

What are some STEPS TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH ?

Introducing the topic: Ask one of the converts to come up and rock your baby doll.

After a student has trusted Christ as Savior, he or she can be compared with a newborn baby. Indeed, the new Christian IS a newborn baby in God's family. Just as a baby is weak and limited and dependent, the new Christian is also, in a spiritual sense. Just as a baby grows slowly, learns and develops skills over time, so the new believer has much to learn and many ungodly habits to change. We can help new believers by gradually, slowly, giving them tiny, bite-sized pieces of teaching. This can be done by adding a small special section to your lesson each week, but meeting with a few of them at another time during the week, or by meeting with them privately in their homes with these bits of teaching. We suggest one (sometimes two, if they are related) topics per week.

Read the Bible verses with them, ask questions to help them understand and digest what the verses say, challenge them to obedience and growth in this area, and pray with them about each issue. It is also wise to ask about their progress in areas you have already learned about.

Here are some suggested topics. After the first two, they can be taken in any order, depending on the needs in the life of the students.

PLEASE—THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. These are topics that provide opportunity for growth. They are not ways to get saved. They are not requirements for salvation. They do not keep one saved. They do not help one to keep saved. When someone is truly saved, he will want to begin to learn what pleases God. These are ways of pleasing God as a Christian, ways of growing as a Christian. Present them as exciting opportunities and not as a list of rules that have to be observed.

1. SALVATION—Understand thoroughly what you did when you invited Jesus into your life.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 5:24 (NKJV)

- Who is speaking in this verse? (Jesus)
- He begins with the words, "Most assuredly I say to you." What phrases might we use to emphasize that we are absolutely telling the truth and that what we are saying is very important?
- Jesus says that to have life we have to do two things. What? (Hear His word and believe in Him who sent Jesus)
- Who has sent Jesus? (God His Father)
- When we hear and believe, what three things happen? (1. We have everlasting life, 2. We shall not come into judgment, 3. We pass from death unto life.)
- When we hear and believe, we HAVE everlasting life. Is the verb HAVE present or future? (Present) What does that mean? (We don't have to wait till we die or till we get better. We have everlasting life right at the moment that we believe.)
- When we hear and believe, what kind of life do we have? (Everlasting life)
- Can everlasting life have an end? (No, it lasts forever.)
- When we hear and believe in Jesus, we are assured that something will never happen. What? (We will not pass into judgment.)
- What is judgment? (God tries us or punishes us for our sin.)
- Will believers in Jesus ever experience God's judgment? (No, we shall not come into judgment.)

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What are some steps to Christian growth for new believers in Christ? (Detailed with Scripture & explanation)

- This verse describes a big change. Believers in Jesus have passed from something to something. What? (From death into life.)
- What word describes our lives before we came to Jesus? (Death)
- What word describes our lives after believing in Jesus? (Life)
- What does this verse mean to you? According to this verse, what change came to you when you believed in Jesus?

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Cor 5:17 (NKJV)

- How is believing in Jesus described in this verse? (As being in Christ)
- What has passed away when we believe in Jesus? (Old things, that is, the old life)
- What are parts of YOUR old life before you knew Jesus that need to pass away?
- When you believe in Jesus, what has become new? (All things)
- What does this verse mean to you? What changes took place when you believed in Jesus?

2. ASSURANCE—Be assured of your salvation on the basis of what God’s Word says.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV)

- To whom did John write his letter called 1 John? (To those who believe in the name of the Son of God)
- In whose name did they believe? (The Son of God)
- What, then, is another name for Jesus? (The Son of God)
- Did John write so that we may THINK we have eternal life, or HOPE we might have eternal life, or KNOW that we do have eternal life? (So that we may know that we have eternal life)
- What is the difference between thinking and hoping and knowing (knowing is for sure—it implies certainty)
- Is KNOW present tense or future tense? Do we know now or will we know someday, like maybe after we die? (We may know now, in the present.)
- What can we know? (That we have eternal life.)
- What kind of life can we know that we have? (Eternal life)
- John also wrote so that we may continue to do something. What? (Continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.)
- How does this verse give assurance of salvation to you if you have believed in Jesus? (It says you can know you have eternal life.)

3. PRAYER—Pray to God every day. Ask for His help and guidance. Seek help from God alone, not from other holy people, ancestors, spirits, angels, or saints.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:6-7 (NKJV)

- What are we supposed to be anxious about? (Nothing)

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- What is another word for being anxious? (Being worried or troubled)
- What are we to pray about? (Everything, all our requests)
- How do we make our requests known to God? (By prayer and supplication)
- What is supplication? (Strong prayer for others)
- What should we include with our prayers? (Thanksgiving)
- To whom should we make our prayers? (to God)
- When we pray to God, what will guard our hearts and minds? (The peace of God)
- How big is God's peace that will guard our hearts? (Very large—it passes all understanding)
- When we pray to God, His peace will guard our hearts and what else? (Our minds)
- How will this happen? (Through Jesus Christ)

12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Eph 3:12 (NKJV)

- When this verse says “in whom,” who is the whom? (Jesus)
- Who has boldness and access to God with confidence? (We do who have faith in Him.)
- What two things do we have in Christ? (Boldness and Access with confidence)
- Why might people outside of Christ be afraid to come to God? (Because of their sin)
- In contrast to sinners who come to God timidly if at all, how can we come to God (Boldly)
- What does access mean? (It means we have an open door to God. We have a right to come into His presence.)
- We don't just have access. We have access with what? (Access with confidence)
- What does confidence imply? (It implies we are not afraid. We expect to be accepted.)
- How do we get this boldness and confidence? (Through faith in Jesus.)
- What does this verse tell us about prayer? (We can come to God boldly and with confidence when we believe in Jesus. We don't need to be afraid.)

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Luke 4:8 (NKJV)

- Who is speaking in this verse? (Jesus)
- To whom is Jesus speaking? (to Satan)
- Does Jesus accept what Satan is telling Him? (No, Jesus tells Satan to get behind Him.)
- Jesus says “For it is written.” What book is He quoting from? (The Old Testament, part of the Bible)
- According to the Bible, who is the only one we are to worship and serve? (The Lord our God)
- If we are only to worship God, is it OK to worship idols? Spirits? Angels? Ancestors? (No)
- Why not? (Because we are to worship only God, not anyone else)
- Who else have you worshipped in the past?
- What does God want you to do now? (Stop worshipping them, start worshipping God only.)

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

1 Tim 2:5 (NKJV)

- How many Gods are there? (One, only one.)
- How many mediators are there between God and men? (One, only one.)
- What is a mediator? (Someone who goes between two people to bring them together.)

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What are some steps to Christian growth for new believers in Christ? (Detailed with Scripture & explanation)

- Who needs to be brought together? (God and men)
- Why do we need to be brought together? (Because our sin has separated us from God or given us a problem with God)
- Who are some others that people use as Mediators? (Mary, saints, priests, diviners, etc.)
- Why are Christians not to use these as Mediators? (Because there is only one mediator)
- Who is the only Mediator between God and men? (the Man Christ Jesus)
- In 1 John 5:13 we saw that Jesus was called the Son of God. In this verse He is called the Man. Which is He? (He both.)
- What other mediators have you used in the past?
- What changes would God want you to make now that you have believed in Jesus?

4. THE BIBLE—Read or listen to the Bible, the Word of God, every day.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

- The verse is talking about a group of believers in one town called Berea. It compares them with believers in another town, Thessalonica. What good words does it use to describe the believers in Berea? (More fair-minded)
- Why were they more fair-minded? (1. They received the word with readiness, and 2. They searched the Scriptures daily to find out if what they were hearing was so.)
- What was good about the way they received the word? (They received it with readiness.)
- What is the difference between a heart that is ready to receive the Word and one that is not? (One has prepared himself to listen and one has not.)
- How did they find out if what they were hearing was true? (They searched the Scriptures.)
- What are the Scriptures? (The Christian Bible)
- How often did they search the Scriptures?
- What are some ways we could search the Scriptures? (Read the Bible, ask others to read it to us, go to church where we hear it read, pay close attention whenever it is read, listen to cassette recordings of the Bible, think about the Bible verses we have already heard.)
- If what they heard didn't agree with what the Bible said, then what? (Then it wasn't so.)

"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19 (NKJV)

- Who is speaking here? (Jesus)
- Who will be called least in the kingdom of heaven? (Those who break the least of God's commandments and teach others to do the same.)
- Who will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (Those who do or keep God's commandments and teach others to do the same.)
- How many of God's commands are important? (All of them, even the least.)
- What does this verse teach us about God's Word?
- What response is God looking for to His Word?

But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

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Luke 4:4 (NKJV)

- Who is speaking? (Jesus)
 - Jesus says “it is written.” Where is it written? (In the Bible.)
 - The Bible says we cannot live by bread alone. We also need what? (The Word of God)
 - How often do you need food? (Every day, several times a day.)
 - How often do you need God’s Word? (Every day.)
 - What will you do to get more of God’s Word in your life?
5. **EVERYDAY LIFE—Do everything in your everyday life with the motive and goal of please Jesus.**

And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

2 Cor 5:15 (NKJV)

- Whom is this verse talking about? (Jesus)
- For whom did Jesus die? (For all)
- After He died, what unusual thing happened? (He rose again.)
- Should believers live for themselves, just to please themselves? (No, they should live no longer for themselves.)
- Then for whom should we live? (We should live for Jesus who died for us.)
- What does it mean to live for Jesus?
- What are some ways people live for themselves?
- What are some ways you have lived for yourself?
- What will you do now to live for Jesus?

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13 (NKJV)

- What kinds of temptations do we face in life? (Only temptations that are common to man.)
- In times of temptation, whose faithfulness can we rely upon?
- Temptation may seem very strong, but will God ever allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure? (No, He promises He will not do that.)
- When God allows temptation in our lives, what will He also give us? (A way of escape)
- Why does He give us a way of escape? (So that we may be able to bear the temptation.)
- If we give in to temptation, whose fault is it—Gods or ours? (Our own fault.)
- Why might we not take the way of escape God gives? (Maybe we don’t look for it, maybe we want to do the wrong thing.)
- Can we ever blame God when we give in to temptation? (No, because He always provides a way of escape.)
- What will you remember next time your face temptation?
- What will you look for?
- If you can remember the teaching of this verse, how can it help you when you face temptation?
- What are some temptations people commonly face?
- What are some temptations you have faced in your life?
- What are some temptations you are facing right now?

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- How will you face temptation differently from now on?
6. **WHEN YOU DO WRONG (SIN)—When you realize you have done something wrong, even what seems like a very small thing, you should understand that this is sin and it does not please Jesus. It breaks your fellowship with Him. Therefore, you should confess your sin to God right away. Ask God for forgiveness. Only He can forgive and restore you.**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

- When we have sinned, what should we do? (Confess our sins.)
- To whom should we confess? (To God, because He is the One who will forgive us.)
- What is confessing our sin? (It is agreeing with God that we have done wrong.)
- Who will forgive and cleanse us? (God will.)
- What does cleansing mean? (Washing something dirty until it is clean.)
- What are two words in this verse that tell what God is like? (He is faithful and just.)
- What does it mean that God is faithful? (We can depend on Him.)
- What does it mean that God is just? (Everything He does is right and good.)
- What is another word used in this verse for sin? (Unrighteousness, the opposite of righteousness, sort of like Very Good as opposed to Very Bad.)
- How much sin or unrighteousness will God cleanse us from? (All unrighteousness)
- Can we sin too greatly for God to forgive us? (No, He will forgive us for all unrighteousness.)
- What do we need to do to experience His forgiveness? (Confess our sin.)
- What do we often do instead of confessing our sin? (Deny it, make excuses for it.)
- What are some other ways people try to get rid of sin? (Sacrifices, hurting themselves, going to a priest, offering a trokosi)
- What will you do to get rid of your sin?

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1 John 2:1 (NKJV)

- What does John call the believers to whom he is writing this letter? (My little children.)
- Why is he writing these things to them? (So that they may not sin.)
- What shows that even those he doesn't want them to sin, he knows that might happen? (Because he continues, "And IF anyone sins...")
- These people who might sin, are they believers or unbelievers? (John is only writing to believers.)
- Is it possible for believers to sin after they believe in Jesus? (Yes, because John recognizes that these people might sin, and he is talking to believers.)
- If we do sin, what should we remember? (We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.)
- What is an Advocate? (A lawyer, a defender, someone who speaks up in our defense.)
- Who is the believer's advocate? (Jesus Christ)
- Did Jesus Himself ever sin? (No. He is called Jesus Christ the righteous.)
- Jesus can't ask God to ignore or excuse our sin. How can He argue in our defense? (He can tell the Father that He died for our sin and we have accepted that sacrifice as our own, so our sin is paid for.)
- How does this verse encourage you?

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- How can this verse help you when you know you have sinned?

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Mark 2:5-7

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Mark 2:10-12 (NKJV)

- What did Jesus do? (He forgave the sins of a man who was paralyzed.)
- Who saw Him do it? (Some of the scribes, people who were supposed to know a lot about the Old Testament law.)
- What did they say in their hearts? (Jesus is speaking blasphemy because only God can forgive sin.)
- They think Jesus is saying blasphemy. What is blasphemy? (Saying something bad or disrespectful against God, making fun of God.)
- Why did they think what Jesus said was disrespectful to God? (He was claiming to forgive sins, and they knew only God could do that.)
- Again Jesus is called the Son of Man. Does He have power to forgive sins? (Yes, and to show it, Jesus forgave the man's sins and healed him.)
- What showed for sure that the man's sins were really forgiven? (At Jesus' command he was healed and got up and walked.)
- How did the people respond? (They were amazed and glorified God.)
- Did Jesus say they were wrong about their idea that only God can forgive sin? (No, this idea came from the Bible and it was true.)
- When Jesus forgave sin, what did it show about Him? (It showed He was God.)
- Who is the only One who can forgive our sins? (God or Jesus, who is God's Son.)
- Can a priest forgive our sins? (No, only God can forgive sin.)
- Can bringing a animal or money or liquor sacrifice forgive our sins? (No, only God can forgive sin.)
- When you sin, what will you do?

7. **BAPTISM—You should be baptized in water as a sign that shows others you have received new life in Christ.**

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 (NKJV)

- With what is baptism compared? (Being buried with Christ and raised again.)
- How does baptism show that? (Going under the water is like a picture of being buried with Christ and coming up out of the water is like a picture of being raised with Him.)
- What should happen after our baptism as Christians? (We should walk in newness of life.)
- What needs to be new about your life?

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is

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water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Acts 8:36-38 (NKJV)

- In these verse, Philip has been traveling in a chariot with a eunuch from Ethiopia, a place in northeast Africa, teaching him about Jesus. What did they see as they went down the road? (Water—maybe a river or a lake.)
- What idea did that give the man from Ethiopia? (He thought about getting baptized as a Christian.)
- What question did the man from Ethiopia ask? (What hinders me from being baptized?)
- What was the one condition Philip gave for him being baptized? (He had to believe in Jesus with all his heart.)
- What was the man's confession? ("I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.")
- What did Philip do then? (He stopped the chariot and baptized him.)
- Where did they go to do the baptism? (Down into the water.)
- When was the man baptized—before he believed in Jesus or after? (Afterwards.)
- Have you been baptized as a Christian after you believed in Jesus?
- If not, why not?

8. THE CHURCH—You should enter into the fellowship of the church. Which church? You should enter a church that believes and teaches and practices the teachings of the Word of God. If before you were saved you were a member of a religious group that teaches and practices things contrary to the Word of God, you should leave that group and look for a Bible-believing fellowship.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:41-42 (NKJV)

- Following baptism, what four things did the believers do together? (1. They continued in the apostle's doctrine 2. and in fellowship 3. and in breaking of bread, 4. and in prayers.)
- In what book is the apostle's doctrine written for us today? (In the Bible.)
- Where do we hear the Bible read and taught? (At church. Some churches are stronger than others in this. Be sure to look for a church where the Bible is read and taught.)
- They had fellowship. They got together with one another. Where do believers get together today? (At church and sometimes in home Bible studies.)
- They had breaking of bread. When do believers break bread today? (In communion.)
- They prayed together. Where do believers pray together today? (They can pray together anywhere, but church is one place especially known for prayers.)
- Where would you go to experience these four things today? (To a Bible-teaching church)
- What Bible teaching churches are nearby for you to choose from? Which ones have you tried?

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
Heb 10:25 (NKJV)

- The Bible warns us not to do forsake or neglect or get away from something. What? (Assembling ourselves together)
- Where do believers assemble themselves together? (At church)
- How do we know some believers did neglect assembling together with the church? (It says “as is the manner of some.”)
- Did God approve of neglecting church? (No, he warns us not to forsake assembling ourselves together.)
- As time goes on, does the need to gather with other believers increase or decrease? (Increases—*“and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”*)
- What day is it talking about? (The day of Jesus’ coming.)
- Why do some Christians neglect going to church?
- Are these acceptable reasons before God?
- Why have you sometimes neglected going to church?
- Will you commit yourself now to gathering together regularly with others who love Jesus?
- In what church will you do this?
- Are you sure it is a church that believes, teaches and practices Bible teaching?
- What can you do to encourage other believers to do the same?

9. EVIL SPIRITS—Any spirit other than God who seeks or accepts worship is an evil spirit and an enemy of God. You should refuse and rebuke Satan and all his helpers and his works. Remove all amulets and objects and literature associated with magic, witchcraft, saints, spirits of the ancestors, etc. from your home and your person. Stop every practice that derives its power from spirits other than God. Stop trusting in and seeking help from spirits through divination, oblation, etc. Start trusting in God alone and seeking His help for the problems of life for which you used to use magic.

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.
Acts 19:18-19 (NKJV)

- Were the people who confessed to magic believers or unbelievers? (New believers)
- Did they hide the fact that they had been involved in magic? (No, they confessed and told their deeds, that is, what they had done.)
- Besides confessing, what else did they do? (Burned their magic books.)
- Did the burning take place privately, quietly, in secret, or publicly and openly? (Publicly, openly, “in the sight of all.”)
- What was the value of the books? (50,000 pieces of silver—a lot of money)
- Why did the believers burn their magic books? (Maybe because they had no more use for them, they didn’t want to be tempted to go back to them, maybe as a public testimony against those practices.)
- After the burning, did any harm come to the believers? (No, nothing.)
- What is a good way to get rid of idol or fetish objects that belong to you? (Burn them publicly.)
- What idol or fetish or magic objects do you have that should be burned?

- What would keep you from burning them?
- Will you burn them and place your complete trust in God to help and protect you?

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

1 Cor 10:19-21 (NKJV)

- To what were the Gentiles sacrificing? (To idols.)
- To whom were the Gentiles sacrificing in reality? (to demons and not to God)
- The Apostle Paul wrote this verse under God's direction. Did he want the believers to have fellowship with demons? (No, he said they could not take the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons, or the Lord's table and the table of demons.)
- When people worship idols, who are they really worshipping? (Demons or evil spirits)
- Do you think people know they are worshipping demons? No, they may not always realize it, but it is true nevertheless.
- Have you asked God to forgive you for any part you had in idol worship?
- What do you still need to get rid of that is or was connected with idol worship?
- What will you do to get rid of it? When? Who will help you?

10. FORGIVENESS—Forgive others who have hurt you and wronged you as Christ forgave you of your sins.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matt 6:14-15 (NKJV)

- If we want God to forgive us, what do we need to do to others? (Forgive them.)
- What are trespasses? (Sins or things others have done against us that have hurt us.)
- Do we need God's forgiveness? (Yes, very much, all the time.)
- Do others need our forgiveness? (Yes, others have hurt us and we have hurt others.)
- What is the condition for receiving God's forgiveness? (Forgiving others.)
- Who are some of the people who have hurt you? How did they hurt you?

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV)

- The Apostle Paul is writing here. What does he call the believers in Rome? (Beloved)
- What instruction does he give them—what NOT to do? (Do not avenge themselves.)
- Who will repay the wicked? (God)
- Forgiving someone does not mean ignoring the fact that they hurt you or pretending it didn't happen or it didn't hurt. It is simply leaving vengeance or getting even to God. It is choosing not to keep anger in your heart against them but leaving them in God's hands.
- Does anger in your heart hurt them or hurt you? (It hurts you more.)
- Can you give those who have hurt you over to God, knowing He will repay them, thus letting go of the anger and desire for vengeance in your heart? (This is called forgiveness.)

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- What advantages does this have for you? (You don't hurt yourself by holding on to anger, you are able to move on with your life, you feel better, your health improves.)
- Will you choose to forgive those who hurt you? Would you like to pray about it ?

11. LOVE—Show love to others just as Christ shows love to you.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:11-12 (NKJV)

- The Apostle John is writing to the believers here. What does he call them? (Beloved)
- What does this show? (John loved the believers.)
- Do you remember another Apostle who also called the believers “beloved”? (Yes, Paul)
- What does this show? (Paul also loved the believers.)
- Why should we love one another? (Because God so loved us.)
- Think about God's love for us. Did He love us because we were wonderful, clean, obedient people? (No, He loved us in spite of our sin.)
- How should we love one another? (The same way God loved us—in spite of our sin, just as we are.)
- Has anyone ever seen God the Father? (No.)
- What does our love show? (That God lives in us and His love is perfected in us.)
- Who do you need to love?
- What can you do this week to show love?

12. TELL OTHERS WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU—Tell others about your decision to follow Christ.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:14 (NKJV)

- Working backwards from the end of this verse, what must happen for a person to come to Christ? Can you find four steps? (1. There must be a preacher. 2. They hear the message. 3. They believe in Him. 4. They call on Him.)
- A preacher doesn't necessarily mean a pastor. It means anyone who tells the message. If no one tells the message, how can people hear the message? (They can't.)
- If they don't hear the message, how can they believe it? (They can't. First someone has to tell them.)
- If they don't hear the message and believe it, how can they call on Jesus to save them? (They can't. It all begins with someone telling them the message.)
- Who told you about the message of Christ? Are you thankful to them?
- Who are some people you know who need to hear the message of Christ?
- Who could you tell what you know about Christ and what you have experienced of Him?
- How and when will you begin to tell them?

13. SING PRAISES TO GOD—Sing Christian songs that give honor to Jesus Christ.

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Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:19 (NKJV)

- What are Christians commanded to do in this verse? (Encourage and teach one another by singing Christians songs.)
- Three kinds of songs are mentioned. Do you know different kinds of songs that all give praise to God? (Yes, there are many kinds of songs. They might have very different sounds but the important thing is that they honor Jesus.)
- We are to use two parts of our body in singing—our mouths and what else? (Our hearts.)
- Is it possible to sing a song with your mouth but not with your heart? (Yes, but in singing for the Lord we are to use both our mouths and our hearts.)
- We are to sing to whom? Give two answers. (To one another, and to the Lord.)
- What kinds of songs did you sing before you came to Christ?
- What kinds of songs should you be singing now?
- What songs do you know that honor Jesus?
- How can you learn new songs that honor Jesus?
- When can you sing these songs this week? (Any time, when you are working, when you are walking, at home and at church.)

14. REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS—Rejoice and give thanks to God for His blessings every day.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Phil 4:4 (NKJV)

- What is every believer commanded to do in this verse? (Rejoice in the Lord.)
- Why is the command repeated twice in such a short verse? (To emphasize how important it is.)
- We may not be able to rejoice in our circumstances in this world. But in what can believers always rejoice? (In the Lord.)
- What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? (Rejoice that you belong to Him, that He loves you, that He has saved you, for all the good things He has done for you.)
- Even in the hardest times, what things do you have for which to rejoice in the Lord?
- Have you rejoiced in the Lord this week? Will you do so next week? Today?

Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 5:20 (NKJV)

- What are believers instructed to do in this verse? (To give God thanks for all things in the name of Jesus)
- How can we rejoice in all things? (No matter how hard the circumstances, we can always rejoice that God is with us.)
- Whom are we to thank? (God, in Jesus' name.)
- Make a list of things you have to be thankful for. Make it a contest to see how long you can make the list.
- Check the list. Did you include God's air that you breathe? Did you include God's water that you drink? Did you include sunshine and rain? Did you include life? Did you include the opportunity to be saved?

- Begin the habit of thanking God every morning for all His blessings great and small.

15. LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS—Allow Jesus to rule your thoughts so that the things you think about bring honor to Him.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

- The Apostle Paul wrote these verses to believers in the town of Philippi. What does he call them? (Brethren or brothers. This term included sisters, too. It meant he considered them family.)
- What does meditate mean? (To think about something for some time, to mull it over in one's mind.)
- What kinds of things are believers supposed to think about? (Things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, praiseworthy.)
- What kinds of things are the opposite of these? (Things that are false, mean, unjust, impure, dirty, bad kinds of gossip, evil, worthy of rebuke. Christians are NOT to think about these things.)
- Evil thoughts come to everyone. Satan even threw them at Jesus. We can't always control the thoughts that come to mind, but we can control the things that we allow to stay there, the thoughts we think about long term, the ideas we nurse, the videos we play in our minds, the imaginations we play with. What kinds of evil thoughts trouble you most?
- The way to get rid of bad thoughts is to meditate on good thoughts. What good thoughts should you nurture this week?

16. SERVICE—Look for ways you can help or serve the church.

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1 Cor 12:12 (NKJV)

- Believers are compared with what in this verse? (Members or parts of a body.)
- You have one body. What are some of its members or parts? (They may mention any part of the body.)
- The church or the group of believers is compared with what? (With the body of Christ.)
- How are we the body of Christ? (Each of us is a member and together we form one body.)
- Do the parts of your body need each other? Do you need your ears? Your feet? Your stomach? (Yes, we need all the parts.)
- Do believers need one another? (Yes, we are all different, and we all need one another.)
- What can you contribute to the body of Christ? (They may give many answers. They encourage others, they may pray for others, they may show an accepting spirit toward newcomers, etc.)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:

Romans 12:6 (NKJV)

- What has each believer been given? (Gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us)
- What are we to do with these gifts? (Use them.)

What are some steps to Christian growth for new believers in Christ? (Detailed with Scripture & explanation)

- What gifts have you been given? (Answers may vary, but don't forget gifts like encouragement and helps and service.)
- How many ways can you think of that you might be a help and a blessing in God's church?
- What will you begin to do this week to help and serve the church?

17. OFFERINGS—Give generous offerings to help your church and to spread the Word of God. Give what you can, including your time, effort, and prayer. If you have no money at all, give your pastor a gift of time and love by doing a service for him. Give him a gift of encouragement by letting him know you appreciate him. Give money when you can.

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35 (NKJV)

- Who does God want us to help? (the weak)
- How can we help them? (By laboring)
- You may think you are weak, but can you think of someone you know who is weaker than yourself? Who?
- What could you do to help that person?
- Which did Jesus say was more blessed—to give or to receive? (To give is more blessed)
- What can you give to help your church?
- What will you give this week?

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Cor 9:7 (NKJV)

- How does God want believers to give? (As we purpose in our heart, cheerfully)
- What are two ways He does not want us to give? (Grudgingly or because we are forced to do so)
- What does God love? (A cheerful giver)
- This verse talks about making a plan for giving. Have you thought about a plan for giving? Will you begin thinking and praying this week about how you can honor God by giving?

18. YOUR MOUTH—Allow God to rule your mouth in all things. Stop using your mouth to curse God or others, or to run others down. Begin to use your mouth for blessing and doing good.

...let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
Ephesians 5:3-4 (NKJV)

- What is not to be named among us? (Filthy talking, coarse jesting, unfitting talk)
- What is to be named among us instead of bad talk? (Giving of thanks)
- What are believers called in this verse? (Saints)
- What is filthy talking?
- What is coarse jesting? (Jesting is joking or fooling around.)
- Have you heard this kind of talk?

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- Have you sometimes participated in it?
- Will you ask God to help you use your mouth this week for good and not for evil?

With it (the tongue) we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

James 3:9-10 (NKJV)

- What two things can people do with the tongue? (Bless and curse)
- Is it OK to bless God and curse men? (No, these things ought not to be so.)
- Why not? (Because men are made in the similitude or likeness or image of God.)
- God wants us to use our mouths for what? (For blessing)
- He does not want us to use them for what? (For cursing)
- Have you heard people curse others?
- Have you yourself sometimes cursed others?
- Will you ask God for forgiveness? Will you ask Him to help you use your mouth for blessing?
- What is the biggest problem you face with your mouth? Will you ask God to help you with it?

19. MARRIAGE—Honor marriage, save sex only for marriage, and refuse unfaithfulness in every form.

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Heb 13:4 (NKJV)

- What is honorable in all? (Marriage)
- How does God look at the marriage bed, that is, at sex in marriage? (It is undefiled. It is good.)
- What is fornication? (Sex or sexual activity of any kind before marriage.)
- What is adultery? (Sex or sexual activity of any kind after marriage or outside of marriage.)
- Whom will God judge? (Fornicators and adulterers. In other words, all who engage in sex or any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage.)
- What are the limits within which God blesses sex? (Within marriage only)

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:33 (NKJV)

- How are husbands commanded to treat their wives? (To love them as they love themselves)
- How are wives supposed to treat their husbands? (With respect.)
- How can a husband show love to his wife?
- How can a wife show respect to her husband?
- If you are married, in what area do you need to grow and improve?

20. CONTINUE—Continue (Do not stop) doing each of these things.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

What are some steps to Christian growth for new believers in Christ? (Detailed with Scripture & explanation)

John 8:31 (NKJV)

Who is talking here? (Jesus)

What Jesus says—is it important or not so important? (Very important)

He is talking to what kind of Jews? (Those who believe in Him)

What does Jesus say they need to do to be His disciples indeed? (Abide in His Word)

What is another word for abide? (Continue. If you abide, you don't do it just for awhile, but you keep on doing it.)

You have begun to follow Jesus. He has much more to teach you. Will you continue learning and continue seeking to do what you learn? (If you will, you will truly be Jesus' disciple.)

This is a short list of some of the most important Bible teachings. No list can include everything, and God has much more to teach you as you listen to His Word. As you continue in God's Word, His Spirit will continually guide you into all truth.

LET'S REVIEW

How many steps to Christian growth can you remember (in any order)? On these 20 lines, write as many as you can from memory, then check the chapter and fill in the rest.

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LET'S PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose three of these topics to use in beginning to help the new Christians in your class. Memorize the verses.

Write them out here from memory, then check in the Bible for accuracy.

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Now think about the application of these ideas in your culture and to your class. What would you tell them about each idea? Ask God for ideas, and write here what He gives you.

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What other practical teachings (life teachings as opposed to doctrine) do you think might be important for your class?

As you find such teachings in Scripture, try to summarize the teaching in one or two simple sentences and write them here. Include the Scripture references.

What are more basic steps of continuing Christian growth?

(These Level 2 Lessons are for those who have completed the first 20 steps and are growing in them.)

21. LET CONFIDENCE REPLACE FEAR—Let trust in God replace fear of every kind in your life. Ask God to handle all your troubles and have confidence that He will help you.

He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
Heb 13:5-6 (NKJV)

- Who is talking in this verse? (In context we see it is the Lord Jesus.)
- What promise did Jesus make to believers? (He promised never to leave us or to forsake us.)
- Would this promise still be valid if we did wrong? (Yes, no conditions are given. He didn't say He would not leave us as long as we did right. He said He would NEVER leave us.)
- Because of this promise, what can we boldly say? (The Lord is my helper, I will not fear.)
- Why is it that we need never fear? (The Lord will never leave us or forsake us, and He is our helper.)



- Think about the phrase, “What can man do to me?” What does this mean to you? (For one thing it means that no one can do ANYTHING to us unless God allows it for His own good purposes. We are safe in His hand. Thinking about it from another standpoint, the worst anyone could possibly do to us would be to kill us. Yet for the believer, this is the best, for then we will be with the Lord in a world that has no pain or suffering.)
- What are some things of which people are commonly afraid?
- What are some things you have been afraid of in the past? Think about fear of bad circumstances happening, fear of pain, suffering and death, fear of people, and fear of evil spirits or curses.
- How can you get rid of these fears?

22. DEATH—Replace fear of death with joyful anticipation of going to be with the Lord at His perfect time for you.

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Rev 21:4 (NKJV)

23. TRUTH—Replace telling falsehoods or lies with always speaking the truth.

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Prov 12:22 (NKJV)

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Ephesians 4:25 (NKJV)