



## First Steps: Session One

How great, you've found God and started to follow Jesus! How great! We must celebrate!

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life's gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5.17*

*(Helpful Hint: look up each verse in your Bible, and underline it or highlight it)*

When we become Christians, we become new persons. We experienced a second birth, We were **born into a new life**. It means God gave us a brand new start!

But it's puzzling too. How can God enter my life and make me a new person? Let's solve this puzzle! How? By examining *how we become a Christian*.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

The most basic question we ask is, *What's life all about? What's the meaning of life?* Some answer, *Life's all about...*

acquiring more and more things. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (can you think of an example?)

becoming a VIP (very important person)

seeking pleasure. (what kind of pleasures?)

\_\_\_\_\_ (your answer)

exercising power over others \_\_\_\_\_

(think of something else?)

No, that's *not* what life's about! If we pursue these, we'll waste our life. How? Here's a simple exercise about purpose. *What's the purpose of these objects?*



A cup is made to \_\_\_\_\_ (your answer)



A pen is made to \_\_\_\_\_ (*your answer*)

Easy! A cup's made to hold liquids. A pen, to write. If you use a cup and a pen for their proper purpose, they're very helpful. But if you use them wrongly, you'll ruin them.

Could you use a cup as a hammer and a pen as a nail? Sure! But they'd break. Whose fault would it be? Not the manufacturer's, no. It'd be your fault!

When God made us, he had a purpose in mind. Any idea what that was?  
*God made men and women, boys and girls for* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*your answer*)

How would we find out God's purpose? With a cup or a pen, we'd ask the manufacturer. Do the same with God. Ask him,

*God, why did you make human beings? What's my purpose, God?*

God answered that question:

*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God. The Bible, 1 Corinthians 10. 31*

***Our primary purpose as a human being is to glorify God.***

A famous training book for new Christians expressed our purpose this way:

*Question: What is the chief end of man?*

*Answer: Man's chief end is **to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.***

(Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1648)

Hmmm! What does **glorify God** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (your answer)

Here's one response: to **glorify God** is to  
**give God the highest honor, the first place in our lives.**  
**love him supremely and obey him as the Lord (Boss).**

Why? Because...

**He's our Creator.** He made us. He deserves our gratitude.

**He knows our purpose.** He'll show it if we respect and honor him.

**He has a dream for each of us,** if we give him first place in our lives.

**Idol: a God-replacement.**

*Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.  
The Bible, 1 John 5.21*

What would you say and do to honor someone? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (your answer)

You might say, *I appreciate you! I enjoy being with you! I really admire you!* You'd give gifts, offer to help them, ask if you could serve them. You'd want to hang around them and imitate them.

**That's how to treat God!**

We should love and honor him, treating him with the highest respect.

How do people actually treat God? Sadly, not like that. We find another purpose or substitute another dream to live for. As a result, we waste and ruin our lives.

God uses a term for these substitutes. **Idols**. Idols are *God-replacements*, something or someone we substitute for God.

We give these idols honor and respect, instead of God. We fixate on them, not focusing on God. We miss our purpose, **to glorify God in all we do or say.**

Some idols people put into their lives are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (your answer)

These God-substitutes are offensive to God. It shows we don't respect him, nor depend on him.

The only life-purpose that lasts forever is God's purpose. We'll glorify God our Creator and live for Him forever! No other purpose lasts.

Imagine being an architect. Your purpose in life is building a great project. When it's completed, you have no more purpose.

If your purpose is raising a family, at some point the children are up and out. Same with a career – at some point you retire.

These First Steps will help you learn how to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. If you find your purpose and live it passionately, you'll have a fruitful life. If you don't, you'll end up empty, frustrated. A wasted life!

How do you learn to glorify God? Next study, we'll discover how.

Let's review:

When we become a Christian, God starts all over again with us –  
**we're a brand-new person!**  
Our purpose in life is now to glorify God and enjoy him. Forever!

*(Helpful Hint: write this on a card or in your cellphone and refer to it this week)*

**Next Session: How we become God's friend.**