

48. Wow, I'm a Christian Now!

Ephesians 1-2



If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old has gone. Behold, all things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17

Wow, I'm a Christian Now!

You just asked Jesus into your life! You run to the mirror and stare into it. Wait, you don't look any different. You might feel excited. Or you might feel normal. Has anything changed?

Oh yes. In fact, everything has changed. In a world you cannot see, angels are shouting praises. Your name is written in the "Book of Life." That means heaven is your new home. It's like you were dead. But now, you are alive! You were far away, but now you are near... wrapped in your Father's arms.

With love, God chose you. He adopted you into his forever family. It was for his happiness and glory. God's Holy Spirit sets you apart. He lives inside you. Like a newborn baby, your life starts all over.

Your sins are forgiven, poof! Gone. This is grace. God poured it out all over you. God's own power is making you strong. He has exciting jobs lined up for you to do.

You are now part of a worldwide kingdom. You are a brother or sister to every believer who has ever lived. From every land and tribe and language, we are all God's family now.

Welcome home, little Christian. Enjoy this joyful journey!

Questions

1. What happens in heaven when someone become a Christian?
2. What happens in a life and heart when someone becomes a Christian?
3. How has your life changed since you became a Christian?
4. What jobs do you think God might have for you to do?

Pray this prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you bringing me into your family. Thank you for forgiving me and starting me on this joyful journey.

Amen

Cross out the words that no longer describe you. Color in yellow the words that now describe you.

alone; in a worldwide family; far from God; in his arms; sins are gone; forgiven; dead; alive; will for sure go to heaven; no certain plan; God has a job for me; lost; found; do not belong to God; chosen, weak; powerful; old; starting fresh; heaven is my new home; filled with love; saved from hell; I am a new creation; live for myself; now I live for God.

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) What is the best part about being in your family?
- b) What could it mean to be in God's family?
- c) What is adoption? Why is it special?

After you read:

Dear Teachers, if we could see the unseen world – angels dancing, our home in heaven, God's love – it would change us instantly. Our goals, dreams, and every decision would undergo a monumental shift, like our destiny did when we believed. Read Ephesians 1-2 (NirV) before the lesson. Personalize the passage in prayer. Thank God for every unseen (spiritual) blessing you find in those verses. Pray that God would help you illuminate and make joyful and concrete this invisible kingdom to your kids.

Still Me... or is it?

Sit in a circle and pass around a hand mirror. As the kids look in it, ask: What is different now that you are a Christian? Do you look different? Feel better? Can you tell from looking at someone on the outside what has happened on the inside? Have the kids close their eyes. One child at a time, stand behind that child with your hands on his shoulders. Personalize unseen realities from the story. For example, "Kaylee, now that you are in Christ, you are alive in a new world. Your life starts all over." "Nathan, now that you are in Christ, your sins are forgiven. Poof. Gone!"

Unseen Blessings

Most of our blessings as Christians happen in the unseen world, in heaven and in our hearts. Make these invisible blessings a little more visible. Place these items in a pillowcase. Have the students take turns reaching in, feeling it, guessing what it is and matching it to a blessing. Use these items: Greatly loved (a heart cut from red paper); Chosen (a baseball – as though chosen to be on a team); Alive (a plant leaf or seeds); Forgiven (an eraser); Adopted into God's family (an empty photo frame); Rich (dollar bill); Powerful (a small weight). Now, looking at all the objects, say, "Now that I am a Christian, I am greatly loved, chosen, alive, forgiven, etc."

New Creation Celebration

Invite parents to class. They sit on the far side of the room. As each child slowly crosses the room, the kids recite Ephesians 2:13 (NirV) "At one time you were far away from God. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. He spilled his blood for you. This has brought you near to God." The parent (posing as God our Father) hugs the child and says, "Wow! You belong to Christ now. You are a new creation (Corinthians 5:17)." Take pictures. Write each name on a balloon in permanent marker. Throw confetti. Create a "Wow. I'm in Christ Now" bulletin board.

The Book of Life

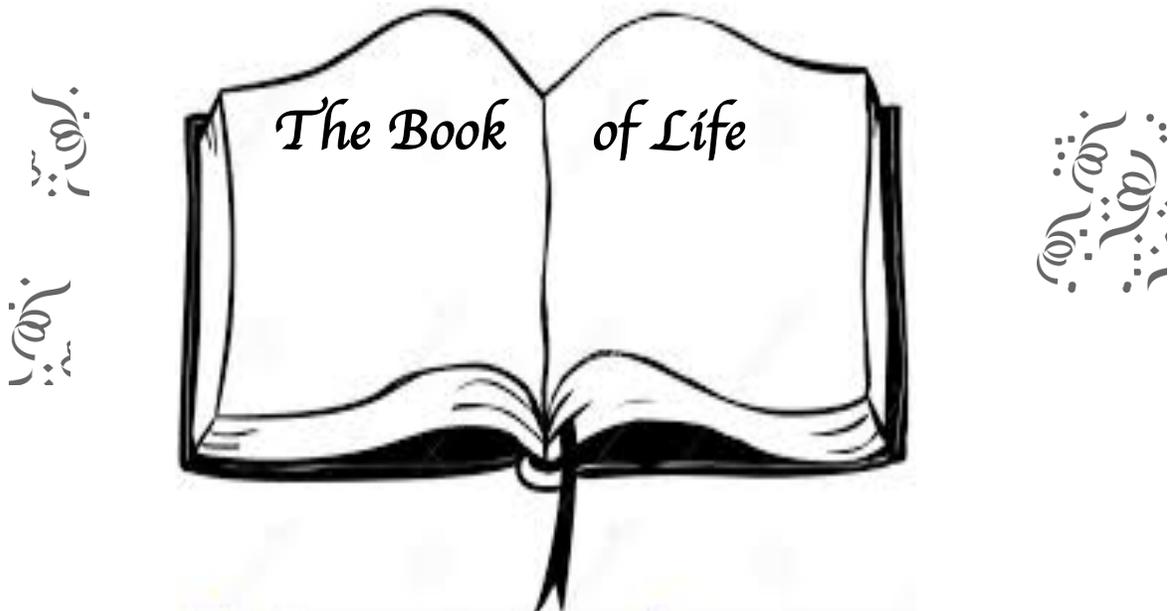
Throughout Scripture, there are 14 references to the Book of Life, sometimes called "The Lamb's Book of Life." Photocopy this page onto card stock, one for each child. Using permanent marker, have the kids write their name in their neatest handwriting (cursive if they know it). Now, try to erase the name. They can't. If you are a Christian, you are permanently in God's book, his forever family. Create your own class Book of Life out of fancy paper. Leave it for other kids in other classes to use.

Rejoice!

Everyone
whose
name is
found
written in
the book
will be
saved.
Daniel 12:1



Praises!
Rejoice
that your
names are
written in
the Book
Of Life.
Luke 10:20



I'm There Chair

Ephesians 2:6 tells us that we are already "seated with Christ in his heavenly kingdom." Help the kids understand that although their feet are in this world, their real home is in heaven, right now. Jesus has already prepared a place for them. Create an area in the room called "heaven." You might bring in lots of white, fluffy cotton/quilt batting (found in sewing sections). Add lots of light and soft music. Put chairs in the middle. The kids write in their names in the frame below, cut it out, color it, and (using masking tape) adhere it to a chair. Sitting in your heavenly chairs, talk about your home in heaven. Are you a little homesick? How can you act like a child of God here on earth?



Sweet Surprises

When you believed in Christ, you began a journey full of gifts from God. And yet, you did nothing to deserve this shower of blessings. Get a variety of candy bars so that each child has one. Cut out the blessings below. Wrap each candy bar with a blessing. Put them into a box and wrap the box with fancy gift wrap. Choose one child to accept the gift. Ask, "Did you earn this gift? Pay for it? Ask for it? Deserve it? No. It is a gift. You were CHOSEN to receive it." Read aloud together Ephesians 2:8-9. Open the present and each child tells how we are blessed while munching on the sweet surprise.

I am a **NEW CREATION!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I have a **NEW HOME – HEAVEN!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I am **ALIVE!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I am **CHOSEN!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I have **GOD'S SPIRIT INSIDE ME!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I am in **GOD'S FOREVER FAMILY!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I am **FORGIVEN!**

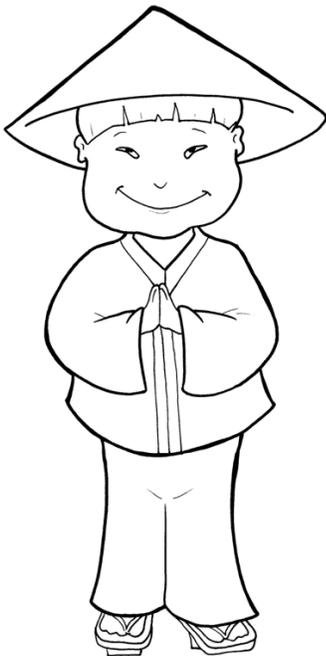
God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

I am **STRONG!**

God's grace has saved me because of my faith in Christ. My salvation doesn't come from anything I do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8-9

Meet my HUGE Family! (Part 1)

As believers, we are all citizens of heaven, no matter where we live or what we look like. Photocopy these three pages onto card stock. As students color the Christian children around the world, name them and say (for example): "This is my sister Yasmin from Brazil." "This is my brother Lin from China." Cut in rectangles. Punch holes in the top and bottom. Run a thin, red ribbon in and out to make a chain. This red ribbon symbolizes the blood of Jesus, which connects us and makes us family. Find names and countries: <https://www.babygaga.com/20-countries-and-their-most-popular-baby-names/>



Meet my HUGE Family! (Part 2) Use this chain to hang on your Christmas tree!



Meet my HUGE Family! (Part 3) Photocopy tiny and turn it into a necklace!

