

“Our Newness of Life”

Teen Challenge Weekend

INTRODUCTION

The life of a Christian is not simply a refurbished life, or a repaired life, it is a totally new and unique life: one that the owner never could have possessed apart from Jesus. We see many examples in the Bible of people who are so completely transformed as to be nearly unrecognizable. This weekend at New Life members of Teen Challenge visited us. They each display a newness of life that confirms God’s power to take the lost from hopelessness to a glorious new life.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min): Have you ever observed a new life coming into the world? Describe the experience.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

What is Newness of Life?

Q1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-7

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul tells us if we are “in Christ” we become a “new creation”. What are some ways you might recognize that someone is living a life “in Christ”? In Ephesians 2:1-7, what are some things that characterized our lives before Christ, and how does God change us? What new thing did God bring to your life when you first accepted Him?

Our New Life Has New Motives, New Aims

Q2 Read Romans 7:22-25; Matthew 5:16

Before your new life in Christ, you lived for your own pleasure, and what you could gain in this fleeting life. What does Romans 7:22 tell us brings delight to the believer? Living the new life is not without opposition. As you read of Paul’s struggle between his “inner being” and his flesh, he asks who will deliver him from this “body of sin and death”. Where does he find the answer (v.25)? The man who is not born again is focused on himself, but what does Jesus encourage us to work toward in Matthew 5:16?

New Life breaks the Strongholds of Generational Sin

Q3 Read Deuteronomy 5:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:16; 1 John 4:4

One challenge in gaining new life is in breaking the strongholds of family dysfunction. Deuteronomy 5:9-10 indicates that generations that follow can be affected by our sins. Although we see specifically that we do not bear the judgment of God for our parents’ sins (Deu 24:16), we certainly do feel the effects through temptation, susceptibilities, and vulnerabilities

to their sins. What is the assurance we have in 1 John 4:4 that we can overcome these strongholds? What are the first things that come to mind when you think of any strongholds in your family (e.g. materialism, substance abuse, anger, anxiety)? What inherited tendency in your life do you need to surrender to God’s ways rather than following a destructive family pattern?

New Life offers an Eternal Hope

Q4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9; Matthew 25:34; Revelation 21:4

The very thought that the God of the universe has prepared a place for you to join Him is incredible, but true. Share with your group what you most look forward to about heaven and take time to pray and thank God for His incredible love, mercy and grace.

WRAP-UP

When we lay down our lives and come to faith in Christ we enter into “newness of life” which we could attain in no other way. We now live to please God and delight in His laws. We want our lives to be lived to bring glory to Him and not ourselves. As new creations we are promised a new future with a new heaven and new earth. Our wealth is not based on the circumstances of this world, but is based on a heavenly economy in which we possess all things. Once we had no knowledge of what true life was, but now we have the life of Christ in us and we have emerged from death and darkness into a wonderful new life.

Memory Verse

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: Read the description of the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 22 and 23.

