

New Life Vineyard

Pathway into Discipleship

Lesson 1

How Can I Be Sure?

Key Verse

1 John 5:11-13

¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1. According to this verse, what is the basis for having eternal life?
2. Verse 13 says, "...in order that you may know that you have eternal life." Can we really be sure? Why or why not?

So many people get hung up on the bad things they have done or on "not being good enough." These are man-made religious concepts. God does not sit on His throne looking at the scales that weigh your good deeds versus your bad deeds. *Romans 3:23* says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The problem isn't that we've done too many bad things or not enough good deeds, the problem is that we have sinned. That is what separated us from God. *Romans 6:23* says, "The wages of sin is death." But the good news is that *Romans 5:8* says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." It is not what we do, but what He did for us that gains us eternal life. Look at the second part of *Romans 6:23*. Here, eternal life is described as a "free gift." How do you earn a free gift? How does a free gift actually become yours? (see also *John 1:12*)

3. How does it make you feel to know that God demonstrated His love for you by having Jesus pay the penalty for your sins?

You have been given a priceless gift. The Bible tells us that once we receive Christ as our Savior, we are to make the public declaration of our faith by being baptized (Acts 2:41, Matthew 28:18-20). Have you been baptized since you put your faith in Christ? Are you ready to take that next step of obedience?

Questions for Review

1. Look up Ephesians 2:8-10. What role do good works have in the life of a believer in Jesus?
2. Are there any things in your past that are so bad you have feared God could not forgive you? The one we often refer to as Saint Paul or the Apostle Paul also had a past. You can read about it in Acts 7:58-8:3. He was called Saul when he was younger. In Paul's own testimony in 1 Timothy 1:15-16, he called himself unworthy and the chief of sinners. He persecuted the church and killed Christians, yet Paul was forgiven. Everything you have done can be forgiven and has been forgiven if you've received Jesus as your Savior.
3. Explain John 3:16 in your own words.
4. Does God love you? Look up what Romans 8:32,38,39 says about His love for you.

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Leader's Guide and Related Resources

Purpose

The key in this lesson is to help new believers understand that the basis of their salvation is not what they do but what Jesus did for them. Salvation is a gift, and if they receive Jesus, they can know that they have eternal life.

Additional Scripture

It is important that you are familiar with the Scriptures in this lesson, but it is also good to have some additional verses to help you understand and explain the important truths in this lesson.

- 1 Peter 1:3-4
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Titus 3:4-7
- Acts 7:58-8:3
- 1 Timothy 1:15-16
- John 3:16
- Romans 8:32-39

Additional Resources

1. *Knowing God Personally* booklet
2. A readable version of the Bible. If they do not have their own, get them one from the church office.

Answers to Questions

1. To have eternal life, we must have the Son. In other words, we have to receive Christ as our Savior.
2. We can be sure because it is not based on what we do, but it is based on what Jesus' finished work on the cross. Our debt for sin is already paid.
3. A free gift still has to be accepted. I have the option of taking a free gift or not taking it.
4. The answer here will tell you something about where their heart is. Hopefully, they will understand and express appreciation.
5. New believers should take the step of obedience and make a public declaration of their faith. Baptism is a physical and visible demonstration of our identification with Jesus' death and resurrection.

Answers to Review Questions

1. We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, but they are not for salvation. Works are to reflect the change that has taken place in the heart of a believer in Jesus.
2. Romans 8:1
3. God's love for us was so great that He was willing to pay the ultimate price for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His son in our place.
4. Yes, but some people will have an issue with this. If they hedge on their answer, it may be based on bad experiences growing up. Use the listed Scripture to reassure them. Hebrews 13:5 also says, "...because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"