

NEW BELIEVERS CLASS LEADERS GUIDE

Introduction

The purpose of the new believers class is to give those who have recently received Christ the basics of the Christian faith. The material is designed in such a way that it can be adjusted for use with any age group. The material can also be used in either a classroom setting or on an individual basis. It is not recommended that the students go through the material by themselves, but the students should be taught by a mature believer who is prepared to answer any questions the student might have.

The material is divided into five lessons. Each lesson should take between forty-five minutes to an hour to complete. The following suggestions will help the class to go smoothly.

1. Make sure each student has a Bible. If they do not have one, then consider providing one for the student. Many of the activities are designed for the students to familiarize themselves with the Scriptures.
2. Open and close each session with prayer. Encourage students to participate in this time.
3. Have a comfortable setting free from distractions.
4. Make sure each student has something to write with and puts their name on the booklet.
5. Make sure the students interact with the teacher. Try to include each student in reading Scriptures, answering questions, or praying in class.
6. Memorizing Bible verses during this time can help the students understand the material better. The verses found on page 38 would be a good start.

7. Use visual props such as a marker board or overhead projector to keep the students focused.

8. Be sensitive to the background of each student.

9. Have fun.

Printing the booklets

Each booklet can be printed on any printer. Make sure to print just the odd pages first, then turn the paper over and print the even pages so that it turns out the way you want it. You can print the title page on cardstock in order to give the book a little more stability. The easiest way to bind the book is with a long-arm stapler that can be found at your office supply store.

Session 1: Born Again

The purpose of this session is to solidify the student's knowledge of what it means to have received Christ as his or her savior. If a student is not sure, this is a good opportunity to present the plan of salvation to the student. Make sure each student has a Bible for this class.

Who is Jesus? (page 3) Each session begins with a basic question. This is a time when you can find out what the students know. As each student gives a response, write the answer on a board or overhead. The students can copy them on this page of the book. Use this time as an opportunity to begin teaching the students about who Jesus is. Make sure that the student knows that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior, that He became a man to die for the sins of everyone, and that He is love. Explain the differences between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

How can I be saved? (page 4) Before teaching this page, review John 3 and the story of Nicodemus.

The plan of salvation (pages 5 to 8) Make sure that the students understand each page before moving on. Do not assume that the student knows the "church" words such as *sin*, *works*, and *salvation*.

Receiving Jesus (page 9) Most of your students should have already done this, but there may be some who have not. Make sure that the student knows that their is nothing "magic" about saying the words in the prayer, but that if they truly mean what they say, then they will have a real change in their life.

You are certain you have eternal life (page 10) Many people who have received Christ have doubts about their salvation. This page is to let them know that they can be sure of their salvation if they have truly turned their life over to Christ.

The day I received Jesus as my savior (page 11) The day that this happened is a day to remember. Having each student write it down will help him or her to remember all the details. Many students will want to share it with the rest of the class.

Session 2: The Bible

The purpose of this session is to make sure that each student is familiar with the Bible and with how to use the Bible. Make sure that the students understand that the Bible is not just an ordinary book.

What is the Bible? (page 13) Make sure that the student knows that the Bible is God's Word, was written by people, and tells us about Jesus.

Bible Quiz (page 14) Each student should use the Bible to answer these questions. This can be done individually or in groups. Let the students discover the answers instead of giving it to them. Review the questions with the students.

The Old Testament and The New Testament (pages 15 and 16) These pages give just a few facts about the Bible that the student might not know.

Purpose of the Bible (page 17) Use 2 Timothy 3:16 to tell the students why it's important to read Scripture.

Memorizing Scripture (page 18) Look these verses up. This may be a good place to have the students memorize scripture. This may also be a good time to begin introducing daily Bible reading to the students.

Session 3: Prayer

The purpose of this session is to teach the student to communicate with God daily.

What is prayer? (page 21) Teach the students that prayer is communicating with God and can be done alone or in groups.

People who prayed (page 22) This page could be done in groups or individually. An emphasis should be placed on the total devotion that each of the people in the Bible had to God. Make sure to review these passages before it is presented to class.

What is prayer? (page 23) Make sure that the student does not think that prayer is just getting God to do something, but it is real communication.

When do we pray? (page 24) Draw a line to match the verse. Acts 2:42 goes to "At Church." Matthew 6:6 goes to "Alone." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 goes to "All the Time."

How do we pray? (page 25) Using the example Jesus used, this acrostic can be a tool to help the student pray.

Planning to pray (page 26) This page emphasizes that the student can pray throughout the day. This is also a chance to introduce the student to a daily devotional time.

Now is a good time to provide a sample of devotional material that the student can use.

Session 4: The Church

The purpose of this session is to give the student knowledge of the church and that there is a place for him or her to serve in the church.

What is the church? Emphasize the establishment of the church by Jesus and its purpose in sharing the gospel with the entire world. Do not get bogged down by denominations, but be prepared to deal with questions concerning them. Emphasize both the larger world church and the local community.

The church in Acts (page 29) The book of acts gives the example of what the church should be. Encourage the students to participate by dividing into groups.

Finding your place in the body (page 30) This is a chance for the student to see what he or she can do in the church right now.

Baptism (page 31) If the student has not been baptized, this is a good section to encourage it. Be prepared to answer questions from students with different faith backgrounds. Do not argue, but let the Scriptures do the speaking.

The Lord's Supper (page 32) Encourage the students to participate in the next Lord's supper.

Session 5: Sharing Your Faith

The purpose of this session is to give the students ideas and tools that they can use to share their faith with others.

How Do I Share My Faith? (page 34) This is a good time to let the students know that they do not have to be Billy Graham to share their faith, but they can do it by just being themselves.

Be an example of faith (page 35) Remind the students that the first way to show faith is through example. On this page, give a definition of each word.

Fruit of the Spirit (page 36) Tell the students about the Holy Spirit indwelling each believer. Draw a line between the fruit and the example of that fruit (try to find the one that best fits--some examples might cover more than one fruit, but the answers are below).

LOVE: You don't hate people who are different than you.

JOY: You are happy about knowing Jesus.

PEACE: You know in your heart that you are going to heaven.

PATIENCE: You help teach the Bible to a group of active six-year olds.

KINDNESS: You help deliver food on a Friday.

GOODNESS: You help a young child with his or her homework.

FAITHFULNESS: You read your Bible everyday.

GENTLENESS: You hug your mother when she has a bad day.

SELF-CONTROL: Someone is mean to you, but you are not mean back.

Ways to share your faith (page 37) Sharing your faith with others can be as simple as inviting a friend to church or praying for someone when they are hurting. Tell the students that sharing their faith is not complicated. Have them think of ways that they can do it. Challenge them to do it that week.

Have a plan (page 38) If the students have been memorizing these verses, now they can practice them. Try playacting with the students to use these verses in sharing the gospel.