Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Two

What is a Christian?

Faith, Repentance, Confession and Water Baptism

Session Goals

1. The disciple will have assurance of his/her salvation.
2. The disciple will be able to share his/her testimony.
3. The disciple will talk about their experience of being baptized or make plans to be baptized.

Get to Know Each Other

Take time to allow people to talk briefly about their work, families, and church background if any. Encourage interaction and help people to connect. These groups are relational, and it is important that people are open with each other and pray for and support each other as the weeks progress. This is a good start.

Review Action Steps from the Previous Week

- Give each member 5 minutes to share their testimony, a time limit is given to help people be concise about sharing how they came to Jesus.

- Allow members to share which topics to be covered are most interesting to them.

- Ask members what they have been reading in the Bible this past week.

What Makes You a Christian

What does the Bible say about becoming a Christian. Many terms are used by Christians about the experience of salvation. Some people will say “getting saved”,

“accepting Jesus as your Savior”, “being born again” or “regeneration”. The Bible also has many ways to describe it.

First and foremost though, salvation only comes through Jesus.

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.”

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which you must be saved.”

Becoming a Christian = Being Born Again

John 3:3 “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ. He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

1 Peter 1:3: “Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.”

John 1:13 “Who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

From MorningStar’s statement of faith:

“Being born again implies a new beginning not an ending. Christian maturity and faith, truth and life are a process. Even so, this process must begin with spiritual regeneration or new birth. While it is possible to change our behavior without regeneration, changing our hearts requires the new birth, and it’s our heart upon which God looks.”

Becoming a Christian = Believing in Him

A Christian can be known as a 'believer'.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Acts 16:31 "And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life."

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life."

Becoming a Christian = Repentance from Your Sin and Receiving His Forgiveness

Acts 2:38 "Peter replied, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Colossians 2:13 "When you were dead, in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,"

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Acts 26:20 "I preached … that all must repent of their sins and turn to God and prove that they have changed by the good things they do."

Becoming a Christian = Receiving a Gift of God through Faith

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Luke 7:50 "And he said to the woman, 'your faith has saved you go in peace'."

Romans 3:28 "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law."

Romans 3:24 "And all are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"

Becoming a Christian = Becoming a Child of God

John 1:12 "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 4:7 "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"

Becoming a Christian= Confessing with Your Mouth

Romans 10: 9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved; For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

The testimonies shared earlier were demonstrations of confessing with your mouth. Discuss in the group what they included.

Water Baptism

Romans 6:4 "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."

1 Peter 3:21 "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Colossians 2:12 "Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead."

Mark 16:15-16 "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. "

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Baptism is a command and was demonstrated by Jesus and all His disciples. Of course, we know that people come to Jesus on their deathbeds so like the thief on the cross they did not have an opportunity for baptism. However, the verses above demonstrate its importance.

Ask disciples if they have been water baptized since conversion, if necessary, talk about the difference between that and infant baptism.

Encourage individuals that haven't been baptized to make plans to be baptized, this can be done within the group even if it is online.

Allow time to talk about concerns and pray for each other in this and all sessions.

Action Steps

- Share your testimony with someone this week. Let us know next week the response you receive.

- Make plans to be baptized if The Holy Spirit is prompting you.