

session five

what is a Christian?

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SESSION FOUR

Faith is a normal part of everyone's life - we put our trust in things and people everyday.

Faith in Jesus connects us to God, removes our sin and puts us right with God. It's a relationship with a real God that makes a real difference in life.

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" JOHN 10:10

He didn't say He had come to bring a religious strait-jacket, to make life more difficult and give us impossible goals.

He didn't say He had come to make us feel guilty, constantly aware of our failure and short-comings.

Jesus came to give life... new life!



Q: In your opinion, what makes a person a Christian?

It is important to know that you are not a Christian because of the things you do – but because of what you believe. And because you believe, Jesus will give you a new heart and a new life.

CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

Have you ever heard the saying “a leopard cannot change his spots”? We cannot change ourselves without God. Without God’s help we always remain sinners. Unless there is a change, we have no power to live any different than before. We need a change from the inside out – only Jesus can do that!

Example:

If I were to take a donkey, put him in a posh stable, feed him the best food, groom him and file his hooves; I would still have a donkey – albeit, a very good looking one!

I could let him hang out with racehorses, spend hours a day training him, put him on the racecourse, but he would still behave and run like a donkey!

Or, I could take a racehorse and treat him like a donkey, put a big straw hat on him and allow children to ride him up and down the beach, but he would still be a racehorse. Give him a chance and he would charge around at great speed!

Each animal would reflect his own nature and ability.

Before we receive new life from Jesus, we are prone to sin - it’s our nature. We don’t want to, but inevitably we end up doing the things we don’t want to do.

Q: Have you ever tried to change your behaviour and failed? (Think New Year resolutions!)

We cannot change ourselves, but the moment we receive Jesus He changes us. He gives us a new nature and ability. We are no longer prone to sin, we have a desire to please God and do the right things.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

**A Christian isn’t just a better person,
he is a new person!**



This is what happens:

WHAT YOU WERE

WHAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST

A slave to sin
(ROMANS 6:6)

Set free from sin
(ROMANS 6:7)

Under the power of darkness
(COLOSSIANS 1:13)

Free in God's kingdom of love
(COLOSSIANS 1:13)

Separated from God,
without hope (EPHESIANS 2:12)

United with God in Christ
(1 CORINTHIANS 6:17)

Rejected and guilty
(JOHN 3:18)

Accepted and blameless
(EPHESIANS 1:4)

An enemy of God
(COLOSSIANS 1:21)

God's child, loved and forgiven
(JOHN 1:12)

This is an amazing transformation...
that's why it's called AMAZING GRACE!

Grace actually means 'unearned and undeserved favour from God'. This is what He gives everyone who chooses to believe.

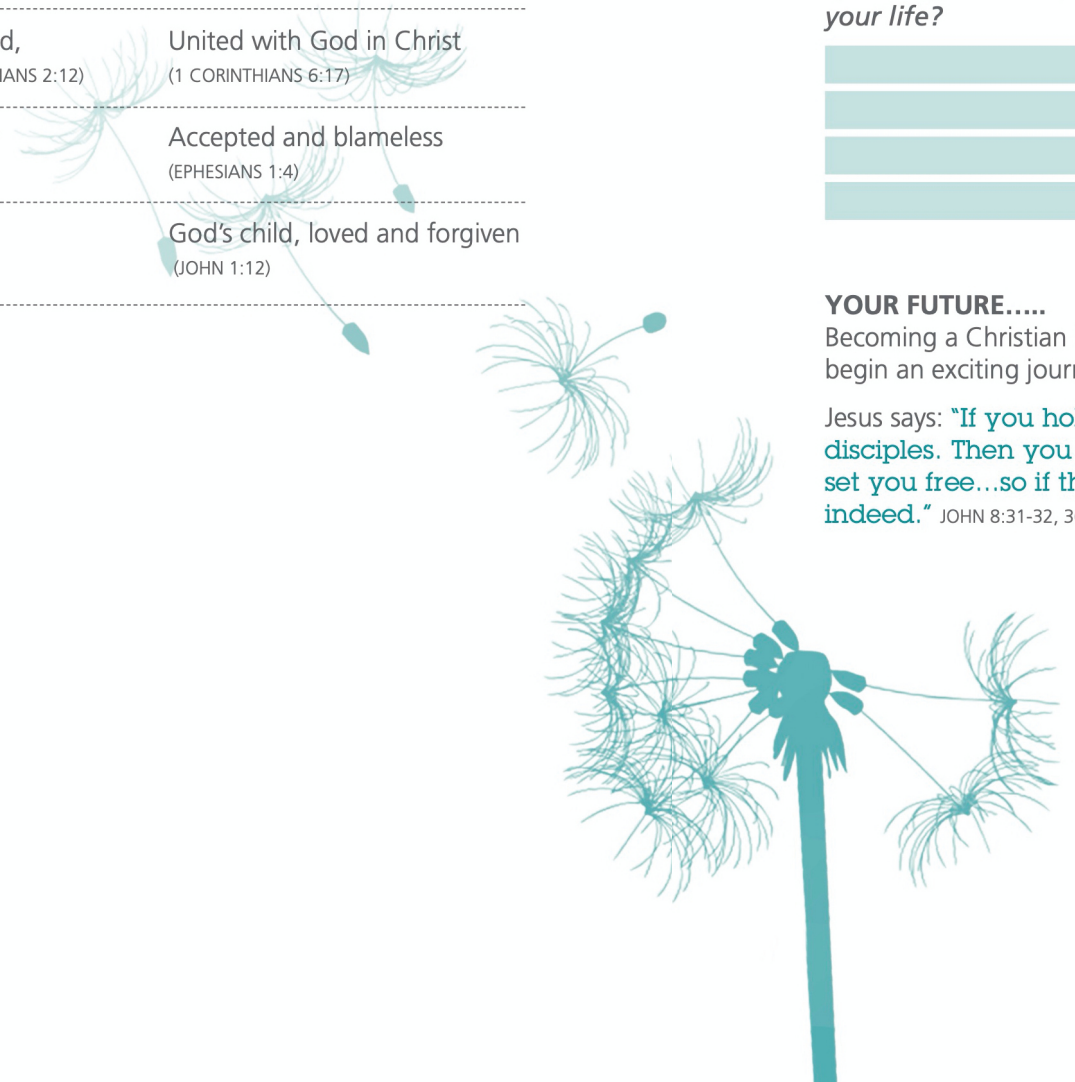
Q: Having read this, how does becoming a Christian change your life?

Four horizontal teal bars for writing an answer to the question above.

YOUR FUTURE.....

Becoming a Christian is the best decision you will ever make. You begin an exciting journey full of LIFE and FREEDOM!

Jesus says: "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free...so if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." JOHN 8:31-32, 36



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Three things we recommend:

1. **Get hold of a bible.** Continue to read about what Jesus teaches - it will set you free!
2. **Keep meeting with other Christians.** They will encourage you in your new faith. God's plan for His children is to be part of a local church. (*Choose a church that teaches truth from the bible and demonstrates the reality of Jesus today.*)
3. **Pray.** Speak to God about your life and circumstances. He will help you, speak to you and lead you in the right direction.

Remember, this is how to start a brand new life. A Christian has **peace** with God and access to all His love, ability and provision. He wants to show that He is a good Father to you, willing and able to help. He also wants to show you His great plan for your life - it will bless you and the world around you!

It's... **a life worth living**

