Lesson 1

"A NEW FAMILY"

(A Change by Adoption)

One of the happiest times in life is when a mother gives birth to a healthy baby boy or girl. There was a specific time and place when you were born. At that time, you were given the last name of your father and your parents may have noticed how much you looked like them. Most people even remember their birthday with a time of celebration each year. Even though the day you were born was an important day, it was not the most important day of your life.

The Lord Jesus spoke of a birth more important than even your physical birth. He said that it is not enough for someone to be born once, but they must be born twice.

In this lesson, we will discover what Jesus meant when He said, "Ye must be born again" (Jn. 3:7).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN AGAIN"?

To be "born again" simply means to be born anew into God's family. It means to become a child of God.

READ John 3:1-8 and answer the following questions:

1. According to Jesus, why is it important to be "born again"? (Jn. 3:3)

_____

2. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the phrase "born again." What type of birth was Nicodemus thinking about? (verse 4)

_____

3. To be born out of a mother's womb (v. 4) is the same as being born out of "water" (v. 5) or in other words to be born out of "flesh" (v. 6). Jesus says that this physical birth is not enough to enter into "the kingdom of God." What type of birth is needed to enter that Kingdom? (verses 5 & 6)

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* Note: A woman who is pregnant with a child carries her baby in her womb which is filled with "water" -technically called "amniotic fluid." In this context, Jesus' reference to "water" is to the womb from which a child enters this life.

Job 38:8 also uses the analogy of water issuing out of a womb.

4. Because the new birth is a spiritual birth and not a physical or visible birth, what does Jesus compare this birth to? (verse 8)

_____

5. What did God do for you so that you could be "born again" and have everlasting life? (John 3:16)

_____

6. It is sad that not everyone has this everlasting life. God's Word says that there are two groups of people in this world. According to John 3:36, what are these two groups?

_____

_____

7. What does a person have to do with Jesus Christ in order to become a child of God? (SEE: John 1:12)

_____

To "receive" Jesus Christ means to accept Him by <u>faith</u> to be your very own Lord and Savior from sin and Hell. The Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin so that you would not be condemned for your sin (Romans 8:1). He then arose from the dead so you too will live through Him (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus suffered your penalty so that you could be brought into right relationship with God (I Peter 3:18). He is your only way to everlasting life (John 14:6). The day you call upon Jesus and receive Him, you are saved from perishing and become part of God's family (Romans 10:13)!

Have you ever accepted Jesus Christ into your heart? (SEE: Revelation 3:20)_

8. Who is it that gives us this new birth (John 1:13)?
Circle one:

a. Your father b. A priest c. God

9. God knew in advance who would be part of His family. This is called "predestination." How did He make you His child? (Ephesians 1:5)

_____

10. If you have been adopted into God's family, you can now call God by what name? (Romans 8:15)

_____

(Note: "Abba" is the Aramaic word for Papa or Daddy)

11. What does our loving God call us when we are born again? SEE: I John 3:1*
* (Note: "I John" ["First John"] refers to the first epistle of John near the end of your Bible.)

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WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING "BORN AGAIN?"

Just as growing children have a tendency to "take after" their parents, children of God will also take after their Heavenly Father as they grow up spiritually.

What will God's children be like?

Those who are born of God will:

I John 2:29 - _____

I John 4:7 - _____

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING "BORN AGAIN"?

1. If you are "born again," you will be able to overcome the pressures of what? (I John 5:4-5)

_____

2. You can have an assurance of eternal life that is not based on the words of men but on the _____ ___ _____ (I Peter 1:23).

3. If you belong to Jesus Christ, what will He do for you? (John 14:1-3)

_____

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