



NEW LIFE TRAINING

Syllabus

English



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Introduction - New Life tips & tricks

Purpose and Vision

The goal of New Life is not to produce churchgoers, but disciples—followers of Jesus Christ who live as He teaches us.

Target Group

The New Life trainings are aimed at non-believers and new believers. New Life is specifically designed to lead someone to be born again (New Life) and to teach them the basic principles of the Christian faith.

Meals

During New Life evenings, you eat together. It is precisely through the meal that you create a relaxed and open atmosphere. It builds relationship and opens hearts. It's ideal to have someone who wants to cook for all 10 evenings, but you can also take turns cooking.

Leadership Team

You never lead a New Life training alone, but with multiple leaders. You can help each other, brainstorm together, and learn from one another.

Meeting as a Leadership Team

It is important to gather as a leadership team before each evening. The leader of the evening can then give a short briefing on the upcoming session—explaining the structure, team expectations, and what will be discussed in the small groups.

Introductory Evening

This evening is essential: it's about helping people to thaw and get to know each other in a relaxed way. This ultimately ensures deeper connections and more openness during the theme evenings. During this evening, you also inform the participants about what they can expect.

Taking the Lead

It is very important that one person clearly takes the lead for an evening. Besides the Holy Spirit, this person directs the evening. That means they give someone the floor but also take it back just as easily. Taking the lead brings safety and clarity.



Listening

During the meal, coffee time, and discussion moments, truly listening is very important. It may seem obvious, but it's not. Help each other as a team to keep this in mind. It's about listening to each other as leaders and also to the participants. Engage in relationship, take time for conversations, and answer the questions participants may have.

Look People in the Eye

Everyone needs attention. What's also very important in this is to look people in the eye; both during conversations and while teaching.

Standing

It is preferred to stand while teaching. This gives you more oversight. It's also much easier for the participants to stay attentive. It shows an active posture and clearly indicates who is leading.

Language Use

Be aware that as Christians we often use words that unbelievers do not know. Avoid Christian jargon as much as possible in the first evenings. Build this up gradually during the course and clearly explain any words you do use. Because the people who attend may not yet know anything about the Christian faith. Words that are very familiar to us may be completely new to them. Point this out to each other as well, so you can grow together as a team.

Adapt to the Group

While teaching, it's important to adjust your wording to the group in front of you. Sometimes a bit more complex, sometimes simpler.

Safety

Read the group, offer support where needed, and always try to maintain peace and calm in the group.

Positivity

A joyful and cheerful attitude is a must. Besides the fact that it's Jesus who lives in us, positivity simply works best.

Culture

Before the course begins, the leadership team should already have met. During this meeting, you immediately set the tone and build a culture that will resonate throughout the course.



Flexibility and Commitment of the Leaders

Leaders are expected to be committed for 10 consecutive evenings. You won't be active every evening, but you do need to be available. This requires flexibility.

Location

The New Life evenings take place in someone's home. The strength of New Life is that it happens in a homely setting.

Teaching

Besides the introductory evening, the course consists of 9 teaching evenings. The order of the themes is important, so preferably do not deviate from it. The content of the evening is fairly open, as long as there is sufficient knowledge of the Word and the themes. Don't make the teaching too long—keep it simple but clear, and use examples. Keep it practical so people can apply it.

PowerPoint

A simple image sometimes works better than a few full sentences. So make use of visual aids (pictures, photos, figurines to explain something). You can show these images, for example, via a laptop on a TV screen.

Testimonies

Again, it applies that for every evening and each theme, there is a fitting testimony. Identify within the group who could share for a specific theme. It is also possible to invite someone from outside to share a testimony related to that specific theme. Testimony moments are not listed in the lessons, so as a leader, consciously think about this yourself.

Reading Along

Make sure everyone can read along with the Bible passages. New Life is aimed at non-believers or new believers, which means many participants will likely not have a Bible when they start. Ensure that everyone receives a Bible as soon as possible and ask everyone to download the Bible app during the introductory evening. Don't include too many Bible verses in one study. Of course, we use Bible verses and let the Word speak but always explain the passages you read in understandable language and in your own words.

Questions

The New Life evenings are not meant to be Bible study sessions led by a teacher but should have an interactive character. Creating an open evening works very well by always allowing questions. People learn quickly through asking questions, and you as a leader will learn a lot from this too.



Small Groups

Every evening you break into small groups to briefly discuss or go through some questions provided by the theme leader for that evening. Small groups work better for many people than a large group. These moments allow you to see whether the participants are grasping what has been taught. It gives an opportunity to explain more or clarify. These groups are also assigned by the leadership. Make decisions quickly but think carefully about who fits with whom. Having groups with uneven numbers is no problem at all. If there is a participant with many questions, you can also assign them 1-on-1 with someone from the leadership team, if you have enough people.

Feelings and Emotion

As much as possible, do not get caught up in negative emotions and feelings of participants. Let the Word and the Truth speak and be careful not to slip into a pastoral role. We are disciples and followers of Jesus who walk according to the Word of God. If a participant is struggling with this a lot, speak to them separately after the session, point out the influence negativity can have on the group, and answer his/her questions.

Activation

Each evening must include a moment of action. God always confirms His Word, so always try to give a practical application to the teaching. When there are individual questions or needs, always pray specifically for those situations and set people free from bondage if necessary. Also give people the opportunity at the end of the evening to approach a leader for personal prayer.

Worship

New Life is aimed at non-believers or new believers. If you choose, for example, to worship God through music at the start of the evening, then allow participants freedom in their expression. However, it is important to tell them in advance what they should do: namely, to focus on God. Encourage them to listen to the lyrics of the song, but above all, help them to have an expectation that the Living God wants to speak to them and touch them.

Cleaning Up

It's best to only start cleaning up after the evening has ended, so that participants receive your full attention.



General structure of the evenings (guideline/option)

- 18:00 – Shared meal
- 19:00 – Clearing the table
- 19:15 – Coffee & tea
- 19:30 – Optional worship song
- 19:45 – Introduction with a specific testimony related to the evening's topic
- 20:00 – Teaching
- 20:40 – Small group discussions
- 21:00 – Time for personal prayer

Make your New Life group visible

Once you know the start date of your New Life group, you can have it listed on the New Life website and corresponding social media channels. This way, people in your region can easily register and join. To do this, send an email to: info@newlife-training.nl

After the training

After the 10 New Life evenings, the group will transition into a house church of House of Miracles. If you are not offering this training through House of Miracles, you may choose another form of follow-up. By continuing after the training, the group stays together, and we can raise powerful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The training stands on its own, and participants are not obligated to take part in the follow-up, but each of them will be given the opportunity. This training is only a beginning and contains just the basics of the Christian faith. After this, the life of a disciple of Jesus begins, and together we will learn what it means to be a church community and how to function as active followers of Jesus Christ.

It is wise to mention at the start of the New Life training that participants will have this opportunity after the training ends, but that it is not mandatory.

If you would like help with the follow-up after this training, send an email to: info@newlife-training.nl



Evening 1 - Start & Introduction

The first evening of the New Life training is a low-threshold introductory evening.

- *A key element of the New Life training is building relationships, and this introductory evening is mainly intended to make a good start in building those relationships and to set the tone for the rest of the training.*
- *Every New Life training starts with a meal.*
- *During this evening, it is important to clearly communicate what participants can expect from the training. Read through the vision/mission of the New Life training beforehand. Tell participants that after this first evening, there will be 9 themed evenings, and communicate which topics will be covered.*
- *Share a testimony of your own conversion. Share about your personal relationship with Jesus and what He has done for you.*
- *It is important to give participants the opportunity to invite others to join. They can still join on evening 2. Preferably, no new participants should be added after the first two evenings, as the teaching will have already begun. Encourage new potential participants to join a future New Life training instead.*
- *Check whether all participants already have a Bible. If not, encourage them to buy one before the next session. If this is financially not possible, help them with it.*
- *How you want to shape this first evening is up to you as a team. Below is a suggested structure:*

1. *Welcome, Introduction – What is New Life? What can participants expect? (refer to the mission/vision if needed)*
2. *Shared meal*
3. *Coffee & Tea with introduction round*
4. *Ask participants to download the Bible app and check who doesn't have a Bible yet*
5. *Getting to know each other – let people share something about themselves. You can also use the questions from the appendix*
6. *Testimony/Testimonies from members of the leadership team*
7. *Small group discussion – you can use questions from the appendix or reflect further on the testimonies*
8. *Closing*
9. *Personal prayer for participants*



Questions

- *Why did you come here?*
- *In what way / through whom did you come here?*
- *Do you believe a spiritual world exists?*
- *Have you ever experienced anything of it?*
- *Is there more (than what you can see)?*
- *Have you ever searched for that?*
- *Where do you come from?*
- *And where are you going?*
- *Do you have a purpose in your life?*
- *Have you ever thought about whether there is more after this life?*
- *Have you ever experienced something that can't be explained?*
- *What is truth to you?*
- *Where do you get your answers for life from?*
- *What do you find beautiful about faith?*
- *What do you find most difficult about the Christian faith?*
- *Where do you find peace?*
- *What makes you happy?*
- *Who is Jesus to you?*



Evening 2 - The beginning

1. Lesson objective

In this lesson, we will gain a better understanding of the origin of life according to the Christian faith and learn about God and the Bible.

2. Recap

Now that we've gotten to know each other a bit better after last week, we're setting out on a journey together—a journey to get to know someone who is very important in our lives.

3. Introduction

When we look at the Christian faith, it must be either incredibly unimportant or incredibly important. There is no in-between.

“Why is that?”—we're about to discover that together.

For this lesson, we begin in small groups by briefly discussing the following questions:

- *Who among you has ever read the Bible?*
- *Who can tell me in one sentence what the Bible is about?*
- *Where and when did the world and the universe begin?*
- *Is there even a beginning?*
- *How did the world and mankind come into being?*

Now we'll share how we as Christians view these questions. The Bible is, to us, the Word of God. The Gospel—this is the Good News of Jesus—runs as the main thread throughout. The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament mainly deals with the relationship between God and the Jewish people, the people of Israel. It also contains many prophecies, which are predictions about the future spoken by people on behalf of God. Many of these prophecies speak about the coming of Jesus Christ. The New Testament is about Jesus Christ: His birth, His death and resurrection, and the stories of His followers and how the Body of Christ is meant to function.

How do you navigate the Bible?

- *The Bible has a table of contents, where you can find all the books of the Bible.*
- *Bible verses are written in a specific format: the name of the book, followed by the chapter number, then the verse number. These are separated by a colon.*

Example format:

John 3:16 — means the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16.

Do a small exercise with the group and have them look up two Bible verses.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. In fact, the Bible is a library of 66 books collected into one book. What makes the Bible so unique is that we can see it's a supernatural collection, and we believe it was inspired by God Himself. We read this in the Bible itself:



2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV):

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

All these different stories were told over a period of about 1000 years. They were written by different authors, in different countries, and in different languages.

The printing press didn't exist at that time, so it was impossible to copy books easily—and yet, there is an incredible amount of overlap (nearly 65,000 cross-references between books of the Bible!). This makes the Bible a unified whole.

How extraordinary is that! The lessons we teach here are based on the Bible. We believe the Bible is the Word of God and that the Bible is truth. As Jesus Himself said:

John 17:17 (NKJV):

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

4. Teaching

God and creation

Why, what, how? We understand that if you know nothing about the Christian faith, questions may arise. We now want to take you to the beginning. (It is important that everyone reads along in the Bible now, so they read it themselves and learn to read the Bible.)

What we believe is that God has always existed. God is Someone without a beginning. If He had a beginning, He would not be God. Because that would mean He is bound to time. But the God we believe in is not subject to place, time, or matter.

A God, then, without beginning. Now, of course, as humans we want a bit more information. In our faith, we go all the way to the first page of the Bible.

We are now going to read together at the beginning of the Bible, here we will read how God created the heavens, the earth, the plants, animals, and mankind. We read in Genesis 1 and 2 about a perfect creation, in which God shows His perfect will.

Now read Genesis 1 and 2 together; in the group, you can also have people read a few verses in turn.

It is powerful when people read aloud—words have power.

The Bible describes, among other things, how the heavens and the earth were created.

God created the world for humans to live on.

To create means “to make something out of nothing.” God did not have tools to make something. No, He created out of nothing.

So, in the beginning—which is also the meaning of the word “Genesis”—God created everything: the sun, the moon, and stars, but also the animals, lands, and seas.

In Genesis 1:26 God reached His masterpiece—namely, you and me.



He created man in His image and likeness. This is important because it is a huge difference from the animals. They were created according to their kind, defined with limited abilities and characteristics. With the making of the animals, all preparatory work for the introduction of man was completed. God formed man from the dust and gave him life by sharing His breath of life with him (Gen 2:7).

Therefore, man is unique in all of creation because it has both a material (body) and an immaterial (soul/spirit) part. Having the likeness of God (Gen 1:26) (or being made in the image of God) means that we are made to resemble God. Man was created in the image and likeness of God Himself!

Man is a spirit (just like God, as stated in John 4:24 “God is Spirit”), man lives in a body (a kind of earth suit), and has a soul (emotions, feelings, intellect, understanding). It is important to realize that Adam’s body reflected the life of God, in the sense that it was created with perfect health and was not subject to death. God distinguishes man from animals; God made man suitable to rule (Gen 1:28) and enables him to communicate with his Maker.

Once again, what we do and say is based on the Bible and on God. That is why we refer to the Bible often in all lessons. The Bible speaks, as we just read in Genesis 1 and 2, about creation and God’s greatness.

Here are a few examples:

Psalm 19:1 (NKJV):

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Psalm 33:6 (NKJV):

“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”

Romans 1:19–20 (NKJV):

“Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Who is God?

God is personal and not distant. He is a Father and Friend who wants to come very close to have a relationship with us through His Spirit (we will go deeper into this in later lessons). God is the Designer and Creator of heaven and earth—and of you and me. Before anything existed, God was already there. He has no beginning and no end.

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV):

“For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit...’”

God may be different than you think. He is love. He made you, knows best how you are put together, and also knows what is best for you—and He really wants to show and tell you.



Man and the Beginning of Sin

Now, the beginning wasn't without problems. God created man, but not as robots or puppets. Man can make his own choices—just like you and I can. Adam and Eve, the first people, made a big mistake: they did not listen to God. We read this in Genesis 3.

Now read Genesis 3 together.

Adam and Eve ate from a tree they were not allowed to eat from. This was the beginning of suffering in the world. Death entered the world at that moment. Before they made this mistake, they had a wonderful relationship with God. He spoke with them and had a truly intimate bond with them. When sin came in (sin = not listening to God and not doing what He asks of you), that was also the loss of man's kingship and dominion. Man listened to Satan and gave him the authority.

Man became a slave to sin. With our free will, we came under the rule of Satan. (We will talk more about Satan, the adversary of God, in a later lesson.) What happened here is that man "died spiritually"—sin came between man and God and created a separation. God is perfect and cannot work together with a sinful man.

Man ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This gave them insight into wrong things and the ability to do them. Sin gained power over them.

As we also read in Genesis 3, a curse came over the earth and over man. Physical sickness entered the world, and mankind had to leave Paradise—the place where man was with God 24/7. A terrible situation. A situation God never intended—but man chose this. A life of self-made choices, which led to separation from God and pure misery, under the power of the adversary—the devil. But God wouldn't be God if He didn't have a plan—a rescue plan.

This rescue plan was Jesus Christ. Jesus would be sent to the earth as the Savior and would restore everything. In the next lesson, we will go further into Jesus and His work. God's plan, the promise, and His people (see image II: the Bible timeline)

As mentioned, God had a plan. At the beginning of the Bible, He chose Abraham (you can read this in Genesis 12), a man after God's own heart, to make him a promise. From Abraham's bloodline, Jesus Christ would eventually be born.

Therefore, God's promise was that through Abraham all nations would be blessed. You can read this, among other places, in Genesis 17.

After this, we follow the life of Abraham, then the life of his son Isaac, and then his son Jacob.

Jacob receives a new name from God, which is: Israel. He was the father of the Israelites—the people chosen by God not only to bring forth the Savior Jesus Christ but also to be an example of the marriage between Him and His people. A shadow of what was to come: the marriage relationship between Jesus and us.

God's idea from the beginning was to reveal His plan of salvation through the people of Israel. The Old Testament shows us this.

It first focuses on the whole world, and then—through the so-called "patriarchs" Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—on the people of Israel.

It is important that you roughly understand this story line of the Old Testament so you can see that the Bible is not just a random collection of stories, but tells a continuous narrative about God, mankind, and His perfect plan for you.



5. Summary

We believe in a God without beginning and without end. A God who made us and created the earth. A God who loves us and gave us free will. Adam and Eve made a big mistake at the very beginning of the Bible by not obeying God, and thus separation came between God and man through sin. Because of this, man could no longer live in God's perfect plan. But God had a plan: Jesus Christ, about whom we will learn much more. Finally, we very roughly touched on the Old Testament: how God called Abraham among all the unbelievers, and through the patriarchs and the people of Israel brought forth Jesus Christ.

6. Looking Ahead

When we are born, we automatically become part of a family tree—our parents, our grandparents, and so on. All the way back to one human being: Adam (which means “man”). Our bloodline is the bloodline of Adam. And because Adam sinned, and we are born into his family line, we are also spiritually “dead” at birth—there is separation between us and God. In these lessons of NEW LIFE, we will take you through a solid foundation of the Christian faith. But even more beautiful: we will introduce you to the Only One who can take you out of the bloodline of Adam and place you into another bloodline—the bloodline of God Himself The Son of God, Jesus Christ, came to earth with a purpose: to save mankind and to restore the relationship between God and man. Next time we will go deeper into this.

7. Small Group Time

You can use the sample questions below to continue the discussion together.

End the small group time with a moment of prayer—pray for the participants (preferably individually if they allow it) and pray for revelation and an encounter with God Himself.

Questions

- *Is God a Creator or a creature?*
- *Have you ever read the Bible—or a part of it?*
- *What was new for you?*
- *Do you understand that God's plan for the world was perfect?*
- *Do you understand that the devil tries to tempt people to live outside the will of God?*
- *What spoke to you from this lesson?*



Evening 3 - Jesus

1. Lesson objective

At the end of this lesson, participants will have learned that Jesus is the Son of God, that Jesus showed us who God is, and that He came to save us so that God's original plan would be restored. Participants will have the opportunity to give their lives to Jesus.

2. Recap

Last week we talked about creation and the plan God had for the world. We briefly went through the historical story line of the Bible and mentioned that there was a rescue plan from God: Jesus Christ. He would be sent to earth to restore God's plan. Tonight, we will go deeper into who Jesus is, why He had to come, and what He did.

3. Introduction

Read together John 3:16

The book of the apostle John is found in the New Testament and describes the time of Jesus on earth. It is the so-called "Gospel (written by) John."

John 3:16 (NKJV):

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Tonight, we are going to talk about why Jesus came. Jesus is the Son of God and one Person of the Trinity. God is a triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus is the core of the Christian faith. His life, death, and resurrection turned the entire world upside down.

Just think of our calendar: Before Christ, After Christ.

In this lesson, we are going to talk about who Jesus was—or rather, is, what Jesus did on earth, how He died and rose from the dead, why He did these things, and what it means for us.

4. Teaching

The life of Jesus in short

We will briefly discuss the life of Jesus. You can read about the life of Jesus in the Bible through the four so-called Gospels—these are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books of the Bible describe the life of Jesus on earth.

God had a good plan for the world. Man did not cooperate with the plan; sin came into the world, and with it, death. The devil is the power behind this sin and death, and because man did not listen to God, the devil—the adversary of God—gained power over man. The devil was the one who tempted man to rebel against God. He did this with Adam and Eve, and he still does it today. From the very beginning, the devil wanted to destroy God's good plan.



By listening to the devil instead of to God, people came under the curse and under the power of sin. However, God stands above all things and had a rescue plan ready—a plan with a Savior who would defeat the devil and restore everything. That’s why God decided to send His own Son. Jesus was not only a perfect human being—He was the only begotten Son of God. He was God in a human body. He decided to come to earth as a man, to be born as a baby (that’s what we celebrate at Christmas), and to live on this earth among the people. God, who is above all things, yet chose to become small to save the world.

God knew that the world could only be saved if someone would carry the curse of mankind and break the power of sin. He wanted to rescue people from the grip of the enemy. The only one who could do that was His Son, Jesus. God loved people so much that He gave His Son to save them. Jesus lived as a perfect man without sin and would take all the sin of mankind upon Himself while dying as a righteous man. By doing this, sin would lose its power and mankind would be redeemed.

When Jesus was 30, He was baptized and filled with the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit—we will learn more about Him in later lessons). Jesus began to speak and teach. He spoke about God and showed God’s kingdom (God’s perfect will) by doing miracles. He delivered all who came to Him from evil spirits and healed all diseases. He cared for the poor and the outcasts. He traveled throughout all of Israel and wherever He went, He did good (this can be read, among other places, in Acts 10:38):

Acts 10:38 (NKJV):

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

The religious leaders of the people became jealous and looked for ways to kill Jesus. Jesus was betrayed and handed over to the leaders. They mocked Him, tortured Him, and finally nailed Him to the cross (the crucifixion was, at that time—and perhaps to this day—the most horrific death imaginable). They did this without having a single accusation against Him, because Jesus was righteous—He was without sin.

When Jesus died, they laid Him in a tomb. His followers mourned Him and did not remember that Jesus had said He would rise from the dead after three days. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead!

Death and the devil had no hold on Jesus because He had never lived under sin or under the curse. He had never sinned and was therefore not bound by the power of sin or death. He was not subject to it—and more than that, by allowing Himself to be crucified as a righteous man, He was able to defeat the power of sin and death and thus save mankind from that power!

In the days that followed, Jesus appeared for 40 days to His followers—and even to 500 people—and explained to them why He had done all these things and how they were now allowed to live. After 40 days, His followers saw Him ascend to heaven and received the command to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit (we will learn more about this later).



What was Jesus' purpose?

You might be thinking: but why did Jesus do all these things? What did it mean, and what should I do with it? These are good and important questions.

The impact of what Jesus did is enormous. What I want to do tonight is to name the most important reasons why Jesus came to earth, why He had to suffer and die—and also rise again.

You could summarize Jesus' purpose like this:

He restored God's original plan for us, so that we could live in relationship with God and in the fullness of what God intended for us.

God is the only One who can give us fulfillment. Until we find that fulfillment in Him, we will spend our whole lives searching. Fulfillment lies in relationship with Him. He made us, and He has a plan for our lives.

How did Jesus reach this goal?

1. Through His life:

Jesus lived as an example for us; He showed us how we are meant to live. In addition, we come to know the Father by looking at Jesus (John 1:18). Jesus revealed the Kingdom of God (the perfect will of God for us and God's reality) through miracles, deliverance, and healing. Finally, Jesus showed God's love for people—His care for those in need.

2. Through His suffering and death

Jesus came to save us from sin and death. Through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world. From our own nature, we are subject to that sin. Sin is the tendency to do evil, to act against God's will, to be self-centered. Through sin came death. Through Adam, we came under a curse. Jesus, who did not live under the curse of Adam, carried that curse for humanity. Because Jesus was without sin, He forgave our sin—our mistakes and the ways we acted against His will—and He also broke the power of sin and death. The punishment we deserved, He took upon Himself. He truly set us free!

His salvation touches every area of our lives.

Sozo: healing, deliverance, forgiveness, salvation

3. Through His resurrection

If Jesus had died and remained dead, death would have won in this whole story. But thankfully, that wasn't the case—Jesus Himself predicted (prophesied) it: He would rise from the dead after three days and thereby defeat the power of death. By doing this, He defeated sin and death, so that we too may begin to live in this freedom. By believing in Jesus and doing what He asks of us, we can begin to live the so-called "Zoe" life of God. Life in abundance. A completely new life is available to you—not a life under the power of sin, the curse, and death, but under the Love and grace of Jesus Christ. What this new life all entails, we will explore in the coming lessons.

Share testimonies here of encounters with Jesus and personal stories of conversion. Make it feel "close" for the participants. Now that we know God wants to give us such an amazing gift of salvation and life, the question is:

Do we want to receive that gift?

If we acknowledge that we need His salvation and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, we can accept His salvation, and He will set us free from the curse and give us new life!



4. Summary

We have learned that Jesus is the Son of God, that He came to earth as a man, that He lived according to God's will, and through this showed us who God is. He lived as an example for us. Jesus' death on the cross was a conscious choice and part of His rescue plan for humanity. He did it to save us, to take our punishment upon Himself, and to free us from the curse so that we would receive a new life. Anyone who wants to receive this gift will receive a new life (John 3:16).

5. Looking ahead

Next week we will talk about the new life that Jesus wants to give us. We will go from old to new.

6. Small Group Time

In the small groups, reflect on the lesson content. It is important that each participant is given the opportunity to accept the sacrifice of Jesus, to acknowledge that He is the Son of God, and to give their life to Him.

Prepare your leadership team for this in advance, so they can also guide participants in this process.

Questions

- *Who is Jesus to you?*
- *What was new for you?*
- *What speaks to you in the story of Jesus?*
- *Do you understand why Jesus had to die?*
- *Do you understand why you need salvation?*
- *Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died and rose again for you?*
- *Do you want to receive His gift? Do you want to give your life to Jesus?*
- *Do you have any questions?*



Evening 4 - A whole New Life

1. Lesson objective

After this lesson, the participants will have learned what it means to be a new creation and what the first steps are to enter into that new life (repentance and baptism).

2. Recap

Last time, we talked about who Jesus was on earth and what He did for us. To briefly summarize: He lived among people to show who God is and what God's perfect will is for humanity. He suffered and died, and He rose from the dead to set us free from the curse and from the power of sin and death. We learned that God sent His own Son out of love for us—to save us.

3. Introduction

This lesson is about the new life that Jesus gives us. By setting us free from the curse and saving us from the power of sin and death, He made a completely new life available to us. That's also where the name of this course comes from: 'New Life'

*Jesus Himself says in **John 10:10** (NKJV) read this together:*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

4. Teaching

How do we receive this new life? Maybe you're wondering: I believe this story about Jesus and what He did, but what must I do now to experience and receive this new life? In the Bible, there's a story at one point where thousands of people want to know how they can belong to Jesus (Acts 2:37-38). They ask the same question after believing the words of the apostle Peter—words about Jesus and everything Jesus had done. Peter then answered them: repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. In this lesson we will talk about repentance and baptism, and next time we'll talk about the Holy Spirit. Repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit are the three components of receiving the new life that God has for us. We also call this: being born again or: rebirth.

Repentance

Maybe you've heard the word repentance before. What it means is: you start thinking completely differently. (The Greek word used here is metanoia = change of mind.) You begin to think differently about Jesus, about God, and about what God says is true. You begin to believe God instead of yourself. You choose to make Jesus King of your life and let Him take over the direction of your life—instead of trying to control it yourself—and you turn away from your old life. You make a turnaround, you turn around, so to speak. From death to life, from restlessness to peace, from injustice to righteousness, from sorrow to joy. From the world with its "truths" (influenced by the devil), to the truths of the Kingdom of God with Jesus as King.



What is baptism?

Baptism as the Bible teaches it is: immersion in water (the Greek word in the Bible is baptizo). Water baptism is not a religious ritual and therefore just a symbol. No, it has a great spiritual effect on your life and is part of your rebirth:

1. *We become one with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection from the dead (**Romans 6:4**). We, as followers of Jesus, go the same path as He did—not literally by dying on a cross and rising again, thankfully—but the spiritual reality is truly of great value to us. Your old ‘self’ dies, and you rise into a New Life! The Bible says that the old has passed away, everything has become new (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Are you still dealing with depression, bondage, sickness, demons, compulsions, etc.? Baptism will let all that ‘old’ pass away.*
2. *Baptism washes away our sins. This is described in **Acts 22:16**: “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (NKJV) (‘Sins’ are simply things you do that are not in God’s plan for your life—think of gossiping, stealing, swearing.) Water does not literally wash your body clean of dirt, but it is a perfect image of what is happening in the spiritual world: all the sins you have ever committed and ever will commit are washed away!*
3. *We are saved through baptism. In **1 Peter 3:20–21** it says: “...the water through which you are now saved, which is baptism...” Baptism is an indispensable part of your rebirth. You are saved from the power of sin and death. You are delivered from it and receive a completely new life! You were spiritually dead, but now you have been made alive and will never die again. This is also called eternal life.*
4. *Through baptism, we gain access to the Kingdom of God. The Bible teaches us that through death we are transferred from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son of His love—that is, into the Kingdom of God. In this Kingdom, Jesus is King, and completely different rules apply than when you still lived under the power of darkness. Sickness, bondage, misery, adversity, and the curse are a thing of the past for you! As mentioned earlier, we also call this being born again (**John 3:3**).*

Tip: share testimonies from the leadership team here.

A New Creation

*The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 5:17** (NKJV) that after your rebirth, you have become a new creation:*

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

This is not about a better version of yourself, but a completely different you! Not like a piglet that you wash, put a bow on, and let live in your house—because as soon as that piglet gets the chance, it will run outside and lie in the mud. Its nature hasn’t changed.

But the “new” the Bible speaks of can be compared to a caterpillar.

A caterpillar doesn’t stay a caterpillar but transforms into a cocoon and then into a butterfly. A caterpillar and a butterfly don’t resemble each other. That’s also how the Bible speaks about us—we no longer resemble who we once were, but we have become new. And that new life is a life in abundance, exactly as God intended for you, with all the plans He has prepared for you.



How change happens

Does this now mean that we will never face difficulties again? No, not exactly. What has changed is us, and our spiritual reality. That changes instantly: From darkness to light, from death to life, from under the curse to under God's blessing! We may not always immediately see this with our natural eyes, but it has become the truth for us. The Bible teaches us that we must renew our minds. This takes time, but it is an incredible journey to walk together! And here's the good news: God has given His own Spirit (the Holy Spirit) to you—to help you and to teach you everything. More about this in the next lesson.

Our truth has changed, and that means we can deal with circumstances differently. In times of difficulty, we can overcome—we no longer have to lose—because Jesus has already won the victory over every sickness, curse, pain, or situation. We can turn situations around because we belong to Jesus and know that we no longer have to believe the lie but instead believe in the Truth of God's Word.

Take, for example, the life of Jesus. Jesus and His followers were caught in a storm while in a boat on the lake. Instead of panicking, Jesus stayed asleep. And when He woke up, He spoke to the storm, and the wind ceased, and the water became calm again. So it's not that there were no storms in Jesus' life, but He dealt with them differently and spoke to them, so the storm eventually disappeared. We all know storms in our lives too.

Can you name some? We can learn with Jesus how to handle storms the right way and come out stronger (authority)

(Optional: testimony)

5. Summary

We have learned that through His death and resurrection, Jesus has made new life available to us. That new life means we become one with Jesus; everything that belongs to Him now belongs to us. We receive His nature, His character. That doesn't always mean that our circumstances immediately change. We have changed, and our circumstances change because we now reign with Jesus in His Kingdom. We receive this new life by repenting, turning away from our former life and turning toward Jesus. We begin to think differently and make a turnaround. Then we are baptized in water, which washes away our sins, puts our past to death, saves us, and gives us access to the Kingdom of God.

6. Looking Ahead

Next time, we will talk about how God renews us. He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us and to make us strong. Through the Holy Spirit in us, many things become possible that were previously impossible.

7. Small Group Time

Split into small groups—you can use the questions below.

(Invite people to repent and be baptized! Make sure a baptism tub is ready and explain to people what it will look like practically. If they choose to be baptized, ask them to very consciously think about what they want to leave behind. Let them also speak out loud what they want to leave behind—words carry power! Make them aware of dying with Jesus and rising with Him! Then baptize them directly in the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands, rebuke any present demons, and command sickness to leave. With this, you offer a complete rebirth experience in one moment: repentance, baptism in water, and baptism in the Holy Spirit.)



Questions

- *Do you understand what repentance means?*
- *Do you understand what it means to die and rise with Jesus?*
- *“Everything that belongs to Jesus becomes ours”—what do you think of when you hear that?*
- *Do you want to receive that new life?*
- *Are there things you want to turn away from / repent of?*
- *Do you have questions?*



Evening 5 - The Holy Spirit

1. Lesson objective

After this lesson, the participants will have learned who the Holy Spirit is, what His character is, and what He does. That He is always near and even lives in you when you are born again. And why it is important to build an intimate relationship with Him and live with Him. But also, that you can be filled with the Holy Spirit to receive power and to function in the gifts of the Spirit. During or after this lesson, the participants will be asked if they want to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

2. Recap

Prior to this lesson, we covered the lesson "A Whole New Life." The Bible teaches us that when we begin to believe in Jesus and His sacrifice and put our trust in it, we become a completely "new creation." All the old has passed away. That speaks of a new, spiritual beginning. That is already a first experience with the Holy Spirit, because no one can believe without the help of the Holy Spirit. Many participants will have been baptized during the previous evening and will have repented from things. Briefly return to this and ask participants how they are doing now. The participants who were baptized received laying on of hands immediately after baptism and with that also received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In this lesson, we will go into this more deeply.

3. Introduction:

Read together:

John 14:26 (ERV translation):

"But the Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name."

This text tells us that Jesus sends His Spirit to us to help, teach, and guide us in this life. As believers, we cannot live without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Read together:

John 16:7-15 (ERV translation):

"Let me assure you, it is better for you that I go away. I say this because when I go away I will send the Helper to you. But if I did not go, the Helper would not come. 8 "When the Helper comes, he will show the people of the world how wrong they are about sin, about being right with God, and about judgment. 9 He will prove that they are guilty of sin, because they don't believe in me. 10 He will show them how wrong they are about how to be right with God. The Helper will do this, because I am going to the Father. You will not see me then. 11 And he will show them how wrong their judgment is, because their leader[a] has already been condemned. 12 "I have so much more to tell you, but it is too much for you to accept now. 13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears and will tell you what will happen in the future. 14 The Spirit of truth will bring glory to me by telling you what he receives from me. 15 All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will tell you what he receives from me."

Jesus walked on earth and showed us who God is and what the Kingdom of God looks like and how it functions. In John 16, He tells His followers that it is better for Him to leave the earth (after He has died and risen), because only then can He send the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit will come to live in those who give their lives to God, and He will help them and convict them of sin (things that are not in line with God's plans for your life). Additionally, He will show believers that God is righteous and that He has defeated the ruler of the world (the devil).



4. Teaching

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit. Holy means: to be whole (complete) and to occupy a special, exalted value and place. Spirit means: the essential essence, the non-physical part. The Holy Spirit is, first of all, part of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). So, the Holy Spirit is God Himself in the form of the Spirit. In addition, He is also the Spirit of Jesus.

It's important to realize that Jesus, when He walked on earth, was visible through His physical body but could not be everywhere at the same time. That's why He said it was better for Him to leave, so that the Holy Spirit could come—allowing Jesus to, in essence, be present everywhere at once. How does He do that? By living in you and me and using our bodies as His hands and feet.

From the two Bible verses above, we can understand who the Holy Spirit is and what His specific tasks are. We list them below:

1. He is a helper to us.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit helps us remember the Words and promises of Jesus and to guide us in our lives. He lives in you, so His voice will sound like your own thoughts. In your mind, Bible verses or sermons may suddenly come to memory. Or suddenly you think it's probably not wise to visit certain websites when you're home alone. Or you suddenly get the thought that you could visit your neighbor to help, encourage, or tell them that God loves them too. These thoughts don't come from you, but from the Holy Spirit—from God Himself, who is helping and guiding you.

2. He is a teacher to us.

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth from the Bible. To unbelievers, the Bible is incomprehensible, but the Holy Spirit gives you wisdom and revelation (insight) so that the texts you read suddenly become understandable. The intention is that Bible verses are not just nice words, but that they land in your heart and bring transformation. The Holy Spirit teaches us to become more and more like Jesus, our example, and to live like Him. The Bible teaches us that when we believe in Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, accept this sacrifice, and give our lives to Him, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. We then become a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit comes to live in you, you begin to resemble God more and more.

At least—you do need to listen to Him and spend time with Him. He wants a personal relationship with you. Think of it like a relationship between a man and a woman: You can marry a woman and live together in the same house, but if you never talk to each other, listen to each other, or spend time together, you'll never truly get to know each other, nor will you be able to learn from each other.

God Himself comes to live in you and will teach you all things and help you apply them. The more we allow ourselves to be led by Him, the more we will change into the image of God. You become the person God intended you to be. Your behavior and outer appearance will also begin to change as you spend time with the Holy Spirit, listen to His words, and apply them.

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV) says you then become like a branch that produces fruit. This fruit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This fruit is called the fruit of the Spirit.

(Look up this verse together to guide people through the Bible; you can help them directly with this and provide some explanation.)



What else does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit comes to live in you as soon as you believe and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Besides the fact that the Holy Spirit comes to live in you, the Bible also speaks about a “filling of the Holy Spirit”, also called the “baptism in the Holy Spirit.” This filling is a supernatural empowerment and is necessary so that those who belong to Jesus can do the same supernatural things that Jesus also did. Jesus Himself even says that we will do greater things than He did (you can read this in John 14:12). The first filling with the Holy Spirit happened on the Day of Pentecost (During Pentecost, we commemorate this). You can read about this in the book of Acts, chapter 2.

Why would you want this filling or baptism, and what can you expect?

1. *It is a command of Jesus to His followers. In Acts chapter 1, you can read that His followers were not allowed to do anything and had to wait until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said this because without this filling of God's Spirit, we cannot give a supernatural testimony of a Living God. If we cannot demonstrate supernatural things, the Christian faith remains just a nice religious story.*
2. *God's power comes upon you, enabling you to do supernatural things, such as: casting out evil spirits/demons, speaking in new languages (tongues), picking up snakes, and even drinking something deadly will not harm you. You can lay hands on the sick so they recover, and you can even raise the dead!*
3. *The Holy Spirit helps you in prayer (praying is simply talking to God). Although you can tell Him anything, since He is a Good Father and always listens to you, sometimes you don't know what to say. Maybe you are dealing with a difficult situation or feel very low—then it is very important that you start talking to God. The Holy Spirit in you will help you to first think of this and then give you the words to say.*
4. *You will be able to function in what the Bible calls the “gifts of the Spirit.” You can use these gifts for yourself, but they are also definitely meant to help people around you and to “prove” that God lives, and that Jesus loves people.*

Here are the gifts:

- *Word of wisdom – you receive supernatural wisdom to solve a situation, a ‘strategy.’*
- *Word of knowledge – you receive knowledge about someone's situation, something you couldn't possibly know but which God tells you.*
- *Discernment of spirits – you can see whether a demonic power is present in a given situation.*
- *Gift of healing – you can heal the sick.*
- *Working of miracles – you can cast out demons or raise the dead.*
- *Faith – you receive supernatural faith for a specific situation, you are 100% sure that it will turn out well and you can no longer doubt.*
- *Prophecy – you can, as the world calls it, “predict someone's future,” but then from God. God's words for someone's future are always loving, hopeful, edifying, and positive.*
- *Speaking in tongues or heavenly language – this is a heavenly language. Ask the Holy Spirit to let you speak in tongues and begin to make sounds with your mouth; you will notice that the Holy Spirit, as it were, “takes over your tongue.”*
- *Interpretation of tongues or heavenly language – when someone else speaks in tongues, you will receive the interpretation from God.*

We only briefly discuss them during this lesson, but you will hear, learn, and experience much more about them throughout your faith journey. You will notice that, in the beginning, everything is still new. The Bible teaches us that you are born again—so you are now a baby.



A baby still must learn everything, and in the spiritual world, you also need to learn, explore, and develop. For this, it's important that you have mature believers around you who have experience with these supernatural matters. Make sure to be active in this. If a baby only listens to its father and mother but never tries or does anything, it won't get far in life. I can tell a baby that it can walk, but it will still have to push itself up and start standing (falling and getting back up is, of course, allowed).

How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. You can receive the Holy Spirit anywhere. Ask God to “fill you with His Spirit” or to “baptize you in His Spirit,” and He will hear your prayer.
2. You can receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands from someone who is already filled with the Holy Spirit.

*You can read both of these possibilities throughout the book of Acts in the Bible.
(Share testimonies from the leadership team here.)*

5. Summary

The Holy Spirit could only come after Jesus made room for Him. That was necessary to help every believer in their life, but also to convince people who have not yet repented of God and their disobedience to Him. We have learned who the Holy Spirit is, what His character is, and what His main tasks are. But also that a filling with the Holy Spirit is available to the believer to be able to do supernatural things.

6. Looking Ahead

The next lesson will be about the spiritual world. It's important to realize that there is a vast spiritual realm and to understand in broad strokes what happens there. You will also begin to see that you truly want to belong to God and be filled with His Holy Spirit. After this lesson, we are halfway through the training. This is a great moment to start preparing the participants for a follow-up to this course. Let them know the start date and location in advance. It is essential that the participants surround themselves with mature believers, so they can learn everything and begin to apply it in practice.

If you are giving this training as part of House of Miracles, then tell them about the house churches—about the vision and the power of small gatherings.

For this, visit the website: www.houseofmiracles.church

7. Small Group Time

You can now split into smaller groups. The following questions could be discussed:

- *Do you understand who the Holy Spirit is?*
- *Have you ever experienced something of the Holy Spirit?*
- *Would you like to receive the fulfilling of the Holy Spirit?*

Tip to give to participants: Read the book of Acts (ERV translation) to better understand what the fulfillment with the Holy Spirit means. How the disciples and followers of Jesus were waiting for the fulfillment and how that happened (Pentecost). But also, how the disciples and followers of Jesus acted afterward and began to do the same things that Jesus did. It's important to emphasize that those same things are also possible for us today.



Evening 6 - The spiritual world

1. Lesson objective

At the end of this lesson, the participants will have learned that there is a spiritual world, what God's plan is, and what the devil's plan is. That they become aware of the spiritual battle that is taking place (in their own lives and beyond), and that their choices have consequences. And that they become aware of their spiritual position/authority.

2. Recap

Last week, we talked about the Holy Spirit—who He is and what He does. Tonight, we continue with the topic of the spiritual world, in which the Holy Spirit also plays a major role.

3. Introduction

Tonight, we're going to talk about the spiritual world. How the spiritual world is structured and what influence the spiritual world has on the world we can see. We're going to talk about the plans of God, the devil, about angels, demons, and the battle that is taking place in the spiritual realm. What you see here is the natural world, but besides this world, there is also another world—a spiritual world.

- Have you ever noticed something of that spiritual world?
(Don't let participants share stories yet. We'll talk about that later.)

4. Teaching

The Spiritual World

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.."

*Before God made the earth, there was already a spiritual world, which is invisible to us. God is the Creator, the Maker of everything. He dwells in heaven, together with the angels. God is light and love. Besides God, there is also an enemy of God, the adversary, the devil. There are therefore two sides: God and the devil. Both have plans for us as human beings—including for you. These are mentioned in **John 10:10** (read this together):*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

- The devil

In this text, he is called the thief. His goal is to steal, kill, and destroy. He does this because he wants all the power for himself and is jealous of mankind and of God. He is also called "a liar from the very beginning" and will want you to believe his lies.

- God

In the text, it says: "I have come"—these are the words of Jesus, and we have learned that Jesus is also God. God wants to give you life and abundance. He wants it to go well with you, that you live to the fullest, and that you lack nothing.

- Angels and demons

God and the devil both have helpers. There are good angels of God, and there are "fallen angels", which are angels who were disobedient to God and chose the devil's side.



Angels are ministering spirits. Their assignment is to serve God and help people who belong to God. Angels do everything on God's command, which is why God is the One we thank, and our focus is not on angels. The Bible makes clear that angels are set into motion when we pray. You can see angels—the Bible even teaches that you could receive a visit from an angel without knowing it, because an angel can take on the appearance of a human.

Besides angels, there are also fallen angels. These belong to the devil and are also called in the Bible "powers in the air" or "world rulers." These fallen angels are the driving force behind major global issues—think of wars, impure sexuality, crime, drugs, etc.

Then there are also demons. You can read a lot about them in the New Testament, and we already briefly mentioned them in the previous lesson. They belong to the devil and are, in a way, the "foot soldiers" of the devil's army. The word demon means evil spirit or idol. They are beings without a body, so they are spiritual beings.

In earlier evenings, it was mentioned that we are a spirit, have a soul, and live in a body. This means that we can open our spirit to the spiritual world. You can open yourself up to God, but also to dark things.

Sometimes a supernatural experience from darkness can seem beautiful, but it has negative consequences because a demon comes into you.

This can result in fear, depression, nightmares, sickness, etc.

(You could use a PowerPoint or write things on a flip chart for contrast: light versus darkness.)

Spiritual Warfare

On the first New Life evening, it was thoroughly explained how God created the earth and mankind. How humans lived with God and were in contact with Him every day. That they were tempted by the serpent, the devil, to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And what major consequences that had: The human lost intimacy/relationship with God and lost the authority—the power God had given them over the earth.

Mankind sinned and chose the wrong thing, outside of God's will. God remained perfect, but man no longer was. That's why we could not stay with God in paradise. Then came God's rescue plan with Jesus, through which people could return into relationship with God and live a divine life. God's will is that you choose the sacrifice of Jesus and receive the life He has prepared for you. The devil, however, of course does not want to lose his power over you.

You are being pulled from two sides: by God and by the devil.

God is love. He wants a relationship with you. He wants to be your Father and wants to reveal Himself to you. He also wants to work through you to make an impact in this world. He has a divine life prepared for you. The devil, on the other hand, tries to tempt people—among other things, by offering power. The moment people give him territory in their lives, the devil gains some control over that life. You become a slave to him. Often, this results literally in addiction—for example, to pornography, drugs, etc. His ultimate goal is to destroy you and to use you to destroy others as well.



Clear examples of this are: suicidal thoughts, self-harm, jealousy, revenge, etc.

A major part of this battle takes place in your mind, often without you being aware that God and the devil are both active there. That is why it is important that you begin to recognize and discern the “voice” of the devil and the voice of God. The thoughts of Satan are destructive: “You’re worthless,” “you’re ugly,” “nobody loves you.”

And the thoughts of God are loving: “You have a good heart”, “you are a beautiful person”, “you are loved”, “your life matters”.

The Bible teaches us to “renew our minds” and to “set our thoughts on the things above.” Simply put, it means that we must obey (follow) the thoughts of God and ignore and cast out the thoughts that come from the devil.

Deliverance

It may be that you know you have opened yourself up to darkness, or that you feel darkness has a grip on your life. The good news is: you can be set free from it.

The Gospel means Good News!

The Good News in the spiritual world is that Jesus defeated every power of the devil when He died on the cross! Jesus says to His followers—after He rose from the dead—that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. If Jesus has all authority, it simply means that the devil, the fallen angels, and the demons have no power left.

They still exist and will try to tempt and deceive you through lies—but they have no authority over you. As we learned in the previous lesson, you have been given authority to cast out demons. These can be demons in yourself, but also in others. It is even a command that Jesus gave us as believers. If you read one of the first four books of the New Testament (these are the Gospels, which describe how Jesus came to earth and what He did), you’ll read many stories of how Jesus set people free from demons.

Jesus demonstrated it for His followers, and now it is our assignment. The good news is that He helps us through His Spirit in us.

(Share testimonies here about deliverance in your own life, or how you have helped set others free in Jesus’ Name.)

The Bible also says that the truth sets you free. So if you follow Jesus, read His Word, do what He says, and let His truth fill you—the devil will flee from you.

The Mightiest

The mightiest in the spiritual world is God. He is the Highest Being, the Creator. Jesus died for us, to give us new life. Jesus tore up our record of debt, the list of rules we failed to keep. He canceled that record when He died on the cross and rose again. That is how God overcame every demon and all darkness. If you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit has come to live in you. Jesus now lives in you. So wherever you go, Jesus goes, because He lives in you.

Where Jesus came, He brought light, life, love, freedom, and hope. It is God’s desire that every Christian has the same impact. We are made to reign with Jesus, just as He said to Adam in Genesis 1:26–28. Jesus wants us to be like Him, do what He does, and do even greater things than He did. That is why He has given us all authority.

Luke 10:19 says, among other things, that we have received power over the entire army of the enemy.

The world needs you to take your spiritual place. People are waiting for you. You were made with a purpose.



5. Summary

Just briefly what we talked about tonight: That there is a spiritual world, what God's plan is and what the devil's plan is. That there is a spiritual battle going on for your life and that of others. That our choices have consequences. And that God is the Most Powerful One and has given us His power/authority, by living in us, to have impact on this world.

6. Looking Ahead

Next week we'll talk about talking with God, which is incredibly important in your relationship with God and to discover the plans He has for your life.

7. Small group time

You can use the questions below in the groups. While talking in groups, it might come up that participants still experience bondage. You can then consider whether it's best to talk further later and set the person free or do it in the moment. Let participants speak out loud (confess) any dark practices they have done or have been involved with and then turn away from them.

Questions

- *What do you notice about the spiritual world?*
- *Do you have personal experience with the spiritual world?*
- *Do you understand that the choices you make can have influence in the spiritual world?*
- *Have you noticed spiritual battle in your life?*
- *Is there darkness you want/need to be set free from?*
- *Do you have any questions?*



Evening 7 - Talking with God

1. Lesson objective

At the end of this lesson, participants have learned how to have contact with God. That we can talk to Him, share everything with Him, and hear His voice. And they have practiced hearing God's voice in a practical way.

2. Recap

Last week we talked about the spiritual world. We spoke about God, the devil, demons, and angels. That there is an ongoing spiritual battle. That Jesus has all authority, and He shares His authority with us, because Jesus came to live in us if you are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Tonight we will talk about talking with God and how we can hear His voice.

3. Introduction

God's deepest desire is connection with you, a relationship with you. In a good relationship, you share your heart with one another. That is also what God wants. God wants you to truly know Him, and He wants to truly know you. That was the main reason why Jesus died: to restore the relationship between God and you. A relationship won't last in the long term if only one of the two is talking. Also, you cannot get to know someone if you don't spend time with them. That is why it's important that we talk to God and that we listen.

4. Teaching

Prayer

Ask the group this question: What do you think of when you hear the word "prayer"?

Prayer is talking with or to God.

Research shows that 75% of people pray in a time of crisis. But usually, this is a one-sided cry for help.

God wants a relationship with us, to talk with us every day, and to help us live a godly life. His will is not that you only think about Him when you're in trouble, but that you have such a strong relationship with Him that when trouble comes, you are sure He will help you. So prayer is talking with God with the goal of building a relationship with Him. Spending time with Him, telling Him what's on your heart, giving Him your worries, and thanking Him.

Daily contact with God, because He is your Father and Friend. In prayer you can say everything to God and ask Him anything. You can thank Him for all the beautiful things in your life. If you can't see them yet, you can ask Him to help you see the beauty in life. You can tell Him what's hard in your life, what makes you sad or what makes you angry. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere. When you say these things to God, it's important to believe that God truly answers. So, when you talk to Him, make sure to be still so you can also hear His answers.

Prayer gives you peace, because you no longer must carry the weight of life yourself—you give it over to God. God asks—commands—us multiple times in the Bible not to worry, but to pray. And He promises that if we do, He will give us His peace. If you read in the Bible about the life of Jesus, you'll see that He often withdrew to spend time alone with His Father, God.



Questions

- *Do you ever pray? Have you ever prayed (in a critical situation)?*
- *Would you like to try praying sometime?*
- *Does it mean something to you that God wants to talk to you because He loves you?*
- *What do you think of the idea that prayer helps us deepen a relationship with God?*
- *Have you ever seen a prayer answered? What did that do to you?*

Hearing God's Voice

Listening to God is something many people don't know how to do—even people who have believed in God their whole lives. That's truly a loss, because God really wants to speak to us. He wants a relationship with you, and that's why He wants contact with you! He wants to encourage you, lead you, and help you. And one of the ways He does that is by speaking to you.

*God says that you will be blessed when you listen to Him and don't lose sight of Him.
(Proverbs 8:34)*

Last week we read a verse from John 10, and in John 10:27 it also says: "My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." In the Bible, Jesus is compared to a Shepherd who cares for His sheep. We are His sheep. And a sheep listens to the voice of the Shepherd. The Shepherd protects the sheep from danger, warns them, and brings them to safety.

God speaks in different ways

When you ask God to speak to you, you can hear His voice in different ways:

1. *An audible voice*
2. *A picture He shows you (image)*
3. *A short film that plays before your eyes (vision)*
4. *A song He gives you*
5. *A passage from the Bible He points out to you*
6. *Dreams*
7. *Thoughts*

The most common way is that God speaks through your thoughts. God gives His thoughts into your thoughts. This makes total sense, because in the lesson on the Holy Spirit, we learned that God has come to live in us. The voice of God is not always easy to distinguish from your own thoughts. It's a matter of practice, because sometimes it's difficult to tell where your thoughts come from. You can train yourself to recognize God's voice.

Share testimonies here of hearing God's voice in different ways in your own life.



3 Different Sources

It's important to know how to recognize God's voice. There are 3 sources your thoughts can come from: God, yourself, and the devil.

- **Thoughts from God:**

God's words are always positive, encouraging, and sometimes corrective (lovingly so). God wants to speak to you, because He wants a relationship with you, and wants to help and encourage you. God's words will always align with the Bible.

- **Thoughts from the devil:**

The devil's words are negative, nagging, lies, and accusatory. The devil speaks to you to keep you away from God. His plan is to steal and destroy and always leads to fear and doubt.

- **Thoughts from yourself:**

Your own voice is often focused on what you yourself want. These are often self-centered thoughts.

What can help you to hear God's voice?

- *Ask God to speak to you*
- *Find a quiet place*
- *Close your eyes to reduce distractions*
- *You can play soft music*
- *Write down what comes to mind — these thoughts may be God's voice*

Why is it important to hear God's voice?

1. **God tells you the truth.**

He will tell you how much He loves you, how He sees you, and who you really are. He tells you that you matter when you've been rejected. That you're beautiful when you've been bullied about your appearance, and that you will live a long life if the devil has told you that you're sick.

2. **God wants to lead you.**

God wants you to make wise choices and to walk the right paths. He can also lead you to your neighbor or colleague who needs help.

3. **God teaches you to live supernaturally.**

The Bible says: do not focus on earthly things, but on the things above — the spiritual things. To live spiritually (supernaturally), you need to listen to God, to the Holy Spirit.

The Bible

When we talk about a relationship with God and hearing His voice, the Bible is crucial. God wants to speak to you through the Bible. The Bible is His Word. He and His Word are one (this is written in John chapter 1). It strengthens your relationship with God and helps you get to know Him better. It's best to start reading in the New Testament — it contains the stories about Jesus, what He came to do, and what He taught us. Afterwards, Jesus goes to heaven and in the book of Acts you can read about His first followers, what they did, and how they lived with the Holy Spirit. After this come the letters written to different churches (groups of believers who gathered at that time). These letters still contain lessons and principles for us today. They also highlight the truths that apply to believers.



5) Summary

God wants a relationship with you — and that means contact. That goes both ways. You can talk to Him — we call that prayer. And He also really wants to talk to you. To hear Him, it's important to learn to listen. God speaks in many different ways. It takes some practice, just doing it, to get better at recognizing His voice. God wants to speak to you to show how much He loves you, to guide you, and to teach you to live by the Spirit. God also wants to speak to you through the Bible —those are His words written on paper.

6) Looking Ahead

Next week we'll talk about 'Following Jesus'. A beautiful topic that also relies on hearing God's voice and praying.

7) Small group time

After this lesson, it's good to start by asking a few questions to see if the participants have understood what was taught. Then it's important to let the participants immediately step out in hearing God's voice. You can do this in different ways, but the easiest method is to have everyone become still and give them a pen and paper. Everyone closes their eyes and starts a conversation with God. They may ask or say whatever they want, but after asking their question, they must remain silent and write down what they 'hear' in their thoughts.

Have them ask God these questions

- *Lord, what do You want to say about me?*
- *Lord, how do You see me?*
- *Lord, what do You want to say about my future?*

Discuss the answers with the participants and guide them in this.

Pray for them if needed.



Evening 8 - God is love

1. Lesson objective

Jesus walked the earth driven by love. Our assignment is to live our lives in the same way as Jesus did and to draw daily from that divine love. In this lesson, we will understand the difference between a living relationship with God and religion, which often comes from tradition, laws, and rules.

2. Recap

Last time, we learned about communication (in the broadest sense of the word) with God. Before the fall of man, God had this communicative relationship with humanity. God walked in the garden with mankind, as we can read in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. In this lesson, we will look at how we are restored into that relationship—namely, through God's love for humanity.

3. Introduction

Over the past few weeks, we've learned a lot about the Christian faith—from creation to the work of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the spiritual world, and how we can hear God's voice. You've learned all sorts of things about God—who He is as Creator, as Savior, as King, etc. But all these things flow from who He truly is, and that is Love (1 John 4:8). Not the love we know from the world, but one that goes much deeper. The ultimate love that will never fail. That love is the source from which everything is made and finds meaning. It is God's "drive" behind everything.

If you look at the Christian faith without this love, it's no more than a stack of interesting words, rules and laws, norms and ideas. But that's not what faith is. It's about the intimate relationship we are allowed to have with God.

4. Teaching

God, the Creation

When God made us, He made us out of love. Love is what made us and what keeps us alive. God didn't create Eve only to be a helper for Adam. No, what happened was a multiplication of love. Only through the unity of Adam and Eve could they carry out the assignment written in Genesis 1:26–27.

This was also the image of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—unity. He created His children with the purpose of always remaining in His love, to remain in close relationship with Him. He would be the source of love for them. And in return, the whole world would see the goodness, love, and life of the Father through the lives of His children. His children would fill the earth with whom He is and, in this way, thrive here in life.



The fallen man

Satan was once an important angel close to God's throne, but through pride, he was cast out of heaven and thrown to the earth. Here, he tempted Adam and Eve to sin against God, and because of that, they lost their original identity and authority. Mankind lost their connection with God and became reliant on themselves.

They began to look at themselves instead of God, and suddenly they noticed they were naked and began to feel shame. They had eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, through which they died spiritually, and their eyes were opened to evil things. With all the consequences that followed. Fear, worry, lust, jealousy, rejection, etc.—these all ultimately come from selfishness.

When you look to God, listen to His words, and follow His guidance, you are not troubled by these things. But humanity began listening only to their own feelings, thoughts, and desires, and lived according to what seemed good to them. Mankind lost their connection and relationship with God and essentially became a 'god' to themselves. People started living for themselves from that point on.

The human being lost connection with God, which caused them to lose connection with love. As a result, they had to start looking for love in each other and find affirmation from one another. Humanity completely lost sight of who they were and why they were placed on this earth. People no longer resembled their heavenly Father, and instead of reigning, they became slaves.

Reborn in Love

But then comes Jesus, out of the Father's love for mankind.

*Read together **John 3:16 (ERV)**: "Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life.."*

The Father loved mankind so much that He chose to send His only begotten Son to earth, to suffer for humanity and be killed... That is a kind of love the world does not know.

Jesus shows us the Father. To understand and see this well, it's good to look at the gospels that tell of Jesus' life. He genuinely loved people. He gave, He healed, He set people free, and driven by love, He gave them a completely new identity.

Jesus gives His disciples one command:

***John 13:34 (ERV)**: "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other just as I loved you.."*

*That's Jesus' and God's love. This is a love that is completely selfless, that does not seek its own gain and has no hidden agenda. A love that lays down its life for its friends (**John 15**).*

That's how much—and in such a way—God loves you! Receive His gift and let yourself be transformed by His love.

When you receive Jesus, give your life to Him, and are reborn through the Holy Spirit, the Bible teaches us that we become a completely new creation.



Angels are ministering spirits. Their assignment is to serve God and help people who belong to God. Angels do everything on God's command, which is why God is the One we thank, and our focus is not on angels. The Bible makes clear that angels are set into motion when we pray. You can see angels—the Bible even teaches that you could receive a visit from an angel without knowing it, because an angel can take on the appearance of a human.

Besides angels, there are also fallen angels. These belong to the devil and are also called in the Bible “powers in the air” or “world rulers.” These fallen angels are the driving force behind major global issues—think of wars, impure sexuality, crime, drugs, etc.

Then there are also demons. You can read a lot about them in the New Testament, and we already briefly mentioned them in the previous lesson. They belong to the devil and are, in a way, the “foot soldiers” of the devil's army. The word demon means evil spirit or idol. They are beings without a body, so they are spiritual beings.

In earlier evenings, it was mentioned that we are a spirit, have a soul, and live in a body. This means that we can open our spirit to the spiritual world. You can open yourself up to God, but also to dark things.

Sometimes a supernatural experience from darkness can seem beautiful, but it has negative consequences because a demon comes into you.

This can result in fear, depression, nightmares, sickness, etc.

(You could use a PowerPoint or write things on a flip chart for contrast: light versus darkness.)

Spiritual Warfare

On the first New Life evening, it was thoroughly explained how God created the earth and mankind. How humans lived with God and were in contact with Him every day. That they were tempted by the serpent, the devil, to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And what major consequences that had: The human lost intimacy/relationship with God and lost the authority—the power God had given them over the earth.

Mankind sinned and chose the wrong thing, outside of God's will. God remained perfect, but man no longer was. That's why we could not stay with God in paradise. Then came God's rescue plan with Jesus, through which people could return into relationship with God and live a divine life. God's will is that you choose the sacrifice of Jesus and receive the life He has prepared for you. The devil, however, of course does not want to lose his power over you.

You are being pulled from two sides: by God and by the devil.

God is love. He wants a relationship with you. He wants to be your Father and wants to reveal Himself to you. He also wants to work through you to make an impact in this world. He has a divine life prepared for you. The devil, on the other hand, tries to tempt people—among other things, by offering power. The moment people give him territory in their lives, the devil gains some control over that life. You become a slave to him. Often, this results literally in addiction—for example, to pornography, drugs, etc. His ultimate goal is to destroy you and to use you to destroy others as well.



A new creation with a new identity. That new identity calls for a completely new perspective. A new view of how God sees you, according to His truth it is important to realize who you are to Him, what He has done for you, and what His purpose is for you. That's who you truly are! Don't listen any longer to the lies of the devil, but listen to the loving words of God. How He sees you is the truth—regardless of how you feel or think. Regardless of what anyone else says or thinks about you. His perspective is the one that ultimately matters. God created you, formed you in your mother's womb—don't you think He knows best how you're made?

Intimate Relationship with God

When we begin to grasp the amazing truth of how God sees us, His immense love for us—and when we begin to trust that—we begin to know Him in ways we never thought possible. He becomes tangible and close. And as that grows, you can't help but fall in love with Him and see Him as perfect, good, and beautiful. That place is a place of intimacy—a love relationship. Truly knowing Him! This is what God desires. To know someone is to spend time together—not just knowledge about Him but knowing Him personally. Everything He wants to do through us and in us flows from this! God's intention was that His love would be the source of everything.

Share the Love

From our old nature (the Bible calls this “the old man”—the person we were before being born again), we are inclined to be selfish. We love our own life more than anything else. We also tend to love on our own terms, with our own capacity, by our own standard, from our own source. But God enables us to draw from a different source—from our new identity: Jesus. We've learned that Jesus, through His Spirit, lives in us and will help us to draw from this source and begin to share His love.

We need to clearly realize that His love is very different from the “love” the world teaches us.

Read together 1 Corinthians 13

Love is something that is shared. God's love has no selfish motives. It is not merely about needs. It is never offended. It never fails. His love is unstoppable and unchanging. It is strong, dominant, overwhelming—and all of this in a good way.

We are on this earth to reflect God the Father and to be occupied with the matters of the Father. (God's love becomes our love, Romans 5:5). We are here, together with brothers and sisters, to fulfill an important role, while He fully expresses His heart, His will, His nature, and His Kingdom through us on earth. We are here because God wants to reveal Himself to the world through us. He wants to pour out His love into others and fill the earth with His glory.

This is not because He is insecure or in need of attention, but because it is for the great benefit of humanity—that everyone may experience His love and fall in love with Him.

Why is it important to know this, and how do we apply it in our lives?

In this, 1 Corinthians 13 is essential. This passage shows the futility of everything we do if it is not done from love. Without love, nothing remains. As Christians, we have received this divine love. If we begin to live by it, we will make an impact on those around us just like Jesus did and spread His Kingdom of love among all people—a Kingdom that consists of power. Included in this are repentance, healing, and deliverance. All of this from love.

God's love is unconditional

Unconditional means there are no requirements or conditions attached to receiving this love. You don't have to do anything for it; you receive it by grace (which also means “free” or “undeserved”).



God = Love

The world thinks it knows what love is, but the Bible teaches us that God is love. So He defines what love is and what it looks like—not the world. Love means to seek the good of the other. The world teaches us many things that are not at all as God intended them to be and are therefore not good for humanity.

The Bible is very clear on many topics—it is God's Word and the absolute truth to which we must hold.

Share testimonies here of God's love in your own life.

5. Summary

God is love, and His love is unconditional—you cannot earn it; you can only receive it. His love is not selfish but always directed towards the other—towards you. He loves you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to earth to die on the cross as a sacrifice for humanity.

God wants to speak about your identity and tell you how He sees you. Listen to His truth about you and hold on to that truth. Despite the deception and temptation of the enemy, you must refuse to be pulled away from the intimate love relationship with God. In doing so, you will be truly free to live fully as sons and daughters, and we may share this love with those around us.

6. Looking ahead

Next time, we will go further into how we actually do this. How do we follow in Jesus' footsteps? How can we share the love that, as the Bible says, has been poured out into our hearts, with the world around us? The week after, we will talk about His Kingdom and how we, by following Jesus in the Father's love, will expand it as ambassadors.

7. Small group time

- *How does worldly love differ from Godly love?*
- *Can someone share a personal experience of God's love?*
- *Are there participants who struggle with receiving God's unconditional love?*
- *Do you see God as (a strict) God or as a loving Father?*
- *What was your earthly father like? This experience is often projected onto God, but do you realize that God the Father is completely different?*

Many participants may never have truly known God's perfect love before—or only recently. Lay hands on them if needed, allow the Holy Spirit to touch them, and let the love of God be poured into their hearts



Evening 9 - Following Jesus

1. Lesson objective

By the end of this lesson, participants will have learned what it truly means to follow Jesus. They will understand the purpose of our lives—that if we have given our lives to Jesus, we no longer live for ourselves but can live a life devoted to serving God and those around us. No longer focused on ourselves, but on God and our neighbors.

2. Recap

The previous lesson was “God is Love.” Participants learned that it is possible to live our lives from divine love, from a relationship with God as a son or daughter—particularly to have love and compassion for others.

3. Introduction

When we begin to believe in Jesus and choose Him, it’s not meant to stop there. That would be a faith without action. James says in his letter that such faith is “dead” and bears no fruit. We are made for much more than that. That’s why Jesus calls us to action—to follow Him. We must listen to His voice and go after Him. As previously mentioned, He calls Himself the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. He will lead us to places that are good for us.

It is the intention that we follow Jesus and listen to His voice, and then we will, as the Bible says, find ourselves in “green pastures.” The world around us does not know this place, but Jesus leads His sheep there—a place of righteousness, peace, and joy.

*Jesus also calls us to be His followers. He calls us to imitate Him and promises that if we follow Him, “we will do even greater things than He did” (as you can read in **John 14:12**).*

Jesus calls us to be His “witnesses.” A witness in court is someone who has seen, heard, and experienced things (just like we have seen, heard, and experienced things from Jesus) and provides evidence. In the same way, we are called to provide evidence of a Living God and a loving Father to all people. How can we show this? By helping people in need. Just as you were saved, God wants to save everyone. In addition, God wants to do supernatural things through you, such as healing people from sickness, setting them free from demons, and even raising the dead! And nothing will be able to harm you.

*Read together **Mark 16:17-18** and **Matthew 10:8***

4. Lesson

*Read together **Mark 8:34** (ERV)*

Then Jesus called the crowd and his followers to him. He said, “Any of you who want to be my follower must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you for following me.”

This is the call that Jesus gave to the people who followed Him—His followers (another word for His disciples or students).



To take up your cross means you will have to die to yourself. So, to give up your own desires and self-centered life to follow Jesus. It speaks of a total transformation: it used to be all about you, and now you have died to yourself and want to live for Jesus. If you give the Holy Spirit room, He will guide you in this. Maybe you think to yourself that this will be a very boring life—but I can promise you that the life Jesus has prepared for you is a much better version than you could ever imagine! To follow Jesus, we need to learn what that really means. How can we follow Him, and what does that look like in everyday life? What does following Jesus look like in practice?

- **Renew your thinking**

This has been mentioned earlier in the course. As humans, we consist of three parts: our body, our soul, and our spirit. It is our spirit that is born again when we start believing in Jesus. The Bible teaches us that when we believe in Jesus and accept His sacrifice, God Himself comes to live in us with His Spirit, and our spirit merges with His Spirit—they become one.

That reborn spirit is completely whole and new, and merged with God. This spirit longs to serve God. On the other hand, our soul may still struggle a bit with that. Our soul is our will, our thoughts, and our feelings. You often still think the way you've learned in the past.

The Bible therefore teaches us that we must renew our minds by filling ourselves with truth. The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Truth and will teach you all truths. So, listen carefully to His voice and spend time with Him. Additionally, the Word of God is truth, and your thinking will also be renewed by reading the Bible and learning from it. Finally, you can listen to good teaching and surround yourself with other believers.

- **See as God sees**

As humans, we tend to judge. We form opinions about each other and declare each other guilty. "My mother didn't raise me well, so it's her fault that I now..." This might be an example from your life. But the Bible teaches us that we are now forgiven of all guilt by God, and that we must also learn to forgive one another.

When you forgive someone, you're not saying what they did was right, but you are leaving the judgment to God. You will experience freedom from this, and you may even begin to feel love for the person you've forgiven.

God wants us to look at others through His love and with His compassion. Then we can rise above judgment and, in any circumstance, care for our fellow human beings. This is only possible if we also learn to not condemn ourselves. God has forgiven you, and you are good enough. You don't need to prove yourself to Him—you are His child, and He loves you. Forgive yourself for the things you've done wrong, knowing that God has already forgiven your sins. By forgiving yourself, you can start to love yourself again—and from there, love others.



- **Speak as God speaks**

From the world, you've likely learned to speak based on what you see. You speak according to your natural senses. Your soul (your will, thoughts, emotions, understanding, reasoning, etc.) gives you a certain insight, and we are used to speaking that out loud. But the Bible teaches that life and death are in the power of the tongue.

Read together Proverbs 18:21.

(Explain here that the book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings by King Solomon.)

Life and death are in the power of the tongue. When you encounter negative situations in your life, the goal is that you begin to speak life over them. Just like God, in the very first book of the Bible, saw that the earth was formless and empty... He didn't say: Wow, this place is a mess, it looks terrible, this is so frustrating... No. He saw how it was and He began to speak: "Let there be light!" And there was light. In the same way, you can speak light into the dark situations in your life.

- **Walk in Love**

God sent His only Son to earth because of His love for humanity. The Bible tells us that Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil. Jesus walked in love and compassion. And as soon as we follow Him and listen to His voice, we too will begin to walk in love—love for ourselves, and love for the people around us.

- **Share the Good News**

Jesus came to bring Good News (the Gospel), and now you can do the same. The Good News is that what Jesus did for you, He also did for those around you. God's plan is to rescue everyone from the power of sin and death. Tell others what Jesus has done in your life—and explain that He wants to do the same for them. Once we discover Jesus and start following Him, we simply can't keep it to ourselves. The love of God for us is so extraordinary that you'll want to share it with the people around you.

Not everyone will understand or be thankful. But those who receive it will be eternally grateful. Their lives will have truly found meaning.

- **Simply do what Jesus did**

If we read the Gospels (the first four books of the New Testament), we see how Jesus lived and acted. Jesus was always full of compassion for people. And it showed: He freed people from demons, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and even raised the dead. Jesus showed people who God is and revealed the Kingdom of Heaven. He then gathered people around Him and made them His followers (in the Bible we read it started with 12, then 70, then 120, then 3,000—and now millions around the world). Jesus taught them everything and then sent them out to do the same, in His name. Now it's our turn to walk in His footsteps, carrying out His mission.

(Insert testimonies from your own life here.)



5. Summary

Truly following Jesus is a great adventure. You will start to think differently—about yourself and about others. You will begin to forgive others and stop judging, because you yourself have been forgiven by God. You'll speak differently, walk in love, and in supernatural power, to show the world that Jesus Christ lives.

6. Looking Ahead

Next week will be the final session of the course, and the topic is: The Kingdom of God. Jesus came to earth and said to the people: "Repent (which means: renew your thinking), for the Kingdom of God has come." The Kingdom of God is the Good News people need to hear: There is a new King—Jesus—and believers are heirs of that Kingdom. This brings new laws and principles—based on love and compassion.

7. Small Group time

You can use the following questions in the groups:

- *Do you understand what it means to follow Jesus?*
- *Does it seem difficult to you to follow Jesus?*
- *Do you believe that you could do the same things Jesus did?*
- *Do you think you could respond, speak, and think like Jesus?*
- *Do you understand that the Holy Spirit wants to help you with this?*



Evening 10 - The Kingdom of God

1. Lesson objective

It is important that the participants understand what Jesus was talking about when He proclaimed the good news of the kingdom. It establishes a clear view of a distinct thread that is visible throughout the Bible. It gives them a clear picture of what they are part of, what their place is within it, and how God wants to spread His kingdom.

2. recap

In previous lessons, we often spoke about Jesus, what He came to do and why. One of the things we haven't covered yet is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is one of the major themes running throughout the entire Bible. In this lesson we will talk about what the kingdom of God is, where it is, how we get there and what it means for us.

3. Introduction

The Bible describes that when Jesus was on earth, He continually spoke about the good news of the kingdom of God. It was literally the first thing Jesus said when He began speaking to people; you can read this in Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near."

Jesus also gave His disciples the command to tell everywhere they went that the kingdom of God had come near. In the book of Acts (Acts 1:3), we can read that even after His resurrection Jesus spoke for 40 days about the things concerning the kingdom of God. This was the final teaching that Jesus gave on earth. Most people use their last words on earth to share important tips or messages with the people around them. This was also the case with Jesus. So the Kingdom of God is a very important topic to Jesus. The question is: what is this good news of the kingdom then?

4. Teaching

The good news of the kingdom of God can, for convenience, be divided into 3 points:

- *The good news of the kingdom is that the King of that kingdom had come and would take back the reign.*
- *The good news of the kingdom is that we can now belong to God's kingdom and no longer need to be under the power of darkness.*
- *The good news of the kingdom is that we too may reign as kings in God's kingdom.*



The King has come

In the Bible it had long been foretold that a king would come who would establish God's kingdom on earth. You can read this in the Old Testament, in which many stories of 'prophets' are written down. They prophesied about the coming of Jesus, and this was hundreds of years before Jesus came.

The Jews knew the Old Testament and had been waiting for that king for a long time. It had been foretold that the kingdom of this King would never end; it would last forever. (Isaiah 9:5-6)

One of the prophets who foretold this was Daniel. Daniel was shown much about the king who would come and about the kingdom of God.

Read together Daniel 2:34-35 and 44.

Daniel explains here a dream of a powerful king, King Nebuchadnezzar.

In that dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw that a large, beautiful statue was shattered by a stone. That stone became larger, so large that it eventually filled the whole earth. Daniel explains that that stone is Jesus Christ, from whom a great kingdom will arise. A kingdom that will never end! That kingdom began when Jesus came, He is the promised King! Ultimately, God's kingdom will cover the whole earth. And Jesus is King!

We may be part of God's kingdom

When Jesus came to earth, He said that God's kingdom was near, that is, within reach. He said that God wanted to give us that kingdom so that we could be part of it. It even makes God happy to give us His kingdom!

The Jews had expected a king who would be very powerful in the way they imagined a king. One who would gather an army and defeat all other armies. They had also expected that this kingdom would be a physical kingdom. But Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world (Luke 17:20-21, John 18:36). His kingdom cannot be pointed out, it is not tied to a place. It is a spiritual kingdom. God's kingdom is a kingdom that is within people. The kingdom of God is available to everyone. Everyone is allowed to enter it, provided, of course, that you believe Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again.

Although it is not a physical kingdom, it is certainly visible in the natural. The effect of God's kingdom is meant for here on earth. As it is in heaven, so also on earth. And that effect is meant to be powerful. God's kingdom is a kingdom not of words, but of power!

We can reign... with Jesus Christ

The final good news of that kingdom of God that we are covering in this lesson, is that God has restored dominion.

Restoring dominion means that God has made things as He originally intended. He would reign over the earth and we with Him. But as we've heard often in this training, at the beginning of creation that plan was disrupted. Adam was disobedient and thereby rebelled against God. He listened to the devil and thus handed over the kingship meant for him to the devil.

Now dominion was in the hands of God's enemy, and the kingdom that from that moment ruled on earth is called the kingdom of darkness. While God had given it to man to reign.

Jesus came to restore that. He became King so that we could reign with Him, just as it was meant from the beginning.



How are we supposed to reign?

We may show God's kingdom to the world. Jesus gave us authority over every power of the enemy.

We can now, just like Jesus, heal the sick, cast out demons. We can reign by spreading God's love, truth, peace, etc.. These are more powerful weapons than those of the enemy: fear, lies, chaos, etc.. We are no longer under the power of the devil!

As soon as the world encounters the kingdom of God and the King Himself, they too can repent.

Then we baptize them in water, fill them with the Holy Spirit and teach them all things about the kingdom of God.

God's kingdom stands in direct opposition to the kingdom of the devil.

Because Jesus came as King, we now have the possibility to enter His kingdom. When we give our lives to Jesus and are born again, we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom. (You can read this in Colossians 1:13).

In this kingdom, completely different rules apply. There is righteousness, peace and joy instead of injustice, restlessness and anger.

What does God's kingdom look like?

We have already heard quite a bit about the good news of the kingdom, and in that a lot has become clear about what the kingdom of God looks like. Below we list again some aspects of what that kingdom looks like.

If we want to know what the kingdom looks like, it is especially important to look at the King.

The characteristics of the King are visible in His kingdom.

When Jesus was on earth, He demonstrated the kingdom of God. The miracles He performed showed what the laws, the standards, and the culture of His kingdom are.

- *He healed every illness, every disease: in His kingdom there is no sickness.*
- *He made the blind see again, He made the lame walk again: in His kingdom there are no impairments.*
- *He provided more than enough to eat, boats full of fish: in His kingdom there is no lack.*
- *He forgave sins: in His kingdom there is no more condemnation.*
- *He interacted with bad people, prostitutes and tax collectors: in His kingdom everyone is welcome, there is love and acceptance.*
- *He gave His disciples the power to do the same things: in His kingdom we may reign with Him.*
- *He cast out demons: in His kingdom we are free, free from the power of sin and of the devil.*
- *He raised the dead: in His kingdom there is no premature death, but we have the promise that we will fulfill our days.*
- *He gave His disciples the command to speak throughout the whole world about Him and His kingdom: His kingdom is a kingdom that will expand until the whole earth is filled with His glory: His goodness, truth, love, peace.*



For whom is it and how do you enter?

The kingdom of God is for everyone who wants to receive it!

When you make Jesus King of your life, you become part of His Kingdom. We enter the kingdom of God by turning away from our old life, being baptized for the washing away of our sins, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, the rebirth as mentioned in previous lessons. Through rebirth we receive a new identity, we become a new creation. We are given, as it were, a new passport: citizen of the kingdom of God.

And now?

The last thing Jesus did before He went to heaven was to bless His disciples and give them the assignment.

His assignment could be summarized as: Make the kingdom of God known everywhere and let people enter this kingdom!

Matthew 28:18 (ERV)

So Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time." Jesus has gone to heaven. Now the assignment is ours: to demonstrate His kingdom and invite people to enter this kingdom as well! We may and must do the same things that Jesus did!

5. Summary

We have learned that the kingdom of God is the place where He reigns, where He is King. We have learned that we may move from the kingdom of darkness into His kingdom and that we may even reign as kings with Jesus in it. The kingdom of God is the opposite of the power of this world, of the devil. God's characteristics, God's love, God's righteousness, God's peace and God's joy are the culture there. God wants to give His kingdom to everyone. If we are born again, we become citizens of it.

6. Looking ahead

Hopefully, you have already prepared the group for a follow-up to this course. Let them know a start date and a location right away.

It is important that the participants surround themselves with mature disciples, so they can learn everything and begin to apply it in practice.



7. Sowing and reaping

This is the final evening of the New Life Training. The participants have learned a lot and have even received a whole new life!

This evening is a great moment to give the participants the opportunity to sow financially (to give an offering).

The Kingdom of God has a principle regarding finances called 'sowing and reaping'. The world does not know this, but God's Kingdom is not of this world.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 we can read this principle: Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

You entrust your finances to God and He will go to work with them and bring forth a harvest.

Participants can give a financial offering via the website of House of Miracles. If this training is not given through House of Miracles, you can provide another way for people to give.

8. Small group time

- *Is it clear to you what the kingdom of God is?*
- *How can we demonstrate the kingdom of God?*
- *How would you describe your role in the kingdom?*
- *What do you see in your own life of the kingdom of God?*