

Further Steps – Week 2 – Establishing the New Life

Connect and review	Notes
<p>What did we learn last week from 2 Co 5:21? <i>Who did live up to God's perfect standard? Why is this significant for us?</i></p>	
Inspire and engage	
<p>1. New Birth When you accepted Christ as your saviour you became a <i>new creation</i>. You have a new life. God has graciously given a new, everlasting, life to those who will accept the death of Jesus on their behalf. As we read the following passages, make a note of the questions you have. <u>John 3 verses 1-7 and 2nd Corinthians 5 verse 17.</u></p> <p>2. New Conduct Having received such grace from God we shall want to live in obedience to Him. This change of resolve is called <i>repentance</i>. We cannot undo our past mistakes, but since God has forgiven them, we can put those behind us (subject to making any needed reparations that are within our power). We are likely to make more mistakes, but God continues to forgive provided we continue to repent and have faith in Christ as Saviour. <i>Bible Reading: Acts 2 verse 37-38.</i></p> <p>3. A new relationship When we are <i>born again</i> we become God's <i>child</i>. ("To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1 verse 12 NLT). He looks after us as a good father looks after the children he loves. The Bible says we can call God "Abba" (Galatians 4 verse 6), which is an intimate expression by which a Hebrew child called his or her father.</p> <p>4. Declaring the new life. The way Jesus told us to declare you have made this life change is by baptism – signifying death to the old life and rising to the new. The Holy Spirit will help you live this new life. <i>Bible reading: Acts 2 verse 37-38, 41.</i></p>	
Explore and apply	
<p>Explore <i>Question 1:</i> Nicodemus was puzzled by Jesus' statement that a person must be <i>born again</i>. How would you explain this to him?</p> <p><i>Question 2:</i> If God forgives our sins, does it matter if we continue to do what we like, whether right or wrong? (See <u>Romans 6 verse 1-2</u> and verse 16-17 if appropriate).</p> <p><i>Question 3:</i> How do you think our relationship with God affects our prayer?</p> <p><i>Question 4:</i> The Holy Spirit, mentioned in these verses, is the Spirit of God, who helps us live the new life. Why do you think we need help?</p> <p>Apply <i>Exercise:</i> In what ways does baptism suggest/symbolise the following? a)Repentance, b)Dying to the old life, c)A new life, d)Washing away sin</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Have you been baptised by immersion or attended the baptism of someone who has? Can you share with the group something of your emotions or thoughts about the event?</p>	
Reflect and review	
<p>1. <i>To think about during the week:</i> Are there any behaviours in my life that are not fitting to my new life in Christ and I ought to break away from? How am I going to get help with this? (remember – no one expects you do to do things insolation or in your own strength!)</p> <p>2. What has stood out to you today? What takeaways will you remember?</p> <p>3. Finally, if there are any questions that we didn't get to during our session, consider exploring them, and reading the scriptures suggested.</p>	