

Upper Room Study Guides

BIBLE STUDY AND DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

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Foundations for the New Believer

A six-lesson study to ground new believers in the truth of God's Word — salvation, repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, receiving the Holy Ghost, holy living, and growing in Christ. Each lesson has a key verse, teaching, fill-in-the-blank Bible study, and a step to take.

◆ LESSONS IN THIS SERIES

1. You Can Be Saved
2. Repentance — Turning to God
3. Baptism in Jesus' Name
4. Receiving the Holy Ghost
5. Living a Holy Life
6. Growing in Christ

For personal study, new-convert classes, or one-on-one discipleship. Answers are printed small at the foot of each lesson — but look every verse up in your own Bible.

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You Can Be Saved

LESSON 1 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” **Romans 10:13 · NKJV**

God loves you and wants to save you. The good news is that no matter what you have done, Jesus made a way for you to be forgiven and made new.

◆ The problem — sin

Every person has sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from God and its wages is death (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2).

◆ The provision — Jesus

God so loved us that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 5:8). In His name there is salvation.

◆ The pattern — Acts 2:38

When the crowd asked, “What shall we do?”, Peter answered: repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is God’s plan of salvation, and it is for you.

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. “for all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God,” **Romans 3:23**
2. “For the wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 6:23**
3. Then Peter said to them, “ _____, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 2:38**

Take It to Heart

You can be saved today. Believe on the Lord Jesus, turn to Him with all your heart, and take the next step — repentance. He is ready to receive you.

Answers: 1. glory · 2. death · 3. Repent

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Repentance — Turning to God

LESSON 2 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” **Acts 3:19 · NKJV**

Repentance is the first response of a heart that wants to be saved. It is more than being sorry — it is a change of mind and heart that turns away from sin and toward God.

◆ What repentance is

To repent is to change your mind about sin and self, and to turn to God. It is godly sorrow that leads to salvation, not merely regret (2 Corinthians 7:10).

◆ The fruit of repentance

True repentance shows itself — we confess and forsake sin (Proverbs 28:13), and begin to live differently (Matthew 3:8).

◆ God’s promise

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). He blots out our sins and gives us a fresh start.

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. “For godly sorrow produces _____ leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” **2 Corinthians 7:10**
2. “Repent therefore and be _____, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” **Acts 3:19**
3. “If we confess our sins, He is _____ and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**

Take It to Heart

Take time to pray honestly. Name your sins to God, ask His forgiveness, and turn from them. He is merciful and will not turn you away.

Answers: 1. repentance · 2. converted · 3. faithful

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Baptism in Jesus' Name

LESSON 3 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38 · NKJV

After we repent, Scripture calls us to be baptized in water. The apostles baptized by immersion, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins.

◆ Why baptism

Baptism is our obedience to the gospel — buried with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12). It is where our past sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).

◆ In the name of Jesus

Throughout Acts the believers were baptized in Jesus' name (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5). There is salvation in no other name (Acts 4:12), and whatever we do is to be done in His name (Colossians 3:17).

◆ A clear conscience

Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21) — a public step of faith and a clean beginning.

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of _____ Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38
2. "Nor is there _____ in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**
3. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be _____, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." **Acts 22:16**

Take It to Heart

If you have repented, don't delay baptism. Ask your pastor about being baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and take this joyful step of obedience.

Answers: 1. Jesus · 2. salvation · 3. baptized

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Receiving the Holy Ghost

LESSON 4 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4 · NKJV

Jesus promised that His followers would be filled with the Holy Spirit — the same gift poured out on the Day of Pentecost. This promise is for you.

◆ The promise of the Father

Jesus told the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). On Pentecost the Holy Ghost was poured out and filled them.

◆ The evidence

When people received the Holy Ghost in Acts, they spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance (Acts 2:4; 10:44–46; 19:6). This was the consistent sign of the infilling.

◆ For you and your children

The promise is to you and to your children and to all who are afar off (Acts 2:39). Ask, and keep seeking — God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13).

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other _____, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” **Acts 2:4**
2. “For the _____ is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” **Acts 2:39**
3. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the _____ Spirit to those who ask Him!” **Luke 11:13**

Take It to Heart

Hunger for God’s promise. In faith, worship and ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit. Don’t stop short — receive the gift He longs to give.

Answers: 1. tongues · 2. promise · 3. Holy

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Living a Holy Life

LESSON 5 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16 · NKJV

God saves us and then calls us to live for Him — set apart, clean, and Christlike. Holiness is not how we earn salvation; it is how we love and reflect our holy God.

◆ Be transformed

Present your body to God as a living sacrifice, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind — no longer conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2).

◆ Walk in the Spirit

Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). The Spirit produces His fruit in us (Galatians 5:22-23).

◆ Set apart

Come out and be separate; cleanse yourself from what defiles, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1). Pursue holiness — without it no one will see the Lord.

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. "Pursue peace with all people, and _____, without which no one will see the Lord:"
Hebrews 12:14
2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living _____, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." **Romans 12:1**
3. "I say then: Walk in the _____, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
Galatians 5:16

Take It to Heart

Ask God to show you one area to surrender to Him this week. Holiness grows step by step as we walk with Jesus and let His Spirit change us.

Answers: 1. holiness · 2. sacrifice · 3. Spirit

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Growing in Christ

LESSON 6 · NEW BELIEVER SERIES

KEY VERSE

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18 · NKJV

New life in Jesus is the beginning of a lifelong walk. Like the first church, we grow by devoting ourselves to God’s Word, prayer, worship, and His people.

◆ Devoted together

The early believers continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42). Make God’s Word and prayer daily habits.

◆ Don’t forsake the church

Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). God’s people need each other — to worship, to grow, and to serve.

◆ Keep growing

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Be faithful, share your testimony, and keep pressing on.

◆ Search the Scriptures — fill in the blank

Look each verse up in your Bible and write the missing word.

1. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ _____ and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” **Acts 2:42**
2. “not forsaking the _____ of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” **Hebrews 10:25**
3. “but _____ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” **2 Peter 3:18**

Take It to Heart

Set a daily time with God in the Word and prayer, and commit to your local church. Ask the Lord to help you grow and to use you to help others.

Answers: 1. doctrine · 2. assembling · 3. grow

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