

## Leaders Guide

**Purpose:** To help each person examine his own life in order that he might have biblical basis upon which to have assurance of his salvation.

**Important:** To tamper with a persons salvation is a dangerous thing. It is clear from God's Word that it is necessary, but it must not be done with a condemning spirit, but with compassion. Paul was as careful as Christ to speak the truth in love. Look at the level of Paul's compassion for his brothers, the Jews, who were so close to Christ and yet still so far away (Romans 9:1-3).

**How To Teach The Material:**

1. This study is most useful when it is used one-on-one with someone whom you have a relationship established.
2. This study can be used in a group setting if the leader is:
  - a. familiar with the context of the study
  - b. ready to share the truth in love
  - c. willing to meet individually with the people to answer their specific questions
3. When used in a group setting, the first lesson can be studied together at the first meeting and then towards the close of the first meeting start the group studying lesson two to discuss at the next meeting.
4. Ideally the leader should take time toward the end of the study to meet with each person one-on-one to discuss the implementation of the study in their life.

**Important Reminders:**

1. Make prayer a priority as you lead this study.
2. Be sensitive to the needs of individuals within the group and take time to meet those needs outside the group.
3. Take time to be sure that each person understands and has their questions answered before moving on in the study.
4. Remember that the material is only a tool to get into God's Word.
5. *The material is secondary.* What is primary is the Holy Spirit working through the Word of God, as well as working through your life as a leader to teach and exhibit God's truth.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson 2:</b> <b>Is Everyone A Christian Who Claims To Be?</b></p>
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1. Read Matthew 7:13,14
  - a. From the passage, what choice must every person make?
  
  - b. What is represented by the broad road and wide gate (vs. 13)?
  
  - c. What is represented by the narrow road and small gate (vs. 14)?
  
2. Read Matthew 7:15-20
  - a. How can you tell the difference between a true and false prophet?
  
  - b. What is meant by “fruit”?
  
  - c. Is it possible to bear bad fruit and be a good tree?
  
3. Read Matthew 7:21-23
  - a. What distinguishes those who say they believe (i.e. the ones who say, “Lord, Lord” and yet do not enter God’s kingdom) and those who truly believe?
  
  - b. What parallel does this have for us today?
  
4. Read Matthew 7:24-27
  - a. On what should we build our “house” i.e., life (vs. 24)?
  
  - b. Where can we find the proper foundation (“the rock”) for our lives?
  
  - c. How can we build our life on Jesus (vs. 24a)?

d. What happens to those who do not build their life on Christ (vs. 27)?

5. Answer True or False:

\_\_\_\_\_ If a person *says* he is a Christian, he *must* be a Christian.

\_\_\_\_\_ If a person does miraculous things, preaches, and/or belongs to a church, then these must be sure signs that he is a Christian.

\_\_\_\_\_ At the judgment seat of Christ there will only be a *few* people who think they are Christians but are really not Christians.

\_\_\_\_\_ These “Lord, Lord” people are not Christians now, but at one time they did indeed know Christ.

If a person is truly a follower of Christ, what must be evident in his life?

Conclusion:

Obviously from what Christ said, there are “many” who think they are Christians, but in reality they are not.

Question:

So, what *is* the test of true belief?

## Lesson 3:

### What Is The Test Of True Belief?

1. Read 1 John 5:13  
Why was the book of 1<sup>st</sup> John written?

2. It is essential to understand that “these things” that were written in 1<sup>st</sup> John were written to say that a person can have assurance of their salvation. Read the following verses to discover what a Christian looks like.

	Christian	Non-Christian
1 <sup>st</sup> John 1:6,7		
1 <sup>st</sup> John 2:3-5		
1 <sup>st</sup> John 2:6		
1 <sup>st</sup> John 2:9,10		
1 <sup>st</sup> John 4:20,21		

3. List characteristics of the true Christian and the one who just claims to be a Christian according to the following:

	Christian	Non-Christian
Titus 1:16		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:19		
Hebrews 12:14		
Galatians 5:19-21		
Galatians 5:22,23		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:15		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17		

4. What observations and conclusions can you make from the lists in questions 2 and 3?
  
5. Obviously from what Christ said, there are “many” who think they are Christians, but in reality are not. So what is the test of true belief?
  
6. Summarize in your own words 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:7-10.

Conclusion:

The test of true belief is the “practice of righteousness”. This means that a person who truly is a Christian has a trend of life that is obedient to God’s Word.

Question:

So, how does a person truly become a Christian?  
So, what is the trend of my life?

Important!

This test is a subjective test; therefore, it means a judgment call must be made. It is very important to remember that no one can judge you. It is equally important and critical that you judge or examine yourself according to God’s Word. In short, this is a “take home test” that only you can grade.

## **Lesson 4:**

### **How Does A Person Truly Believe?**

1. Read Mark 1:14,15  
Jesus began His ministry by preaching the gospel of God. His message was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel.
  
2. According to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3,4, what is the gospel?
  - a. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned?
  
  - b. In Romans 5:8, how has God paid the penalty for our sins?
  
3. What is the proper response to the Gospel?
  - a. Believe = Trusting in Christ as your savior
    1. Read James 2:19  
Is intellectually acknowledging that Christ died for the sins of the world enough? Explain.
  
    2. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:10 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:12  
How did Paul acknowledge Christ?
  
    3. Read Luke 24:45-47; Matthew 26:22-28  
Biblical belief involves a trust or reliance upon the fact that the payment and debt for your sin has been bought by the blood and death of Christ on the cross and His bodily resurrection.

b. Repentance = Turning from self and then to Christ as your Lord

1. Turning From...

What do the following verses say we should turn from?

Ezekiel 18:31,32

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:10-12

2. Turning To...

What do the following verses say we should turn to?

Isaiah 45:22

Isaiah 55:7

Acts 3:19

a. James 2:17 says, "In the same way, \_\_\_\_\_ by itself, if not accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_."

b. What does Matthew 3:7,8 tell us is the result of repentance?

4. The Result Of True Belief

a. Read Luke 15:11-24

How does this illustrate true belief?

b. What observation can you make about true belief from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-17?

1. What was the controlling factor in Paul's life vs. 14?

2. Describe in your own words what verse 15 says.

3. What is the internal change that takes place when a person truly believes (vs. 17)?

c. Read Romans 10:9-11

A person who truly believes will never be \_\_\_\_\_!

Conclusion: (Chose One)

- \_\_\_\_\_ The result of true belief is a person who never sins?
- \_\_\_\_\_ The result of true belief is assurance of salvation and the freedom to live your life any way you want.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The result of true belief is a person who is trying to live godly in order to make sure God will truly accept him as His child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The result of true belief is a person who has repented (i.e. turned from self to Christ) and believed (i.e. trusted in Christ as his savior). The result of which is a changed life and a person who is not perfect, but desires to become more like Christ each day.