

STEPINFAITH MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM, INTRO:

"INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP"



Founder Kathleen J Robertson
StepInFaith Ministry

WOMENS' DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

Dear Sister:

It gives me great joy to welcome you into God's Family, and consequently, into fellowship of StepInFaith Ministry. Your decision to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the most wonderful and powerful decision you will ever make. Receiving Jesus as your personal Savior means you have chosen to follow Him and to allow Him to direct your life. God has promised eternal life to those who receive His Son. Eternal life does not just begin when you die; it begins the moment you receive Christ into your life. Eternal life means heaven when you die and a new quality of life as you live. Christ in John 10:10 calls this "abundant life." The joy of this abundant life is dependent upon your obedience to God and your willingness to submit to His will. God calls you to a life of faithfulness to Him and love for Him. Let me encourage you to always put Christ first in your life. As you do, you will know the Joy of the Christian life in all its fullness and abundance!

The first series of our study program will help you develop your familiarity with the books of the Bible, the author(s) of each, how to read them, and how to apply the principles we find in the Scriptures we encounter throughout the Bible. This program was developed to help you as you grow as a Christian. We will go over the lessons in each series as individual elements of your participation in fellowship of the Ministry, but each lesson is intended to be a consistent part of your life as you develop a better understanding of the Biblical principles contained in it. Please study it, answer the questions, read the Bible daily, pray continually, tell others about Jesus, and serve God in church. StepInFaith Ministry has a wide range of opportunities for interaction which we would love to see you taking part in! We welcome new leaders, new ideas and suggestions, and of course new members! God will help you to help others. You can bring someone to Jesus Christ just simply by living the Christian life. Let God use the life you have now given to Him.

So that if any *one* is in Christ, that *one* is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, *all* things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Founder/Instructor: Kathleen J Robertson

Your Decision for Christ

This is the greatest decision of your life. With the same faith that you received Christ you will follow Him daily (*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him* -Colossians 2:6 MKJV).

The Christian life is a new adventure every day, and you are to be obedient as Christ leads you through the opportunities and problems of life.

This study program was designed by our directors to help you in not only studying the Word of God, but also learning effective ways to apply the Word in your life!

Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved. 1 Peter 2:2 GNB

When a person is truly saved, he will be hungry to know more about the Word of God. This will only be a beginning. You will find that your interaction with the leadership and members of StepInFaith Ministry will help you understand the Word of God better as you participate in our study and fellowship opportunities.

How to Grow as a Christian

As a result of receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, you have experienced a new birth and begun a new life (*But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become the children of God, to those who believe on His name, who were born, not of bloods, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but were born of God. And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and of truth.* John 1:12-14 MKJV | *So that if any one is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* 2 Corinthians 5:17 MKJV). Your physical life did not begin as a full-grown adult, and neither will your spiritual life. When a person is first saved, he is a spiritual infant (1 Peter 2:2). The following suggestions should help you grow into a mature Christian.

BIBLE STUDY

- Food is essential to a person's physical strength and growth. In like manner, the Word of God is the spiritual food that gives us spiritual strength and growth.
 - ❖ *"So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ." (Romans 10:17 GNB).*
 - ❖ *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6 MKJV)*

(Participating in the Bible Study program is an excellent way to grow as a Christian!)

PRAYER

- Jesus said. "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).
 - ❖ If you pray, you won't faint, crumble, or give up. Your joy is dependent upon your praying. Through prayer, you should never become discouraged!
 - ❖ *"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your happiness may be complete."* (John 16:24 GNB)
- Prayer is talking to God and letting Him talk to you. If we love Him, we will find time to pray. Plan to have a daily prayer time when you can be alone with God, read your Bible, and pray.

(Participating in the Prayer Room and fellowship group discussions will encourage you in your prayer life!)

FAITHFUL CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- You need the church just as much as a baby needs parents and fellowship in the home.
- You need the help found in meeting together with your Christian family. When you surrendered to Jesus as Lord and Savior, you joined the army of Christ. No soldier can be as effective alone as with other soldiers.
 - ❖ *"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."* (Hebrews 10:25 GNB)

(Participating in the StepInFaith Ministry fellowship group will help you see the importance of the church and become more comfortable with its fellowship!)

WITNESSING

- Witnessing is sharing what you have experienced. Since you have received Christ, you can tell others how you came to know Christ, and how it affected your life.
- A few choice Scriptures would aid you in pointing others to Christ. Your job is to witness, not to argue or to win. A person with an experience is never at the mercy of a person with an argument.

(Participating in StepInFaith Ministry will encourage you to witness to others and give you the confidence to know that you can do it!)

How To Use This Program

1. Secure an easy-to-read Bible to use along with this booklet.
2. Remember that there are no trick questions. The answers are easily found in the Scripture reference given.
3. Read the questions in the booklet. Turn to the Scripture reference in your Bible and read the verses carefully. Then answer the questions, thinking carefully about the answers, and reflecting on how they affect your life and beliefs.
4. Memorize the Scripture verses suggested throughout this booklet.
5. Seek the guidance of Ministry Leaders when you do not understand. That is what they are here for!

"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." (Psalms 119:11)

Lesson 1

Christ Indwelling Your Life

When you invited the Lord Jesus into your life, He actually and literally came to live in you. Christianity is LIFE -- the life of Christ coming into you at the moment you are born again, and then living through your body each moment of each day. It is not imitating Christ; it is the indwelling of Christ. It is not trying to live like Christ; it is trusting Christ to live in and through you.

Paul said, ". . . *it is Christ who lives in me . . .*" (Galatians 2:20); and ". . . *Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God . . .*" (Colossians 1:27). He also said, "*Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory.*" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20); and "*Surely you know that Christ Jesus is in you...*" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

God's Word conclusively testifies that when you are BORN AGAIN, the Lord Jesus, as the Holy Spirit, actually comes to live in your body. Failure to realize that Christ lives in you will result in discouragement and defeat. If you think of Christ simply being near you, rather than living in you, your constant efforts will be to get closer to Him, or to get Him closer to you. However, the truth is that Christ lives in you! Know this! Believe this! Experience this!

- He is more than a helper to assist you
- He is more than a teacher to instruct you
- He is more than a friend to encourage you.
- He does more than *give* you strength; He *is* your strength. He is your **life**.

". . . *Your real life is Christ . . .*" (Colossians 3:4). His life replaces your life. As Paul said, ". . . *it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.*" (Galatians 2:20). As Jesus said, ". . . *without me you can do nothing.*" (John 15:5). This lesson has been prepared to help you realize that CHRIST LIVES IN YOU. Memorize Galatians 2:20 to remind you of this great fact.

"so that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Eternal Life

1. Why is the question, "Have you been born again?" life's most important question? (John 3:3; Romans 8:9)

2. Why did God send Jesus into the world? (John 3:16,17)
 - ❖ What is eternal life? (John 17:3)

 - ❖ Look up the word "eternal" in a dictionary and write a brief definition.

3. Why did Jesus say He came into the world? (Luke 19:10; John 10:10)
 - ❖ How do I know that He loves me enough to save me? (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)

4. How do I get Jesus to come into my life? (John 1:12)
 - ❖ What is the difference in receiving Jesus into my life and just knowing about Him?

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS: Eternal Life (Lesson 1)

These questions are to stimulate your “spiritual brain” and provide a basis for guiding you through any questions you may have about eternal life. There are no Scripture references.

- What do you feel that "conviction" means?

- In your understanding, are there any conditions on forgiveness?

- Why is Jesus our only means of coming to God?

- What does it mean to be committed to the Lord?
- What is it called when you put trust into people, objects, or money to secure your future?
- What are some ways you can avoid being tempted? What are some ways you can resist temptation when it is presented?
- Do you know the "once saved, always saved" doctrine? Do you believe this? What are your views/thoughts?
- In what ways have you noticed yourself or someone else being led down the wrong path in search of love? What can you do to avoid this trap or help others who may be caught in it?
- Why did Jesus have to die for our sins? What was the principle behind this? Explain to the best of your knowledge and understanding how Jesus' experience on the cross relates to us.

Assurance

5. What has happened because I have confessed that Jesus is my Savior and the Son of God? (1 John 4:14,15)
 - ❖ Can I know for certain that I have Christ living within me? (1 John 3:24; 1 John 5:7,10) How?
 - ❖ In what way does the Holy Spirit assure me that I am a child of God? (Romans 8:16)
6. What is one of the basic reasons God inspired the letter of I John to be written? (1 John 5:13)
7. What did Paul say about his assurance of salvation? (2 Timothy 1:12)

8. What does Christ guarantee to those in whom he comes to live? (John 10:28,29)

❖ What can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ? (Romans 8:35-39)

Obedience

9. Paul knew that Christ actually lived in him. What did he discover about how he was to experience this Christian life? (Galatians 2:20)

10. How should I behave now that Christ lives in me? (2 Corinthians 5:14,15)

❖ What should characterize my life? (Mark 12:30-31)

11. How can I show the Lord Jesus I love Him? (John 14; 21,23)

❖ What are some ways I can show others I love them? (Romans 12;10-17)

12. What has God faithfully promised if I seek, above everything else, His Lordship over my life? (Matthew 6:33)

❖ Of what did Christ warn me to beware? (Luke 12:15) Why?

13. What will happen if I use my life for my own selfishness and do not give it in service to God and man? (John 12:25,26)

14. From what I have studied, how do I know that I am a child of God and Christ lives within me?

A WARNING: Your enemy, the Devil, will try everything in his bag of tricks to keep you from finishing these lessons. Don't let him stunt your growth. Continue to participate in New Members' Classes and/or do a few questions every day -- FINISH THE JOB!

"... Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27)