

Salvation

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 1

One of the most important habits that will help you grow as a new Christian is memorizing Bible verses. In the book of Psalms, it says, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). Memorizing Bible verses and applying them to your life will help you learn what God wants you to know.

We encourage you to memorize the verse below to give you a better understanding of the topic of salvation.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. (JOHN 3:16)

Jesus makes it clear that we need to be born again, or saved. In fact, He tells us, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). In this lesson, you will learn:

- Why we need to be saved.
- How God has provided for our salvation.
- How we can have that salvation personally.

Before you start, it's a good idea to pray. Ask God to help you understand what He wants to teach you and to show you how to apply it in your life.

As you complete this study, do not simply copy what the Bible verse says, but use your own words when answering the questions.

Let's start by learning about sin. Simply put, sin is the failure to obey any of God's commandments or laws. It can be something as simple as lying, or something as extreme as murdering someone, but it is all sin.

1. How does the Bible describe sin? (1 John 3:4) _____

2. What is the result of sin?

(Romans 6:23) _____

(James 1:15) _____

To better understand the effects of sin, think of death as separation. As sinners, we are spiritually dead, because we are separated from God. If we do not repent and change our ways, that separation becomes permanent and we are doomed to an eternal death (separation from God for all eternity).

Conversely, to be *righteous* means "to do right; to be totally innocent before God in regards to obeying His commandments."

3. How many of us are righteous? (Romans 3:10) _____

4. How many of us have sinned? (Romans 3:23) _____

Faith and Assurance

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 2

In the first lesson, we learned about sin and the separation it causes between us and God. We also learned what Jesus, God's Son, did to free us from that sin.

It is wonderful to know that Jesus died for our sins and that we now have a relationship with God. Sometimes, however, it can be difficult to remember those things because they don't feel tangible—we can't see, touch, feel, taste, or hear them.

Well, God wants us to know that when we turn to Him, He really is there. He simply wants us to have faith, trusting Him and believing He will do everything He said. The Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews:

So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence. This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary. (Hebrews 6:18–19)

That is the focus of this Bible study. In this lesson, you should learn:

- God is faithful and keeps His promises.
- He promises us eternal life.
- We obtain His promises by faith.
- We can know we have the eternal life He promises.

Begin memorizing 1 John 5:12–13.

SO WHOEVER HAS GOD'S SON HAS LIFE; WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE HIS SON DOES NOT HAVE LIFE. I WRITE THIS TO YOU WHO BELIEVE IN THE SON OF GOD, SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

Make sure that you pray before you start! Also, remember to answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

Let's begin by looking at the definitions of two important words. *Assurance* means to have the evidence and proof to know for certain that something is true. *Faithfulness* refers to the character of someone who has shown he is trustworthy and can be relied upon to keep his promises.

1. What does God promise us?

(1 John 2:25) _____

(Titus 1:2) _____

2. How is God described regarding His promise? (Hebrews 10:23) _____

3. If we don't believe or have faith, what happens to God's faithfulness? (2 Timothy 2:13) _____

Power of the Holy Spirit [NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 3

In the second lesson, we learned that we can have faith in God and trust Him to keep His promises. Now we will see that God has promised to give us power!

Let's begin this study by memorizing Acts 1:8:

BUT WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER AND WILL TELL PEOPLE ABOUT ME EVERYWHERE—IN JERUSALEM, THROUGHOUT JUDEA, IN SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus did not want His disciples to immediately begin telling others about Him. He gave them specific instructions to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.... But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

(Acts 1:4–5, 8)

Jesus knew the dynamic power that the Holy Spirit would give them was essential for the task ahead of them, just as it is for us today. In this lesson, you will learn:

- Who the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- What the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- How to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Before you start, remember to pray that God's Holy Spirit will help you understand the lesson. Be sure to use your own words when you answer the questions, do not simply copy the verses.

Baptism means "being immersed or dipped into something."

There are several terms in the Bible that refer to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and they all mean the same thing. The disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:4); they received the "promise of the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:33) and the "gift of the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit "fell upon them" (see Acts 11:15), and Jesus sent them "the promise of My Father" (see Luke 24:49).

1. Who does the Bible say the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for? (Acts 2:38–39) _____

Is this promise for you? _____

Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been *with* them and would soon be *in* them (see John 14:16–17). Before we are saved, the Holy Spirit is *with* us, calling us to Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes *inside* all true believers to teach and guide us. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that the Spirit would also be *on* or *upon* them.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came *on* them? (Acts 1:8)

Trials

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 4

Even though we are Christians, we can—and will eventually—find ourselves in a hard situation. We should not be surprised or afraid, because God will help us bear it. In the last lesson, we learned that God will give us the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and gifts to strengthen each other. Now we will learn how to use that power and those gifts to stay strong in hard times.

Let's begin by memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:13:

BUT REMEMBER THAT THE TEMPTATIONS THAT COME INTO YOUR LIFE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT OTHERS EXPERIENCE. AND GOD IS FAITHFUL. HE WILL KEEP THE TEMPTATION FROM BECOMING SO STRONG THAT YOU CAN'T STAND UP AGAINST IT. WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, HE WILL SHOW YOU A WAY OUT SO THAT YOU WILL NOT GIVE IN TO IT.

When we lose the emotions and feelings we have been experiencing—the ones that have been helping us be faithful to God, we should not think He has deserted us! We are being tested.

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world. (1 Peter 4:12–13)

In this lesson, you will learn:

- What trials are for.
- How God uses trials.
- What we should do when we are in the middle of a trial.

As you answer these questions, do not simply copy the Bible verses, but use your own words.

We experience a trial when God allows temptations, tribulations (hardships or afflictions), or our relationships with other people to test our faith. It is the process He uses to help us grow, to make our faith stronger, and to teach us to trust Him more.

1. When we become Christians, we do not stop having troubles. How did Jesus describe our lives in this world? (John 16:33) _____

2. What should be our attitude when we are having our faith tested by trials or temptations? Why? (James 1:2–4) _____

3. What are some of the results of trials? (2 Corinthians 4:17–18) _____
(1 Peter 1:6–7) _____

Having patience or perseverance means “steadfastly enduring adverse circumstances with joy.”

When the Lord is dealing with us as His children, He will allow tribulations to chasten or discipline us. We should patiently endure our hardships and afflictions.

Prayer

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 5

In the last lesson, we learned that we can handle trials by praying for the help of the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us just how we should pray, and how God answers our prayers.

Let's begin by memorizing Philippians 4:6–7:

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING; INSTEAD, PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING. TELL GOD WHAT YOU NEED, AND THANK HIM FOR ALL HE HAS DONE. IF YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE GOD'S PEACE, WHICH IS FAR MORE WONDERFUL THAN THE HUMAN MIND CAN UNDERSTAND. HIS PEACE WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS AS YOU LIVE IN CHRIST JESUS.

Jesus set an example for us in His prayers. The disciples saw that His prayers were intimate, as if He were talking with a close friend. They wanted to have the same close relationship with the Father that Jesus did, so they asked Him to teach them how to pray.

Once when Jesus had been out praying, one of his disciples came to him as he finished and said, Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. (Luke 11:1)

When you answer these questions, do not simply copy the verse, but use your own words.

In this lesson, you will learn:

- Why your prayers might not be answered.
- How to be sure your prayers are answered.
- What the different types of prayer are.

1. Why would God not give us what we ask Him for? (Give two reasons). (James 4:1–3)

Iniquity means "sin or wickedness."

"If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened" (Psalm 66:18).

"But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore" (Isaiah 59:2).

2. From these two Bible verses, do you think God hears our prayers when we continue to disobey His Word?

3. If there is sin in our lives, what should we do before bringing our requests to the Father? (1 John 1:9)

Read about the prayer of the tax collector in Luke 18:9–14.

4. What is one reason that the Lord wants to give us what we pray for? (John 16:24–27)

5. When we have needs to be met, what should our attitude be when we come to God in prayer? (Hebrews 4:16)

Who Is Jesus?

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 6

In the last lesson, we learned that we can pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. There is much to know about Jesus, our Savior.

Before starting this study, let's begin by memorizing Philippians 2:10–11:

SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

It is very important to know who we believe in. If Jesus is nothing more than a man or a teacher or a prophet or a philosopher, then our faith is useless. But He is much more than all of that! He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:13–16)

In this lesson, you will learn:

- What other people said about Jesus.
- What Jesus said about Himself.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus is God.

As you complete this study, use your own words to answer the questions; do not simply copy the Bible verses.

Rabbi means "teacher" or "master."

Messiah or *Christ* means "the Anointed One, the One promised by God as the Great Deliverer."

1. Who did these people say Jesus was?

John (John 1:29, 34) _____

Andrew (John 1:40–41) _____

Nathanael (John 1:49) _____

The Samaritans (John 4:42) _____

Peter (John 6:68–69) _____

Thomas (John 20:28) _____

2. Who did these people say Jesus was?

(Matthew 3:16–17) _____

(Matthew 17:5) _____

3. How did Jesus describe Himself?

(John 4:25–26) _____

(John 6:33–35) _____

What God Expects

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 7

In the last lesson, we learned that every knee will bow at the name of Jesus, the Son of God. Now we need to learn what God expects us to do, as His people.

Let's begin this study by memorizing Matthew 22:37:

JESUS REPLIED, 'YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL, AND ALL YOUR MIND.'

As Christians, we should always remember what God expects from us. He wants us to fear Him, follow Him, and serve Him wholeheartedly.

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires you to fear him, to live according to his will, to love and worship him with all your heart and soul. (Deuteronomy 10:12)

In this lesson, you will learn:

- We should fear God.
- We should love Him and obey Him.
- We should serve Him from our hearts.

As you work on this study, do not simply copy the verses as you answer these questions. Use your own words and thoughts.

Fear does not mean being afraid or frightened of God. To fear God means to respect Him, have reverence for His holiness, and to be in awe of His majesty and glory.

1. What does God promise for those who fear Him?

(Luke 1:50) _____

(Acts 10:35) _____

2. What does the Bible say about fearing the Lord?

(Proverbs 1:7) _____

(Proverbs 9:10) _____

(Proverbs 15:16) _____

The Greek word *agape*, translated "love" or "charity," means the selfless, giving love that comes from God. It is a sacrificing, caring love that seeks what is best for others and not itself. To get a better idea of what *agape* is, read 1 John 4:7–5:5.

The Bible defines *agape* in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7. Read this passage and substitute the name Jesus in the place of love (or charity) to see how He fits the definition. Then try it with your own name and see how it fits you!

3. Why do we love God? (1 John 4:19) _____

4. What did Jesus say the most important commandment was? (Mark 12:29–30)

Virtue (Purity)

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 8

Congratulations, you've reached the midway point of the New Believer's Bible Study! These next studies will deal with Christian character, those qualities and attributes that the Lord desires and requires of us as Christians. These studies are based on 2 Peter 1:5-7:

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love. (NKJV)

God wants you to live the best life possible. That is why He is changing and shaping you each day to be more like Jesus. When you add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to your life, you are growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ and becoming more like Him.

Over the next seven lessons, you will be learning about each of these qualities of Christian character. Keep in mind that there will always be room for growth in your life in each of these areas! There is no plateau where you will know all that there is to learn. If there were, you could give God a nudge and say, "Move over, there are two of us now."

As you begin this study, let's memorize Philippians 4:8:

AND NOW, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LET ME SAY ONE MORE THING AS I CLOSE THIS LETTER. FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT IS TRUE AND HONORABLE AND RIGHT. THINK ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE PURE AND LOVELY AND ADMIRABLE. THINK ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT AND WORTHY OF PRAISE.

Virtue means "moral goodness, modesty, and purity." All of us are impure, imperfect, because of sin and its hold over our lives. But God wants to share His purity, His perfection, with us through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ.

In this study you will learn:

- That God is pure and good.
- What a holy life is.
- How we can live a life of purity.

As you answer these study questions, use your own words. Do not simply copy the verses. Remember to pray to ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God is trying to teach you.

1. Isaiah 6:3, 1 Samuel 2:2, and Revelation 15:4 reveal an important attribute or characteristic of God. What is it?

2. What is God too pure to do, according to Habakkuk 1:13? _____

3. How does Psalm 12:6 describe the words of the Lord? _____

4. According to 1 Peter 1:22, how do we purify ourselves? _____

Knowledge

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 9

In order for us to grow as Christians, we need to gain knowledge—about God, about His Word, about His plan for us. *Knowledge* means “the fact or condition of apprehending truth; knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association.”

Let's begin this study by memorizing Psalm 147:5:

HOW GREAT IS OUR LORD! HIS POWER IS ABSOLUTE! HIS UNDERSTANDING IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION!

The Bible tells us that God is omniscient. The word *omniscient* means that “God knows all things and is absolutely perfect in knowledge.”

In this study, you will learn about:

- God's knowledge.
- God's Word.
- What God wants us to do when we know Him and His Word.

Remember to pray that the Holy Spirit will help you understand what you are studying. Write out the answers using your own words; do not simply copy the Bible verses.

1. What does Job 37:16 tell us about God's knowledge? _____

2. In Isaiah 45:19, how does the Bible tell us God speaks to us? _____

3. What does the Bible tell us about God's Word? (John 17:17) _____

We see that God's Word is His knowledge and that His knowledge is truth.

4. What does God desire of all people? (1 Timothy 2:4) _____

5. Once we are saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, what does God desire of us?
(2 Peter 3:18) _____
6. What is the first step in increasing our knowledge of God? (Proverbs 1:7) _____

To fear means “to have a loving reverence (respect, admiration) for God that includes submission to His Lordship and to the commands of His Word.” If we were to feed our physical bodies only once a week, we would become very malnourished. We would be weak physically and emotionally.

The same principle applies to our spiritual nourishment. If we feed ourselves spiritual food only once a week, we will become spiritually malnourished and unstable. We certainly will not be growing! As Christians, it is essential that we feed ourselves daily on the Word of God and receive His food (knowledge) for our growth.

Self-Control

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 10

The message of the gospel is that we can trust someone greater than ourselves. That someone, as we know, is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will encounter many trials all through our lives as Christians. In order to overcome those trials, we will need self-control. Self-control is "restraint exercised over one's own impulses, emotions, or desires."

For this study, let's begin by memorizing Romans 13:14. This translation is from the New International Version:

CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND DO NOT THINK ABOUT HOW TO GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE.

As Christians, we desire to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord, but we are constantly struggling with sin.

In this study, you will learn how to use your self-control to fight sin and temptation. When you answer these questions, do not simply copy the verses, but use your own words.

1. Read Romans 7:14–25. In this passage, Paul tells us about his struggle with sin and about his victory in Jesus Christ. How does this passage give you hope for your Christian life?

2. What is the key to conquering sinful desires? (Galatians 5:16) _____

Self-control is just one part of Christian character. It is produced by the Holy Spirit, not just by the moral discipline of trying to live by the law.

3. What is the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22–23) _____

Notice that the word *fruit* in verse 22 is singular. Self-control is just one portion of the fruit. One of the things that the Spirit promises to do for the children of God is to help us master ourselves, our weaknesses, and our areas of temptation.

4. 2 Peter 1:5–9 speaks of the virtues that will produce a well-rounded, fruitful Christian life. According to verse 6, what are we to add to knowledge?

Self-control is not idleness. It takes action. It is something that we need to put into practice, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

5. Read 2 Samuel 11:1–5, the story of David and Bathsheba. Did David exercise his self-control?

Verse 3 _____

Patience (Perseverance) [NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 11

In the last study, we learned about self-control. When we learn to be patient, self-control becomes easier. How often during times of trials do we find ourselves asking God to give us patience, right now! The word *patience* means “long-tempered,” the ability to contain one’s self. It is the opposite of having a short fuse. It indicates perseverance, endurance, steadfastness, and long-suffering. Patience is that calm and unruffled temper with which the godly person bears the evils of life, whether they come from persons or things.

For this study, we’ll be memorizing James 1:2–4:

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER TROUBLE COMES YOUR WAY, LET IT BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JOY. FOR WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED, YOUR ENDURANCE HAS A CHANCE TO GROW. SO LET IT GROW, FOR WHEN YOUR ENDURANCE IS FULLY DEVELOPED, YOU WILL BE STRONG IN CHARACTER AND READY FOR ANYTHING.

In this study, you will learn:

- That God is patient.
- How we can receive patience.

Remember to write out your answers in your own words. Do not simply copy the Bible verses.

1. Read James 1:2–4. What does verse 2 tell us we should do when we experience trials?

According to verse 4, how do we profit when we experience trials and tribulations?

People may tempt and provoke God with their sinfulness, yet He is incredibly patient toward them. Many Bible scholars believe that God waited 120 years for the people to repent of their wickedness while Noah was building the ark. Read Genesis 6:1–22.

2. How many people in all were saved from the flood? (1 Peter 3:20) _____

3. Read Genesis 12:3–4, 17:2, 18:10, and 21:5. When God makes a promise, He keeps it! It took 25 years for God’s promise to Abraham to take place. What did Abraham do during this time? (Hebrews 6:15)

4. According to 2 Peter 3:9, how patient (longsuffering) is the Lord? _____

5. What else is patient (longsuffering)? (1 Corinthians 13:4) _____

Patience and love are like joy and peace. The two go hand in hand. Often, we can show our love by restraining our words or actions.

6. Read Colossians 1:9–11. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we are strengthened with all power. What are we strengthened for? (Colossians 1:11) _____

Godliness

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 12

In the last study, we learned how to have patience, which is an important part of holy living. In the Bible, *godliness* refers to piety and reverence toward God. One major aspect of godliness is *holiness*, which is defined as sanctity, or separation from all that is sinful or impure or morally imperfect. One short and simple definition of holiness is "separation to God."

Let's open this study by memorizing 1 Peter 1:15–16:

BUT NOW YOU MUST BE HOLY IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, JUST AS GOD—WHO CHOSE YOU TO BE HIS CHILDREN—IS HOLY. FOR HE HIMSELF HAS SAID, 'YOU MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE I AM HOLY'.

As Christians, we should all desire to be more like Christ. Because one of the many attributes of God is His holiness, we should try to be holy.

In this study, you will learn about:

- The holiness of God.
- How we can live a godly life.

Remember to use your own words to write out your answers. Do not just copy the Bible verses.

1. What do we learn about God in these Bible verses?

(Psalm 99:9) _____

(1 John 1:5) _____

Holiness is an attribute of each of the three persons in the Trinity.

2. How do the following Scriptures refer to:

God the Father (Isaiah 41:14) _____

God the Son (Acts 3:14) _____

God the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) _____

3. How does God show His holiness in Isaiah 5:16? _____

4. How does God feel about sin? (Psalm 45:7) _____

Because God is holy, atonement for sins must be made before the sinner can approach and have fellowship with Him. We can only approach God through the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20–21

Who was sinless? _____

Who was made to be sin for us? _____

What do we become in Christ? _____

Brotherly Kindness

[NEW BELIEVER'S]
Bible Study

Study 13

In the last study, we learned about living a godly life. Love for our fellow Christians is an important part of godly living.

Let's begin this study by memorizing Romans 12:10:

LOVE EACH OTHER WITH GENUINE AFFECTION, AND TAKE DELIGHT IN HONORING EACH OTHER.

In this lesson, you will learn about:

- God's kindness.
- How you can show brotherly kindness to others.

Do not simply copy the verses when you answer these questions. Use your own words.

Brotherly kindness means "brotherly love" or "love for the brethren." In the Christian community, it sums up the support of Christians for each other.

1. Is God's kindness dependent on us? (Nehemiah 9:17) _____

2. How long will God's kindness endure? (Isaiah 54:8) _____

The Lord's kindness had no beginning and it has no end. It is eternal.

3. How does God show His kindness to us, according to Ephesians 2:6-7? _____

4. Read Titus 3:4-7 and write down what God's kindness has done for us. _____

5. Can we teach ourselves brotherly love?

(1 Thessalonians 4:9) _____

(1 John 4:7) _____

6. God's Word is our spiritual food. What do we want to taste of Him? (1 Peter 2:2-3)

Gracious means "good, kind, obliging, courteous." Let us constantly taste of His kindness as we feed upon His Word.

7. How can we be kind to others?

(Ephesians 4:32) _____

(Romans 15:1-2) _____

Love

[NEW BELIEVER'S] Bible Study

Study 14

In the last lesson, we learned that brotherly kindness is part of godly living. Now we will explore the topic of love more fully. Love is a word that we use quite often. "I love my wife," "I love my dog," "I love Mexican food." We certainly do not love all these three things equally! But love is the word we use for all these feelings.

There are three different words in Greek for love. *Eros* focuses on sexual desires (lust); *phileo* focuses on brotherly friendship; and *agape* is used to express a deep, long-suffering, and constant love toward an unworthy object. Agape is God's wonderful and unconditional love for us.

Let's begin this study by memorizing 1 John 4:16:

WE KNOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, AND WE HAVE PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM. GOD IS LOVE, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN THEM.

God is love. All that God does is an expression of His love. Love is not just one of His attributes, it is His very nature.

In this lesson, you will learn about God's love for His people and our love for each other and for God.

Please use your own words as you answer these questions. Do not simply copy the verses.

1. What do these verses tell us about God's love?

(Ephesians 2:4) _____

(Jeremiah 31:3) _____

(Jonah 4:2) _____

(Hebrews 12:6) _____

2. We read in the Old Testament that the Israelites were a disobedient people, yet God delivered them from the bondage of Egypt? Why? (Deuteronomy 4:37) _____

We see that God's deep affection and love is given as a reason for God's choice of Israel to be his people. It is His own sovereign will to love us. Read 2 Timothy 1:9.

3. Who is the object of God's love?

(John 3:35) _____

(John 6:27 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16) _____

(John 3:16 and Titus 3:4) _____

The love of God is personal and intimate. He doesn't love populations. He loves us individually.

4. Can anything separate us from the love of God? (Romans 8:35-39) _____
