



WELCOME TO  
**"STARTING POINT"**  
*Laying The Foundation for Growing in Christ*

I'm delighted you are here. You have taken a key step in solidifying your understanding about your relationship with Christ by coming to this important class.

**The Purposes of this Class are:**

- To **REVIEW** - *"Now that faith has come...you are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ."*  
Galatians 3:25,26 (NIV)
- To **REASSURE** - *"...strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith."*  
Acts 14:22 (NIV)

**The Focus of the Class:**

We will focus on THE GOSPEL and the FIVE ASSURANCES that every Christian needs to know to grow spiritually.

This class will:

- Equip you in your basic understanding of the gospel.
- Establish you in the five assurances of the Christian faith.

STUDY SESSION OUTLINE

Session One: Discovering Christ.

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* John 1:12,13

What should I believe? How do I become a Christian?

Session Two: Discovering Eternal Certainty.

*"And this is the testimony. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* 1 John 5:11,12

How do I know I have eternal life? How do I know I will never lose it?

Session Three: Discovering Confidence in Prayer.

*"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."* John 16:24



How do I pray? How do I know God will answer my prayers?

**Session Four: Discovering the "New Me".**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17*

How do I handle the pitfalls in my life? How do I know I have the power to change?

**Session Five: Discovering Guilt-Free Living.**

*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," Romans 8:1*

Why does God forgive? How do I handle my guilt?

**Session Six: Discovering Guidance for Adventurous Living**

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you." Psalms 32:8*

Where do I go for guidance? How do I know what decision to make?

**SESSION ONE: DISCOVERING CHRIST**

*"Yet to all who received Him to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ---- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

John 1:12,13

**QUESTIONS:**

What should I believe? How do I become a Christian?

**BECOMING A CHRISTIAN:**

Most people live their lives believing that there is a God, but not believing in the God who sent Jesus Christ. Many people think their belief, coupled with some good works should place them on God's good side. And because of this, if there is a heavenly kingdom, they will receive citizenship. But they are mistaken.

What I need to believe **ABOUT GOD:**

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ for you. God \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*"I (God) have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3*

*"We love because he (God) first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

2. God \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*"O Lord you have searched me and know me ... Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain." Psalm 139:1,6*



3. God has a terrific \_\_\_\_\_ for your life.

"... I (Jesus) have come that they may have life and have it to the fullest " John 10:10

"...For I know ' the plans I have for " you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

But many people are not aware of His love experientially nor His good plan for their lives. If they did, there would be a greater joy and purpose demonstrated in their lives. So...

What's the problem?

What I need to believe **ABOUT PEOPLE:**

1. The Bible says that everyone has a spiritual DISEASE

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. " Romans 3:23

What are the results?

• We are \_\_\_\_\_:

"...dead in your transgressions and sins..." Ephesians 2:1

• We are \_\_\_\_\_.

"...following the ways of this world, and the ruler of the kingdom of the air..." Ephesians 2:2

• We are \_\_\_\_\_.

"...gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature, and following its desires and thoughts..." Ephesians 2:3

2. God says that there is CONSEQUENCE for our WRONGDOING.

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23

This "death" is evidenced in the fact that we die physically but more is implied in this statement also. We have a spiritual deadness toward God because Christ is not in me. If this is the case, then what happens after we die?

What I need to believe **ABOUT JUDGMENT:**

• The Bible says that those who do not possess Christ, face \_\_\_\_\_

"Just as man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment . " Hebrews 9:27

"And I saw the dead, great and small standing before the throne and books were open." Revelation 20:12



At this point, some people do not want to listen to these things. Others, being concerned about their condition, try to establish a good relationship with God by doing some good works.

List at least 2 ways people try to earn their approval with God:

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

What I need to believe \_\_\_\_\_ :

1. The Bible says that you acquire \_\_\_\_\_ by faith because of \_\_\_\_\_ not because of \_\_\_\_\_

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith --- and this not from yourselves, **it is a gift of God**--- not of works **so that no one can boast.**" Ephesians 2:8,9*

**G** \_\_\_\_\_ **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. So, if man cannot save himself, what did God do?

### GOD PROVIDED HIS REMEDY

What I need to believe **ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:**

1. The Bible says that Jesus Christ paid the \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins.  
*"This is love: not that we loved God but that He loves us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. " 1 John 4:10*

2. That Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.  
*"... regarding His Son, who as to His human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. "*  
Romans 1:3,4

*"And if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*  
I Corinthians 15:17

When people understand this, because their false ideas about God have been transplanted with truth, they want to become Christians.

### How do I become a Christian?

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, he has crossed over from death to life."*  
John 5:24

1. What two things must we do in order to have eternal life?



We must \_\_\_\_\_ the message.

We must \_\_\_\_\_ in the God who sent Jesus Christ.

2. When we hear and believe we receive **FOUR** free benefits.

A. We now possess \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*  
John 17:3

B. We are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ **not** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us, he took it away, nailing it to the cross."* Colossians 2:13

C. We enjoy God's \_\_\_\_\_ not His \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."* Ephesians 1:3

D. We become \_\_\_\_\_ when we \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ into our life as our Lord and Savior.

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* John 1:12,13

You can take this step by praying a simple prayer commitment to God.

"Dear Lord,

*I admit that I have broken your moral laws and I ask you to forgive me. I believe you will forgive me because Jesus Christ paid the penalty for my sin on the cross. Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, I ask Him to come into my life as my life's new director. I trust you with that because you demonstrated your love for me by sacrificing your son for me." **Amen***

A Reminder:

God	the greatest giver
so loved	the greatest motive
the world	the greatest need
that He gave	the greatest act
His only son	the greatest gift
that whosoever	the greatest invitation
believes in Him	the greatest opportunity
should not perish	the greatest deliverance
but have eternal life	the greatest joy

Now that you have become a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior, you have made a couple of basic changes:



- 1 You have a NEW POWER base: \_\_\_\_\_:  
" ...turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. Acts 26:18
  
2. You have a new enemy: \_\_\_\_\_:  
"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. " 1 Peter 5:8

You are a spiritual babe. You have the potential to live a victorious, obedient and Christian adventure with Christ. To help you in this I want to share with you some basic simple truths that will strengthen you and keep you safe from the onslaughts of Satan. The next five sessions will outline these truths in a way that will provide assurances that are foundational for your spiritual growth.

**STARTING POINT**  
**GROWING IN CHRIST STUDY**  
**SESSION #1**

**CASE STUDY:**

Let's say a person makes a real commitment to Christ. He starts reading his bible and attending church. However, on the job his supervisor is really challenging him by being verbally abusive and on several occasions the boss has humiliated him before his colleagues. One day, his supervisor pushes him, and, in turn, he slugs his boss. He shares this incident with his wife. Although, concerned about his physical welfare, his wife thought that he should ask God to forgive him for his anger, as well as the man he hit. He refuses because he thinks he is justified.

Case Questions:

1. Would the Christian fellow lose his salvation because of his unwillingness to repent of his anger and make amends with his boss? Why or why not?
  
2. What role, if any, does good works play in an individual's salvation?  
Explain:
  
3. If you want to tell your friend how to become a Christian, what would you explain to them? (Let someone answer this question)