into your life. When you ask Jesus into your life, you will be totally changed on the inside: in your heart. It's sort of like the caterpillar that is changed into a beautiful butterfly. God wants everyone to make this change. He wants you to become a beautiful Christian full of His life. If you have never asked Jesus into your heart before, would you like to do that now? This is the most important decision you will ever make in this life on the earth.

Asking Jesus into your heart means you can spend eternity, forever with Him now and in heaven. He wants to be your best friend and Lord, and help you with everything you do. He wants to be in the driver's seat, behind the steering wheel of your life. When you invite Him into your life, He will give you a new heart and wash away all your sins. He will become your closest friend. Are you ready to invite Jesus into your life? Let's pray this prayer together to invite Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.

*"Dear God, I come to You and I know that I need You. I have sinned and I need Your forgiveness. Jesus, I believe that You died for me on the cross and I believe that God raised You from the dead. I believe that You are Lord Jesus, and I invite you into my heart to be the Lord of my life. I thank You for forgiving all my sins and giving me a brand new heart. I am now Your child. I am born again. I am saved and now I know I will spend forever in heaven with You when I die. Thank You, Heavenly Father. Thank You, Jesus. Amen."*

Congratulations! This is the most important decision you have ever made! Jesus is now the Lord of your life! In the rest of this study, we will learn how to get to know Him better. If this is the first time you prayed a prayer to receive Jesus as your Lord, let's write it down!

Today, \_\_\_\_\_ (day/date), at \_\_\_\_\_(time)

I \_\_\_\_\_(name) prayed to receive Jesus as my Lord.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(your name)

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_(your parents/other)

# MY PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD

Pages You Can Personalize!

## The Two Most Important Dates In My Life:

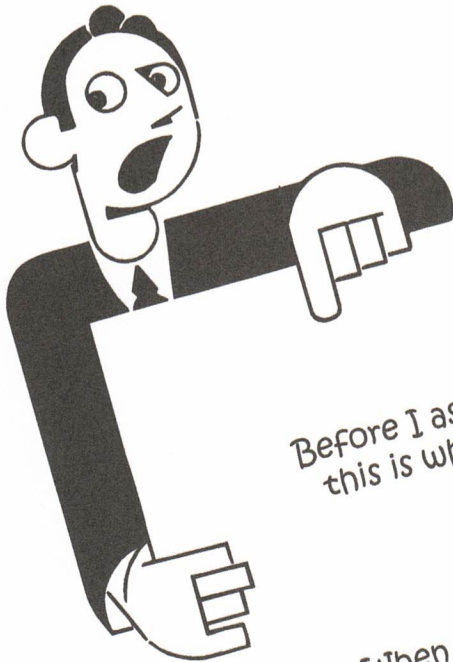
The Day I Was Born On The Earth



My Birthday:

The Day I Was Born Again And Became A Christian

My Born-Again Birthday:



### My Testimony

Before I asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life,  
this is what I remember thinking and feeling:

When I asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life,  
this is how it happened:

After I asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life,  
here's what happened:



When I Was A Baby

I was born on:

Time:

Where:

City/State:

I weighed in @:

I was this tall:

My first word was:

I took my first steps on:

