

Introduction

In the natural world, we instinctively recognize the vulnerability of the very young. We've all seen nature documentaries that emphasize the danger that the fawn or sea turtle hatchling is in from the moment it comes into the world. In our own experience, we are quite familiar with the many threats that endanger the life of a newborn baby if it is not constantly protected and cared for.

Sadly, what is true in the natural world is also true in the spiritual world. Just as the life of the newborn is fragile, so too is the life of the babe in Christ. Satan does not give new Christians a 10-year grace period in which to mature before he attacks. Instead, from the moment we decide to put on Christ, he relentlessly pursues each one of us. He loves to catch us at our most weak and vulnerable.

This lesson book is designed to lessen the vulnerability of the new Christian. It takes a big-picture look at what it means to be a Christian and the things that will stand in our way, so that new converts can answer the question, "Where do I go from here?"

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Where Do I Go from Here?

Lesson One: Who Am I?

In this lesson, we're going to examine the way that our identity changes once we become Christians—whether we realize it or not.

Questions

For each of the seven Scriptures given below, write down what that Scripture tells us about Christians. Then, explain the way that new identity should change the way we think about ourselves and act.

1. Romans 8:16-17.

2. John 10:31.

3. 1 Peter 2:9-10.

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4. Philippians 3:20.

5. Romans 6:17-18.

6. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

7. Matthew 5:14-16.

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Lesson Two: How Do I Live?

This lesson is a big-picture study of what it means to live a Christian life. Its focus is not on obedience to specific commandments, but on the general principles that determine our behavior as disciples.

Questions

1. What does 1 Peter 4:3-5 tell us about the way that we aren't supposed to live anymore? Why not? Where is it easy for us to obey this command? Where is it difficult?
2. By contrast, what does 1 John 2:3-5 tell us we are supposed to do? What example does John provide? On a daily basis, what does it mean to do this?
3. Below are four Scriptures that describe four of the most important Christian virtues. Next to each Scripture, write the virtue in question, define it, and describe how we need to put it into practice.
 - 1 Peter 1:15-16.

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4. 1 Corinthians 15:58.
5. Matthew 28:19-20.
6. 1 Corinthians 10:31.
7. 1 Timothy 6:12.

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Lesson Six: What Are My Goals?

All of these things we are supposed to do as Christians aren't just a flurry of pointless activity. Instead, we do these things to fulfill God's purposes. This lesson discusses some of the most important.

Questions

Each one of the Scriptures listed below mentions an important spiritual goal. Name that goal, describe why it's important, and list some things we can do to reach it.

1. Acts 5:29.

2. 1 Peter 2:21.

3. 1 Peter 2:2.

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- Ephesians 5:15-16.

- Hebrews 12:1-3.

- Ephesians 5:1-2.

4. According to Ephesians 4:13, to what extent are we supposed to possess these virtues? How long will it take to get there? What does this teach us?

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Lesson Three: What Do I Face?

Sadly, however, the road to heaven is not a gentle walk strewn with flowers. There are a number of obstacles that every Christian needs to overcome. This lesson looks at the most significant.

Questions

1. What adversary to all Christians is presented in 1 Peter 5:8? How is he described? What does this mean? Why is it important?
2. What main tool of the devil is described in 1 Thessalonians 3:5? How does this tool work? James 1:13-15 may help you answer? Why do we need to understand its workings?
3. What further classification of our temptations appears in 1 John 3:5? What are these temptations? How do they appear in our lives? Why is it important to recognize them?

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Jude 3.

Likewise, the three verses below discuss three common-sense methods of figuring out God's will from the Bible. In your own words, describe each method. Then, say whether you think it's logically valid or not. Explain why.

1. 1 Timothy 6:13-14.
2. Philippians 3:17.
3. Matthew 22:31-32.

Where Do I Go from Here?

Lesson Five: What About the Bible?

Of all the sources of help mentioned in the previous lesson, the Bible is the one that unlocks all the others. We need to know, then, what the Bible is and how we should read it.

Questions

Below are four verses that describe some important characteristic of the Bible. For each verse, list that characteristic and describe why it is important to us.

1. 2 Peter 1:20-21.

2. Ephesians 3:4.

3. 2 Timothy 3:17.

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4. What other tool of the devil is presented in 1 Corinthians 15:33? What effect does it have? How often does it have this effect? What should we learn from this?

5. According to James 1:2-3, what else will the devil try to use against us? How can this work to the devil's advantage? How can it work instead to God's advantage? What do we need to do in situations like these?

6. What specific kind of trial does Paul address in 2 Timothy 3:12? How likely are we to encounter this? What forms can it take? What do we need to do about it? How?

7. What final sort of diabolical instrument does Paul discuss in Galatians 5:13-15? What makes this tool of the devil especially dangerous? What are some different ways in which it may appear? How should we react to it? Why?

Where Do I Go from Here?

Lesson Four: Where Do I Find Help?

With all of these forces arrayed against the new Christian, our prospects for continued survival seem bleak. Thankfully, the forces arrayed to protect us are even more powerful. Here's what they are.

Questions

1. According to Hebrews 2:18, who is One who is always able to come to our help? How does He stack up against our adversary? Why is it important to remember this?
2. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, what is one thing that God does not allow to happen to us? Instead, what is always available? Why? How should this change our behavior when we are tempted?
3. What subject is under discussion in Psalm 119:104? What does it do? What result does this have? What application do we need to make from this? How?

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4. What other weapon against temptation appears in 1 Thessalonians 5:17? How is it a logical counterpart to study of God's word? When can we use it? How much should we use it? Why?
5. According to Hebrews 10:25, what are we not to do? What reasons does Hebrews 10:24-25 give for this? How often should we seek to obey this command? How does this help in our battle against the devil? Why?
6. Even outside the assembly, what weapon against temptation is described in 1 Thessalonians 5:11? How should our understanding of this weapon change our behavior?
7. Even more specifically, according to James 5:16, what help can we find from other Christians? What are some barriers to receiving this help? How can we overcome them? Why is it important to do so?