

Lesson 2: New life in Christ

Aims for each learner:

- Be excited about their new life in Christ.
- Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- Understand that we receive a new identity, a new birth and a new nature.
- Be committed to fight a spiritual battle against the old nature.

Cultural clues:

- Jihad
- Postures of prayer

Prepare:

Optional video clip for Q.19.

Opening

Pray for today's lesson. Review last week's practical task:

- Someone please read the Practical Task from Lesson 1.
- Did you think carefully about this? We will talk about it later in today's discussion.

Lesson 2 home study review:

Question 1: a) new; b) chosen people

Question 2: old, new

Question 3: personal responses *check that all learners wrote something in their books*

Question 4: Christ, new, old, new

Introduce today's topic: Today we will learn about the new life our Lord Jesus Christ gives us. This includes a new identity, a new birth and a new nature. That's exciting!

Discussion

Introduction and Questions 1-4

Questions 1-4: Read together 1 Peter 1:1-2. *If learners don't yet have a Bible, print out the passage.*



- Who wrote this letter under God's guidance? *The apostle Peter. This is the same Simon Peter we learned about in Lesson 1.*
- With what words does Peter describe the people who received this letter? *'God's elect' (chosen ones) but also 'scattered', 'exiles and foreigners', who are not fully at home in this world.*
- How does it feel to be far from home, to be a foreigner? *Personal responses. See question 3.*

Our new identity (Questions 5-7)

Question 5: Read the whole question.

- Have you ever been called infidel (*kafir*) or apostate (*murtadd*)? *These are common attacks on believers from this background.*
How did it feel?
 - But what is our new identity in God's sight?
 - How does it feel to be "God's chosen people"?
- This is wonderful, especially if our community reject us.*

Our new birth (Questions 8-13)

Question 8: Look at the picture of the caterpillar and butterfly

- When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, is it the same creature as before or different?
- How is this example like the new birth we have in Jesus Christ?



In one way it is the same, but it has gone through a kind of 'new birth' so now it looks completely different and can fly high.

In one way we are the same people as before, but the spiritual change in us is as big as when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. The differences will show in our lives and we will live in a new dimension of God's Spirit.

Question 11: Read the verse in the box (1 Peter 1:3)

- Who gives new birth to those who follow Christ?
- Why does he do this?
- What does this new birth give us?

*God himself, the Father of our Lord Jesus.
Because of his great mercy.
A living hope. We can be confident of our new
life in Christ. It will continue even after death*

Question 12: Read what the doctor says and ask three people to read the three responses.

- Think of the doctor being like Jesus, offering new birth to people who are spiritually sick.
- What kind of person is patient A like?
- What kind of person is patient B like?
- What kind of person is patient C like?
- So, how do we receive the spiritual new birth?



*A: Someone who believes Christ but is afraid to follow him.
B: Someone who does not believe Christ at all.*

*C: Someone who believes Christ's offer and trusts him and receives him into his life.
By trusting Christ's offer, like patient C. We say to him 'please come into my life'. See q.13*

Question 13: Read the speech bubble. *Invite anyone who has not taken this step to talk to you in private.*

Our new nature (Questions 14-16)

Questions 14-15: Different learners may read the different comments in the speech boxes.

- What about us, how have our feelings or character changed since we became Christ's followers? What did you write in question 15? *Remind learners to write their personal responses in the study time so they have something ready to share. Any learners who do not yet follow Christ cannot answer this question but they could comment on changes they saw in the life of a believer.*
- After sharing, or at the end of the session, thank God together for these changes in our lives.

Our spiritual battle (Questions 17-20)

Question 17-18: Look at the pictures in question 18.

- Which people are showing their old nature? Which are showing their new nature?
- What 'old nature' things do you struggle with?
- Read the verse in the box in question 17. What must we do to win the battle against our old nature?



Put off the old, put on the new – like changing clothes.

Question 19: Read the farmer's parable.

- What do the goats represent?
- In what ways are you feeding the black goat?
- What kinds of things could you do instead to make the white goat stronger?

*Optional: Show video of a black & white goats fighting. Search youtube: goat bucks fighting or visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG24G-dGzrQ>
As the advisor, you too should share your own struggles. Explain that this is an ongoing battle. God lives in us by his Spirit and gives us strength to win. Philippians 4:13.*

Practise together the memory verse: *Question 20 uses the old NIV version for this verse*
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17)

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching: Read together the practical task.

- What difference will today's lesson make in your life?
- Keep going with the home study! It's really important that you come prepared each week to share what you have learned.

Pray together:

Thank God for the changes he has made in us, and ask him to help us fight daily the spiritual battle.