

From God’s Word: “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” (1 Peter 1:8)

Question: What words does Peter use to describe Christian joy? _____

Something to think about: What are some of the reasons for Christian joy? Is there a difference between joy and happiness? _____

Something to do: Think of different ways you can express the joy you feel. _____

Some Promises from God’s Word to Encourage You

When you have needs: And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

When you feel weak: “God is our refuge and strength, an every-present help in trouble.” (Psalms 46.1)

When you are tempted: “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)

When you need wisdom: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

When you are persecuted: "But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you” (Luke 6:27-28).

Something to do: Memorize some of the above verses so you can repeat them when you need them.

**Lesson One
A New Beginning**

The Transforming Power of Christ.

From God’s Word: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Question: How does the above Scripture verse describe the change that takes place when a person puts his/her faith in Christ for salvation?

Something to think about: Why does God want to change me? _____

Something to do: Make a list of the ways you think God may want to make changes in your life (habits, vices, speech, etc.) _____

New Spiritual Life

From God’s Word: “In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again’” (John 3:3).

Question: To what did Jesus compare the beginning of a new spiritual life?

(This is what happened to you when you believed on Jesus.)

Something to think about: What does a baby need after birth?

Something to do: Thank God for the gift of eternal life.

Peace in Place of Guilt

From God’s Word: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ...” (Romans 5:1)

Question: What happens when we have been “justified through faith?”

Something to think about: Isn't it wonderful to know that our sins are forgiven and that we are free from the guilt and penalty of them?

Something to do: Describe how it feels to know your sins are forgiven, and that you are no longer condemned by God's law. _____

The Family of God

From God's Word: "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)
"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18)
"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

Question: What right is given to those who believe on Christ? _____

Something to think about: How does a loving father treat his children?

Something to do: Pause for a moment and say a few words to your Heavenly Father (whatever you think is appropriate in the light of what He has done for you).

Values and Priorities

From the Word of God: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33)

Question: What should be the highest priority of the Christian life?

Something to think about: What are some of the implications of putting God first in my life? _____

Something to do: Make a list of what you think should be the five highest priorities in your life in order of their importance. _____

Conduct

From God's Word: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)
"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, ..." (Ephesians 4:28)
"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life." (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

Question: What are the two words in the passages above that describe the kind of life God calls us to live? _____

Something to think about: What are some of the characteristics of the new life? What things will be left behind in the old life? _____

Something to do: Prepare a brief testimony describing the new life you have just begun (the changes that have taken place). _____

Freedom

From God's Word: "Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'" (John 8:34-36)

Question: Who is a slave, and who is free? _____

Something to think about: Think of the different forms of slavery that sin leads to. _____

Something to do: Ask God to give you special strength to overcome any of the habits or vices that may have enslaved you.