

References:



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<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/>

New International Readers Version (NIRV) Bible



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In Christ,
I am God's
Masterpiece

We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ.

Ephesians 2:10



DAY 1

RECREATED IN CHRIST

Jesus talks with Nicodemus

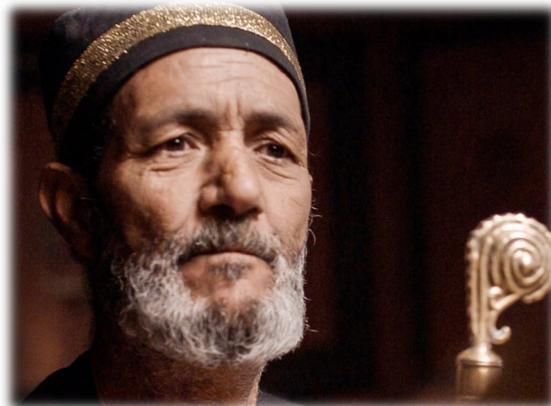
(John 3: 1-7)

We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIRV)

Jesus was teaching and performing miraculous signs in Jerusalem. There was a member of the Jewish ruling council, called Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee, and a very religious man. **He studied the Scriptures, but still had questions.**

The Pharisees were upset with Jesus' teaching, and were developing a hatred for Him. Nicodemus visited Jesus at night, perhaps because he was afraid to be seen with Jesus, or maybe because he wanted to have a private conversation with Him.



He said to Jesus, "Rabbi, you are a teacher from God. No one could perform such miraculous signs if God was not with him."

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

DAY 1

Recreated in Christ

(John 3: 1-7)

When we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are miraculously changed. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we think, act, and live differently.

When anyone lives in Christ, the old is gone! The new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIRV)

DAY 2

Motivated in Christ

(John 4: 1-42)

All people are valuable to Jesus. Only through Jesus can we receive the living water that fills us with the Holy Spirit, and gives us eternal life. We are motivated by Jesus to share God's love.

"Anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. It will flow up into eternal life."

John 4:14 (NIRV)

DAY 3

Empowered in Christ

(James 4: 14-17)

Doing good deeds doesn't save us; only Jesus Christ saves. However, our faith in Jesus as Lord and the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve God in our daily lives.

"In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do."

Matthew 5:16 (NIRV)

The Holy Spirit gives us the faith to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Once we have faith in Christ, what happens?

- We are filled with the Holy Spirit, and empowered to do good things for God.

2. How do we please God?

- By doing things He wants us to do, and letting our light shine.

3. How do we know what God wants us to do?

- By reading and understanding the Bible, and praying regularly.

4. What are some of the things that the Bible directs us to do?

- Practice righteousness in our lives (practice doing good); 1 John 2:29
- Love one another (1 John 4:7; Luke 10:27-37)
- Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you; Matt. 7:12

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can you shine out God's light in your life?

2. What are some "good works" that your Friendship Group can do to serve God, and others?

- Create school kits for underprivileged children.
- Make gift baskets for the needy.
- Collect food for a food pantry.
- Invite others to your Friendship Group.
- Pray!

1 John 5:4



Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."



Nicodemus was puzzled by this statement. He thought Jesus meant someone would have to enter his mother's womb a second time to be born. Jesus explained that to be born again was not a physical birth, but a **spiritual birth from above**. To be

born again happens when you believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit enters your heart. **When we believe in Jesus, we become a new person.** The power of the Holy Spirit then leads us in a Godly life. **If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation!**

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit."

John 3:5 (NIRV)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are miraculously changed. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we think, act, and live differently.

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

The Gospel of John tells of Nicodemus later on defending Jesus, and even helping to bury Him after He was crucified!

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. Why might have Nicodemus visited Jesus at night?
3. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he had to do to see the kingdom of God?
4. What did Nicodemus think Jesus meant by His statement?
5. What kind of new birth was Jesus talking about?
6. How are we recreated in Christ?

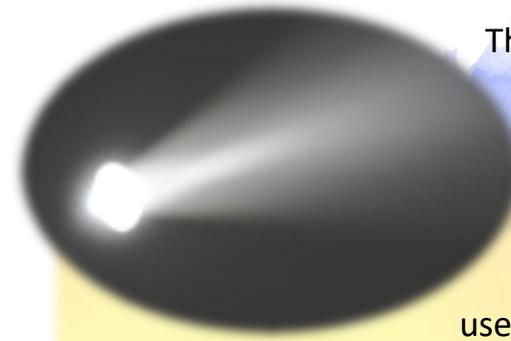
**REFLECTION
QUESTIONS**



1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
2. As a new creation, what are some ways the Holy Spirit can guide you in your life?
3. When are we afraid to let others know we follow Jesus?

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17



Think about the flashlight again. What are different ways a flashlight helps us with its light? It can show the path we are walking on, and reveals any barriers and objects we could stumble on. A flashlight can also be used to signal other people, if we need help.

Now, what are ways that we can glorify God by shining His light? God's Word guides us to do the right thing, such as loving other people; serving in our community; working hard at our jobs; and telling others about Jesus Christ! Just like a flashlight is used in different ways, **we too are used by the Holy Spirit in different ways to shine the light of God for the world to see!**

**DAILY BIBLE
VERSE**

"In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16 (NIRV)

**THOUGHT OF
THE DAY**

When we have faith and believe in Jesus, we will become His light that shines by the things we do, because He is our Lord.

Once we have the Holy Spirit, what do we do? James 2:14 says; “Suppose a person claims to have faith but doesn’t act on their faith. My brothers and sisters, can this kind of faith save them?” (NIRV)

Now, it’s very important to remember the only thing that saves us is faith in Jesus Christ.

When we believe Jesus Christ is our Savior, we are recreated in Him, and the Holy Spirit enters our hearts!

He also empowers us to serve Jesus in our everyday lives. This is called good works or deeds.



Doing good things is what we do because of our faith in Jesus. In the Bible, James tells us to have an active faith; “Suppose a brother or a sister has no clothes or food. Suppose one of you says to them, ‘Go. I hope everything turns out fine for you. Keep warm. Eat well.’ And suppose you do nothing about what they really need. Then what good have you done? It is the same with faith. If it doesn’t cause us to do something, it’s dead.”

James 2:15-17 (NIRV)



Doing good things for God does not save us. However, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to do good things for God! He empowers every believer to do good deeds.

DAY 2

MOTIVATED IN CHRIST

The Samaritan woman at the well

(John 4: 1-42)

We are God’s creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIRV)

Jesus and his disciples had to travel from Judea to Galilee. The Jews and Samaritans did not get along at all. The Jews hated the Samaritans so much, they believed contact with the Samaritans would make them unclean. The Jews normally would cross the river twice to get to Galilee, so they didn’t have to go through Samaria. Jesus chose to go straight through Samaria instead.



Jesus stopped in Sychar, where Jacob’s well was located. Tired from the long walk, He sat down beside the well to rest and sent His



disciples to town to get food. Soon a Samaritan woman came to fill her water jar. **Jesus asked her for a drink of water.**

Shocked, the woman asked, “How can you ask me for a drink?”

She was surprised because Jesus was a Jew, and she was a Samaritan. Also, Jewish leaders did not speak to women in public. The fact that Jesus spoke to her shows that **all people**, whether Jew or Gentile, man or woman, popular or outcast, **are valuable to Jesus.**



Jesus said to the woman, “If you knew what God gives and who I am, you would be asking me for life-giving water, and **you will never be thirsty again.**”

“Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. **Where do you get**

this living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” The woman asked.

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks of that water will be thirsty again, but **those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty.**”

Let’s look at what happens when Jesus becomes our Lord and Savior. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples on a mountainside;



“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can’t be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. **Instead, they put it on its stand.** Then it gives light to everyone in the house. **In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it.**

Then they will see the good things you do.

And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIRV)

How do we shine our light? Think about a flashlight. Even though it comes with a light bulb, a flashlight cannot shine light without something very important. Do you know what a flashlight needs to give light? **Batteries!** When batteries are installed, the flashlight becomes something different. The batteries empower the flashlight, so it can shine light.



Like a flashlight needs batteries, we cannot shine light without being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us faith that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and comes to live in us.

DAY 3

EMPOWERED IN CHRIST

Faith in Jesus Christ energizes us to do good things for God (James 2: 14-17)

We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIRV)

Have you ever been really excited about something, like going on a trip?

Does your daily schedule change as you get ready for the trip?

When something big happens in our lives, we usually act and do things differently. When going on a trip, we dress in different clothes, pack a suitcase, and are excited to meet new people and see new things.



It's like this when we have Jesus Christ in our hearts; we act and do things differently. **When we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, the change we go through doesn't go away; it's here to stay!**

The woman was eager to drink the life-giving water. Jesus told her to go get her husband.

"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

"You are right," Jesus answered. "You have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband."

Jesus knew about her life, but He asked her anyway. Why? In order to receive the life-giving water, **we have to recognize our need for it.**

Forgiveness comes only to those who confess and repent of their sin, and desire forgiveness.

The woman began to understand that Jesus was more than just a man, and that He was talking about faith in God. She said, "I know that the Messiah will come, and when He comes, He will tell us everything."

Then Jesus said, "I am He."

When she heard this, the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done! **Could He be the Messiah?**"

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **And many more believed because of His Word.**

They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and **we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.**"



The life-giving water stands for Jesus, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit.

That living water is a gift from God. We have life-giving water when we have Jesus in our hearts. **Only through Jesus can we receive eternal life.**

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

"Anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life."

John 4:14 (NIRV)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

All people are valuable to Jesus. Only through Jesus can we receive the living water that fills us with the Holy Spirit, and gives us eternal life. We are motivated by Jesus to share God's love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus at the well?
2. Who did He meet at the well?
3. What did He say to the Samaritan woman?
4. Why was she shocked?
5. What did Jesus tell the woman about herself?
6. What did Jesus say about the water?
7. What did the woman do?

We are forgiven when we confess and repent of our sins.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways we are like the woman at the well?
2. What does it mean to be spiritually thirsty?
3. How can we share God's love with others?

We receive the living water, which is the Holy Spirit, only through Jesus.