

How to Know Christ Is in Your Life

Topic: Assurance of Salvation

Purpose of this study:

To make the new Christian sure of five facts concerning asking Christ into his life.

- Christ has indeed come into his life;
- He has been reborn as a whole new creation;
- All his sins - past, present, and future - have been forgiven;
- A new relationship has been established between him and God;
- He will never again be separated from God.

Motivation for teaching this study:

You've just lead someone to Christ! Wonderful! But now what do you do? A brand new Christian is in a terrible vulnerable state. Satan is trying to convince him that "praying that prayer" was really insignificant. He is trying to kill the seed before it starts to grow. Your job is to explain the truth of what really happened and what to expect in the new believers life from now on. While you may not be able to be 100% sure of your new disciple's faith, you must take him or her at their word and tell them how to take the next step in their new walk with Christ.

Introducing the Lesson:

You may want to begin by asking the question: "What thoughts ran through your mind when you prayed that prayer to invite Christ into your life?" Or, "What did you feel like when you first believed in Christ?" Then you can say, "Today we want to talk about how to know Christ is in your life".

Teaching the Bible study:

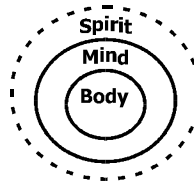
Have the students circle the correct percentages that best describe their relationship with Christ at this point. There are no right answers and you should not act surprised if someone is unsure of their relationship with Christ. By carefully observing the percentages circled, one should have a feel for how confident students are of their salvation.

Explaining each point:

Point #1 - Stress that Christ has said He would come into their lives and that God cannot lie or mislead them (Numbers 23:19). Therefore, they can have certainty that Christ is in their lives.

Point #2 - Born again means to be *born again spiritually*. A new birth has taken place. This can be illustrated by drawing the following diagram:

First draw the body, followed by the mind.
Then draw a dashed line enclosing the other two to symbolize the spiritual dimension coming to life when a person believes in Christ.



Point #3 - Emphasize that all of our sins, past-present-future, have been forgiven by Christ. Jesus as a high priest has forgiven the sins of all time by his one offering on the cross and now God views us as white as snow.

Point #4 - Here you should strive to cover two truths. First, your disciple should grasp that he really was lost before his conversion. Second, he should know that the reasons behind his lostness are gone now, and things are totally different between him and God.

Point #5 - Stress the security of being in God's hand. Basically, Jesus has said that nothing can take us away from out of his hand - even ourselves! Once you're in, you're IN!

Father-Son Relationship - You will always be a son or daughter of your earthly father. Even if you run away and declare that you disown your parents and they disown you, your father will always be your father. He was the one who gave you life and nothing will ever change that. It's the same with God. Once we born into his family (John 1:12), we are born again and no one can take this life from us (John 3:1-8).

Closing the Lesson:

Encourage them to thank God as a group or individually that He has come into their lives. Set a time to meet again as a group.

Evaluation:

Here are some questions to ask a new Christian after you have had some input into their lives about their assurance of salvation. Do not ask all of these questions, just pick a couple you feel are relevant.

- If you were to die tonight and stand before God, and He were to say, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?
- If someone were to ask you, "How can I be sure I'm a Christian?" what would you say?
- What are some things you can do to make yourself worthy of God's love? (Trick question. The right is answer is nothing. But, you can tell what they are trusting in by how they answer the question.)
- Do you really think you are good enough for God to save you? (Trick question. "No" is the right answer, but this also reveals how well they understand their sinful condition before God.)

* Many concepts in this study are from *Personal Disciplemaking* by Chris Adsit. Visit www.ccci.org/disciplemakers or call 888-342-2235.