

## Conversion

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

Acts 2:36-40  
Acts 22:16  
Romans 6:1-4

## Purpose: To see what the Scriptures teach about becoming a Christian.

Review: From the previous lessons, do you see that sin has caused you to miss the mark and that there is a need for forgiveness?

### I. What does it take?

- A. Many people wondered, even in New Testament times, what it takes to be saved. Mark 10:17
- B. If you stood at the street corner and asked people what it took to be saved, what might they say?
- C. We must look at what the Bible says, for the Bible is the standard by which we will be judged. We will not be judged by what our church says, by what our parents believed, by what our friends think, nor by how we feel. (John 12:48)
- D. To understand how to be saved, we must know what it means to be lost. Read Isaiah 59:1-2. We are saved when our sins are forgiven. How does this happen? As the Psalmist has said in Psalm 66:16-17, "Let me tell you what the Lord has done for me."

### II. What does the Bible say?

Acts 2 tells us about the first group that became Christians. Let's look at what happened to them. Why look at this example? Because a river is always purest at its beginning point, before any pollutants are added to the stream. In the same way, God's way is purest at its beginning, before it is polluted by man.

#### A. Faith - Acts 2:22-24; 29-36 -Peter proclaims the story of Christ and the cross.

What is the response of the listeners? Verse 37 tells us they were cut to the heart because their sin crucified Christ. What does it mean to be "cut to the heart"?

They now had faith that Jesus was the Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 and James 2:14-19 Is faith important? Is faith alone enough?

## (Conversion Continued)

### B. Repentance - Acts 2:38

What does it mean to repent? To repent means to turn to God and away from sin; to have a change of heart, which results in a change of the will, and a change of action.

Review 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 for a look at true repentance. Repentance comes from a decision to allow Jesus to be Lord of your life. What kind of sorrow is godly sorrow?

### C. Confession - Matthew 10:32

Jesus commanded that we must confess before man that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This good confession was first stated by Peter. (Matthew 16:13-16.)

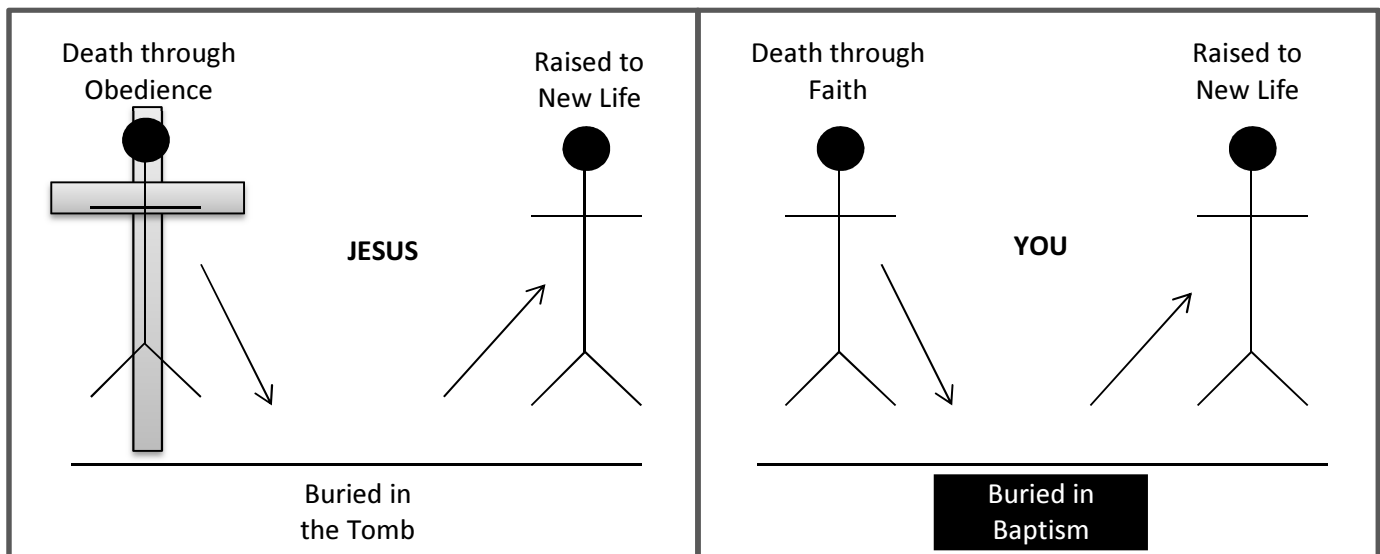
### D. Baptism - Acts 2:38, 41

What is the purpose of baptism according to Acts 2:38?

- 1.
- 2.

According to Acts 2:41, who was baptized?

Baptism is the point when preceded by faith, conviction, and repentance, our sins are forgiven and we die to our old life and get a whole new life as a child of God! Read Romans 6:1-4. "Baptism" is a transliterated word from the Greek word *baptizo* which means "to plunge, dip, or immerse." We participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ through baptism.



### E. Follow Jesus – Acts 2:42; Romans 12:1-2; Jeremiah 29:13

What does "following" mean?

## (Conversion Continued)

F. Use the chart to help answer the questions below.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?				
THE COMMAND	THE SCRIPTURE	THE ACTION	HAVE I OBEYED?	
a) become a disciple	Matthew 28:18-20	Change of loyalty	Yes	No
b) must have faith	Hebrews 11:1-6	Change of trust	Yes	No
c) must believe	John 3:16	Change of mind	Yes	No
d) must confess	Romans 10:9-10	Change of heart	Yes	No
e) must repent	Acts 2:38	Change of behavior	Yes	No
f) must be baptized	Acts 2:38	Change of relationship	Yes	No
WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF BEING SAVED?				
g) live by the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-23	Change of character	Yes	No
h) fulfill the Great Commission	Matthew 28:19-20	Change of purpose	Yes	No

1. Is the Bible plan of conversion a clear one?
2. Can you or I eliminate any of God's commands? If we were going to eliminate or bypass any of God's conditions for salvation, which one(s) would they be? What is the most important command for our conversion?
3. Can you or I switch God's plan around to fit what we think? (For instance, "Well, I was baptized as a baby and now I am repenting and following Jesus.")

### Drawing conclusions and challenges from the "Conversion" study:

1. According to the Scriptures you've studied, where do you stand with God right now?

Have you had your sins forgiven by the way the Bible prescribes?

2. Here are some other conversions to study and think about:

Acts 8:26-39	Ethiopian Eunuch - Treasurer
Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-16	Paul, the Apostle - Scholar
Acts 16:11-15	Lydia - Woman
Acts 16:25-34	Jailer – Government worker

3. After reading the above passages, demonstrate the same urgency in obeying as the Eunuch, Paul, Lydia, and the Jailer.

## **(Conversion Continued)**

Additional conversion accounts in the Book of Acts:

Acts 2 – Jews

Acts 10 – Military man/Gentiles

Acts 19 – Mystics & Mythology majors

Acts 8 – Simon the Sorcerer

Acts 8 – Samaritans – outcasts of society

Take notice that the Bible's conversion plan is the same for everybody regardless of their status in life.