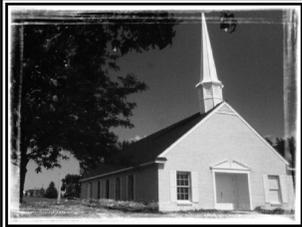


Come Alive

with Jesus



Lesson 7

As You Grow, You'll Need Friends

Church

Imagine, if you can, a newborn baby being dropped into a sterile bed as soon as he's born; then left to grow alone. Gowned but silent nurses would change him when necessary or prop a bottle within his reach; but there would be no talking, no smiling, no holding. He wouldn't go home to a family. There would be no grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins to admire him. He'd be given the best physical care: food, clean surroundings, and medical checkups. But no companionship or communication with other humans.

It's impossible to believe that such an infant could grow into a balanced adult. In fact, it's not difficult to wonder if he'd survive at all. To grow properly, babies need loving companionship and caring, as well as food and warmth. Christians need loving companionship too; and God plans that His children should enjoy fellowship together.

What attitude did Jesus say Christians should have for each other? **John 13:34-35** (KJV 1117; NIV 763; NKJV 1042)

If Christians love each other, what will be the result? **John 17:21** (KJV 1122; NIV 766; NKJV 1046)

Love will unite Christians so they can present a solid witness of love to the world and by this love, the world will see Jesus.

What does the Psalmist say about Christian unity? **Psalms 133:1** (KJV 678; NIV 443; NKJV 595)

How else will Christians relate to each other? **Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5** (KJV 1219, 1262; NIV 829, 859; NKJV 1127, 1165)

Submission doesn't mean you'll become a doormat, but it means you'll build up the other person rather than yourself.

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:11** (KJV 1230; NIV 837; NKJV 1137) and write what it says about the relationship Christians should have with each other.

The New International Version of the Bible translates this verse: "Encourage one another and build each other up." Don't you like that? Christians are to love, comfort, encourage and help each other.

What else are they to do together? **Hebrews 10:24-25** (KJV 1250; NIV 851; NKJV 1154)

What did Jesus promise to even small groups of believers? **Matthew 18:20** (KJV 1013; NIV 695; NKJV 953)

The Bible makes it plain that Christians need to meet together, so you'll want to gather with other Christian believers because you'll be encouraged and strengthened as you grow. And you can know that Jesus will be among you because He promised to be there were two or three are gathered.

But how can you find the right group of Christians? The Bible says that His people living in the last days will have two characteristics.

What are these characteristics? **Revelation 12:17** (last part) (KJV 1282; NIV 873; NKJV 1182)

- a) _____
- b) _____

Finding a group with these two characteristics may take some time. You will need to continue your own study of the Bible so you will know all God's commandments and so your relationship with Jesus will grow; but basically, you should look for Christians who obey all God's commandments and have a testimony about Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

If you contact the Good News for Today Network we can help you find this kind of group described in **Revelation 12:17**. Call 503.850.3599.

For another interesting description of Christians as a group, read **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** (KJV 1194; NIV 813; NKJV 1107)

To what does Paul compare the church? **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Paul compares the church to a body. The body has many parts - arms, legs, ears, eyes, mouth, etc. Each organ has a different function, but each part is important, no matter how small. So church members are different - each has a different gift or ability, but each is important to the whole.

10. But who is the Head of the Church? **Ephesians 5:23** (KJV 1219; NIV 829; NKJV 1127)

(For further reading: **Colossians 1:18** (KJV 1225; NIV 831; NKJV 1132))

Christ is the head of the body of believers and you must look to Him for a perfect example of how to live. If you look at how others live (even Christians) you may stumble because they stumble. *God's people are not a collection of perfect people, but a group of growing people.* Enjoy fellowship with other growing Christians but keep your eyes on Christ for your standard of living.

What is the purpose of the various "gifts" or talents in the church? **Ephesians 4:11-13** (KJV 1217; NIV 828; NKJV 1126)

The many talents found among God's people are for one purpose; to help each other grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." "Fullness" can also be translated to "full-grown" Christians and you will be. Your association with other growing Christians can help you reach your ideal.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Are there some specific ways you can demonstrate love to other Christians? Write down some of the ideas that come to your mind.

TO MEMORIZE

Matthew 18:20

(KJV 1013; NIV 695; NKJV 953)

John 13:34

(KJV 1117; NIV 763; NKJV 1042)

Come Alive

Summary

What does it mean to **COME ALIVE** with Jesus?

It means:

- **YOU'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN** by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **YOU'RE A BABY** who will stumble and fall as you learn to walk. But Jesus will pick you up, forgive you and put you on your feet again.
- **YOU'LL HUNGER AND THIRST** after righteousness and find your needs met as you read the Bible daily.
- **YOU'LL LEARN TO TALK** to God through prayer each day.
- **YOU'LL OBEY GOD** and begin producing the fruits of obedience in your life because of your connection with Him.
- **YOU'LL EXERCISE YOUR LOVE** by witnessing to others about the good news of salvation.
- **AND YOU'LL ENJOY GROWING** in a gathering of other Christians.

BUT DON'T STOP HERE: KEEP GROWING!

How can you keep growing?

1. KEEP STUDYING THE BIBLE

EVERY DAY. This is the last *Come Alive* lesson. The *Stay Alive* Bible study lessons will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus as you learn more about Him. You can receive these *Stay Alive* lessons by calling 503.850.3599, or contact us at www.goodnewsfortodayonline.org.

2. KEEP PRAYING EVERY DAY.

3. LOOK FOR A HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUP OR LOCAL CHURCH WITH WHICH TO CONNECT.

Your spiritual mentor may be able to help you find a group you would enjoy. Of course you can always contact the Good News For Today Network: 503.850.3599, or www.goodnewsfortodayonline.org.

God's wish for you:

"In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation." **1 Peter 5:10** *New Living Translation*