

# New Life Vineyard

## Pathway into Discipleship



## Who Are You?

### Key Verse

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

When you asked Jesus to be your Savior, many exciting things happened to you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says you become a “new creation.” In this lesson, we will look at some of the changes that have taken place in your life.

1. What does the phrase “the old has gone” refer to? Hint: Do you have a different attitude toward some of the things you used to do?
2. Look up Romans 8:16-17. We who believe in Jesus are God’s children. You are not just a servant, but you are a son or daughter. How does a child from a household differ from a servant of that household?
3. Verse 17 calls us “heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.” What is an heir? How could you possibly be on God’s inheritance list as a CO-HEIR WITH JESUS? What does that mean for you?

So many Christians live life unaware of the ramifications of their new identity in Christ. Too often we think of ourselves as poor beggars within the kingdom of God when, in fact, God did much more for us than save us from the penalty of our sins. He also broke the power of sin over our lives.

4. Look up Ephesians 4:22-24. This passage says we are to “put off” the old self and “put on the new self.” What does that mean? Has this been easy or difficult for you?

These are a few of the things that happened to you when you put your trust in Jesus for salvation. Learning the ramifications of these changes and living them out is the wonder and blessing of the Christian’s life in Christ.

## Questions for Review

1. Philippians 3:20 says that “our citizenship is in heaven.” What does it mean to be a citizen? What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven?
2. Ephesians 1:4-5 says that we are adopted sons (or daughters) and that we were chosen by God. How does it affect you to know that God purposely chose you because HE WANTED YOU specifically as His child?
3. There is always a price to adopt a child. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. What was the price for your adoption as a child of God?
4. The value of any object is dependent on what an individual is willing to pay for it. Too many people deal with feelings of worthlessness from the bad things they experienced while growing up. Jesus was willing to pay the ultimate price for you. Because He loves you so much, He placed the value of “priceless” on you and then gave everything to purchase you. With this in mind, answer the question, “Who are you?”

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## Leader's Guide and Related Resources

### Purpose

Too many Christians don't know about their identity in Christ. To have a strong foundation, we must know who we are. Though we are bombarded by all sorts of lies regarding who we are, this lesson presents Biblical truth. It is important for new believers to see that who they are is not based on how they presently feel about themselves. Who they are now (the new creation) is based on what the Scriptures say.

### Answers to Questions

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1. "The old has gone" refers to our old sinful identity. We have been transformed from sinners-by-nature into saints-by-nature (who occasionally give into sin). They may give an example that relates to this such as, "I don't cuss as much now." Who they are now makes the thoughts and actions of the old life seem less appealing. When they give a good example of a change in their way of thinking, reinforce it by saying the outward change is a result of the inner change. The old is gone, the new things have come!
2. A child has rights in a family, carries the family name and typically bears the family resemblance. A servant has no rights and no standing in the family. We are much more than mere servants.
3. An heir is one who receives and inheritance. We are co-heirs with Jesus because we have been adopted into God's family. In this life, we have God's precious and magnificent promises (2 Peter 1:4). And in the next life, we will be in our heavenly home (1 Peter 1:4).
4. On a daily basis, and even on a moment-by-moment basis, we must choose how we will live—either as we used to or in the new way, which is consistent with who we are now.

# Answers to Review Questions

1. We are aliens here (1 Peter 2:11). We belong to the Kingdom of God, and that is the place of our permanent residence. While here, we are Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). Any answer that relates to the rights and privileges of believers in Jesus is appropriate here.
2. No one sneaks into the Kingdom of God by accident. We are children of God because of the Father's great love for us (1 John 3:1). He chose us, knowing everything about us. It is a wonderful feeling to know that we are loved and chosen by our Heavenly Father.
3. Jesus' precious blood was the purchase price for our adoption. It is far more valuable than gold or silver.
4. Answers should include many of the examples from this lesson. Hopefully, by now they will be able to mention being a valuable, adopted child of God as the core of who they are.

## Resources

Victory Over the Darkness by Neil T. Anderson. If you have not yet read this book, purchase it and read it. Every believer in Jesus should know this material.