

**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. \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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?

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

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

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### 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Something to think about:** Think of the different forms of slavery that sin leads to. \_\_\_\_\_

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