

Guidelines for lesson 2

New Life in Christ

AIMS OF LESSON 2

For each learner to:

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

TO START THE MEETING

START WITH PRAYER

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICAL TASK

- Say: "Lesson 1's practical task was to think seriously about whether you are yet following Christ. Did you do this task?"

TODAY'S TOPIC

- Say: "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."

ANSWERS TO THE LESSON REVIEW

- Turn together to Lesson 2 Review and ask what the learner(s) wrote.
The correct answers are:
Question 1: a) new; b) chosen people
Question 2: old, new
Question 3: personal responses [*remind each learner to write in their books, they should not leave it blank. Ask them to share what they wrote.*]
Question 4: Christ, new, old, new
- Practise saying the memory verse, all together as a group: "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A) INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER (Questions 1-4)

Say:

- “This course Come Follow Me is based on a part of God’s Word called ‘The First Letter of Peter’, or 1 Peter for short. Let’s read the first two verses.”

 **Read** together 1 Peter 1:1-2.

(if the learner(s) don’t yet have their own Bible, you read the passage for them or print it out).

Ask:


- “In verse 1, who wrote down this letter as God guided him?”
[The apostle Peter. This is the same Simon Peter whom we read about last week. We will learn more in Lesson 6 about how the different books of the Bible fit together, and how they are fully God’s Word even though humans wrote them down.]
- “How does verse 1 describe the people who received this letter?”
[‘God’s elect, exiles, scattered’ (NIV) or ‘God’s chosen people who are living as foreigners’ (NLT). They were living in different parts of the country we now call Turkey].

Say:

- “It is hard to be like scattered foreigners far from our true home. We will learn more about this in Lesson 8. But how wonderful it is to know that we are God’s chosen people! He chose us and loved us before we were born! Now let’s learn more about our new identity as God’s chosen people.”
-

B) OUR NEW IDENTITY (Questions 5-7)


Question 5

 **Read** the first paragraph.

Ask:

- “What do Muslims usually call those who change their faith?”
[To discuss. Maybe ‘infidel’ (kafir) or ‘apostate’ (murtadd).]
 - “But what is our new identity in God’s sight?”
[We are his chosen people!]
-

Question 7

 **Read** the first paragraph.

Ask:

- “How does it make you feel, knowing that God has chosen and loved us even though we don’t deserve it? And even though the world rejects us?”
[To discuss – personal responses.]
-

B) OUR NEW BIRTH (Questions 8-11)

Question 8


Look at the picture of the caterpillar and butterfly

 **Read** question 8.

 **Ask:**

- “When a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, is it the same creature as before or different?”
[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.]
 - “How is this example like the new birth we have in Jesus Christ?”
[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 10

 **Read** the entire question.

 **Ask:**

- “What is the correct answer?” *[b]*
-

Question 11


 **Read** 1 Peter 1:3 in the box.

 **Ask:**

- “Who has given us this new birth?”
[God, who is also called the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ]
 - “Why has he given us new birth?” *[Because of ‘his great mercy’.]*
 - “What do we gain by this new birth?” *[‘a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ’.]*
-

C) HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THIS NEW BIRTH? (Questions 12-13)

Question 12

 **Read** the entire question.


Say:

- “This example of the doctor shows us what kind of people can receive the new birth”.

 **Ask:**

- “What kind of person is patient A like? *[Someone who believes Christ’s offer but is afraid to follow him.]*
 - “What kind of person is patient B like? *[Someone who does not believe Christ’s offer at all.]*
 - “What kind of person is patient C like? *[Someone who believes Christ’s offer and trusts him and receives him into his life.]*
 - “So, how do we receive the spiritual new birth?” *[By trusting Christ’s offer, like patient C. We say to him ‘please come into my life’.]*
-

Question 13

 **Read** the speech bubble.

Say:


- “Have you yet received the Lord Jesus into your life? This is the only way to receive the wonderful new birth. If you have not yet taken this step, please come and talk about it with me in private”.
-


D) OUR NEW NATURE (Questions 14-16)

Questions 14-15

Say:

- “We have learned that the Lord Jesus Christ gives us a new identity and a new birth. This produces a new nature in us. Let’s see what difference this new nature made for several people who grew up as Muslims and later became Christ’s followers.”

 **Read** the speech boxes in Questions 14 and 15. You and different learners can take turns to read the different comments.


 **Read** the section in Question 15 beginning “What actual changes...”

 **Ask:**

- “What did you write here? *[Each learner should mention one thing from their own experience.]*
-

E) OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLE (Questions 17-20)


Question 17

 **Read** the first paragraph and the Bible verses in the box.

? Ask:

- “In this Bible passage, what behaviour belong to the old nature?” [*Anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language*.]
 - “Are these things ever seen in our own behaviour?” [*Personal answers*.]
 - “What does this passage command us to do about these things?” [*Take them off. This is like taking off dirty old clothes. Instead we should ‘put on’ our new nature, like new clean clothes*.]
 - “Is this easy to do?” [*No it isn’t! We can’t even do it in our own strength*.]
-

Question 19

 **Read** the first paragraph.

? Ask:

- “What do the two goats represent?”
[*The black goat represents our old sinful nature, & the white goat our new nature in Christ*.]
- “Which one wins in our lives?”
[*Whichever one we ‘feed the most’, i.e. if we feed our new nature in Christ it will grow stronger, but if we give opportunity to our old sinful nature it will gain more control over us*.]

Watch: a video of a black and white goat fighting <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG24G-dGzrQ>


? Ask:

- “What are some practical ways that you can help the ‘white goat’ grow stronger and stop feeding the ‘black goat’?” [*Personal answers. You too should mention things from your own life. Explain that this is a daily battle, you are still fighting this battle and you are not perfect yet*.]
- “This struggle is not easy, and if we fight in our own strength we will lose. But who gives us strength to win?” [*God, who lives in us by His Spirit. We will learn more about this in Lesson 4. The Holy Injil says ‘I can do all things through Him who gives me strength’ (Philippians 4:13)*.]

Cultural Clue: *Jihad*

When Westerners hear the word ‘Jihad’, they often think of religious extremists in the news. But the Arabic word *jihad* only means a ‘struggle’. It includes armed conflict, which in Islam is technically called the ‘lesser *jihad*’. The ‘greater *jihad*’ is the struggle to submit oneself to Allah’s moral standards. It is a similar concept to the ‘spiritual battle’ we fight against sin. It may be helpful to explain it in this way. However, be sensitive to the learner(s). If the term *jihad* means religious extremism for them, then do not make the analogy.

Question 20

 **Read** the memory verse 2 Corinthians 5:17 (in the box) and practise saying it together till it is well memorized.

Closing Prayer

Cultural Clue: *Postures of Prayer*

In the picture in question 20 the palms are turned upwards in prayer, not clasped together. Have you ever asked yourself why Christians typically bow their heads, close their eyes and joining their hands in prayer? There is nothing wrong with it, but Scripture never commands us to do so when we pray, and actually gives examples of many postures. Muslims often pray to Allah with their palms up, and your learner(s) will be familiar with this. It can be a helpful way of depicting how we come to God empty-handed, asking Him for mercy. If you wish, ask the learner whether they previously prayed this way and whether they would still like to do so as Jesus' follower.

TO FINISH THE MEETING

ASK:

- “What difference will today's lesson make in your life?”
[Each person should share, including you as advisor.]

READ the Lesson 2 Practical Task.

SAY:

- “Please do this Practical Task this week. And do the home study for lesson 3.”

CLOSE IN PRAYER asking God to help us fight daily the spiritual battle.