

Handout 10

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN — stand up and be counted

home page

Jesus calls us to follow him. We choose whether to respond or not. If we decide 'yes' this choice affects the way we live our lives and will influence the people we become.



Being a Christian involves:

TURNING – away from a self-centred lifestyle and from everything evil.

BELIEVING – that God loves you and Jesus died for you.

BELONGING – to God's family, the Church.

RECEIVING – the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit to help you live like Jesus.

mega byte

Follow me!

A rich young man came to Jesus and asked him what he needed to do to enter God's kingdom. Jesus told him to sell all his possessions, give the money away and then follow him. Read the story in Mark 10.17-22.

This was too much for the young man! The Bible says he walked away sad. But notice, Jesus carries on loving him.



Write in the bubbles (in your own words):

- what the young man said to himself as he walked away;
- what Jesus was thinking.

Jesus calls us to follow him. Like the rich young man we have a choice to say 'Yes' or 'No'. Some Christians make that choice gradually over months or years. Others make it at a specific moment in time and can remember a date and a place (like a first kiss!). What choice will *you* make?

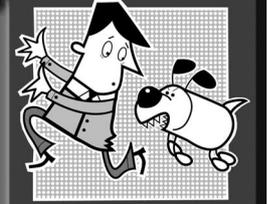


becoming a christian — stand up and be counted

byte

Stand and deliver!

Critics of Christianity sometimes say it is a soft option, an escape from reality. The lives of Christian people show that this is far from true! There is a real cost involved in being a Christian. Saying 'Yes' to following Jesus can mean our lives are never the same again!



Tick the things in the list below that you think will be affected by your decision to follow Jesus:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> The way I treat my friends and family | <input type="radio"/> My attitude to race |
| <input type="radio"/> The language I use | <input type="radio"/> The things I watch on TV |
| <input type="radio"/> My response to global poverty | <input type="radio"/> The way I wear my hair |
| <input type="radio"/> My attitude to sex | <input type="radio"/> The way I treat people I don't like |
| <input type="radio"/> The way I spend my spare time | <input type="radio"/> The things I spend my money on. |

We'll be looking more fully at some of these issues in the next few sessions of the course.

A commitment prayer

Read through this prayer. It is strong stuff, isn't it? Only pray it if you mean it!

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you are calling me to follow you.

Thank you that you loved me enough to die for me.

Thank you that you show me how to live.

Forgive all I've done and said and thought that has been wrong.

Help me to turn from selfish ways and all that is evil and to live in your light.

Fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I can have the strength to live as a Christian.

Take my life and use me to let your kingdom come on earth.

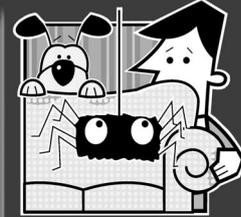
Amen.



Becoming a Christian — stand up and be counted

interfacing

If you prayed the commitment prayer during this session pray it again at home every day this week. (If you didn't feel ready to pray it, talk to God about why and ask him to help you find out more.)



processing

Read the list of things above and think more deeply about how some of them may affect you.



do something about it

Ask some of the older people in your church what difference being a Christian makes in their lives. You might be surprised by the answers they give!



coming soon

Next week: Your kingdom come ...

