

# ELEMENTS

## New Person in Christ

WHO YOU ARE NOW THAT YOU ARE "IN CHRIST"

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LESSON



Talk about what you think...

NOW THAT YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED ALREADY.

HOW DOES A PERSON'S IDENTITY AFFECT THE WAY THEY ACT OR RELATE TO OTHERS?

YOUR IDENTITY OR SELFWORTH CAN BE BASED ON A NUMBER OF THINGS. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF IT WAS ONLY BASED ON HOW PEOPLE VIEW YOU, ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ON YOUR STATUS AT SCHOOL OR POSITION AT WORK?

DO YOU THINK THAT HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS GOING TO CHANGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Engage with the Bible...

Study

### JOHN 14:1-21

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. <sup>12</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

In this passage Jesus spends some of his last days with his disciples before he is crucified on the cross. He knows that his time is short so he wants to use it to explain some very important things to them. He shows them a clear picture of what their lives are like because they now know him. There are some amazing changes that take place in us when we begin a relationship with Jesus. These verses talk specifically about your new identity and the benefits of that identity.

# 1 Discovering the key themes

## 1 What happens when?

What happens to you when you begin a relationship with God and start to live it? As you can see, Jesus uses the phrase “in me” often in this story. (“trust in me” v2, “believe in me” vs 11, “faith in me” vs 12 “you are in me” vs 20). What do you think it means to be “In Jesus”?

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Being “in Jesus” reflects our new identity when we put our faith in him. It means that once we are connected to him, his power, love, leading, and help can be a daily part of our lives.

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## 2 A place for you...

In verses 2-3 he says he will be preparing a place for you. What place is he preparing for you? And what is the significance of having Jesus prepare the future for you?

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Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. He is going ahead of us to get ready a place where we can live with him. As it says in Jeremiah 29:11, God knows the plans he has for you, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.”

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## 3 Closer to God

In verse 8-10 Philip asks Jesus to show them the father. Jesus says, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the father.” How does seeing Jesus or believing that the father is in Jesus help get you closer to God?

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Now that we are closer to God this also means that we have received forgiveness of sins. Because of Christ’s sacrifice for our sins we experience forgiveness and we are closer to the father - like a son or a daughter.

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## 4 Anything in my name

In verses 12-14 Jesus says you can ask for anything in his name and he will do it. What do you think he means by this?

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Now that we are “In Christ” we experience answered prayer. God will listen to our prayers and promises to answer them.

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## 5 Who is the Holy Spirit?

You are promised the Holy Spirit as Jesus says in verses 16-17. Who is the Holy Spirit and how does he relate to you?

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So we are also promised the Holy Spirit now that we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit connects us to God while we are living here on earth and helps us to discern between what is truth and what is a lie. Later on in this passage(v. 26) it says that the Holy Spirit will remind us of all Jesus’ words, and lead us into all truth.

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## 6 Experiencing God’s love

In verse 21 what does he promise will happen if you love him? How do you experience God’s love every day?

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The word love here means love without boundaries or conditions. God wants to give us everything he has so that we can experience him and feel secure in his love. We can now experience genuine intimacy and love from God and from Jesus in our life.



## Applying it, experiencing it, practicing it

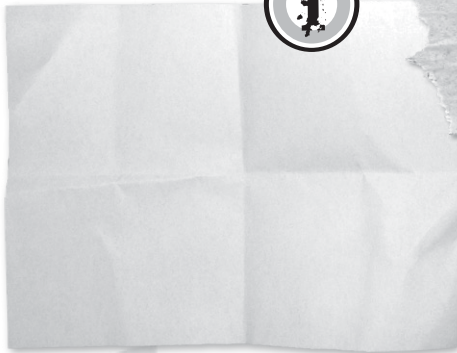
FROM THESE VERSES YOU CAN SEE 6 CHANGES THAT JESUS SAYS WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU BEGIN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

1. **Identified with Jesus (In Me)**
2. **Future Life** – you are forever with God
3. **Closeness with God** - because of forgiveness of sins
4. **Answered Prayer** – he listens to you and answers your prayers
5. **Holy Spirit** – the Holy Spirit is with you and in you
6. **Love of God** – you can experience his love

All of this is possible because of something called God's "grace". Grace is when we receive something that we don't deserve, because someone else paid the price for it. Because Jesus paid the ultimate price when he gave his life for you, believing in him gives you more than you could know. This list is just the beginning.

### LOOK AT THE LIST OF 6 PROMISES THAT YOU JUST STUDIED.

Which one are you most excited about?



Which one is hardest for you to understand or to receive? Why?



What happens when you sin? When you blow it this week? What will happen to these promises that God has for you?



### Skills Summary

WHAT'S THE USE OF ALL THIS INFORMATION ABOUT BEING "IN CHRIST" IF YOU DON'T EXPERIENCE IT? HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED IN THAT DIRECTION THIS WEEK:

- Write down at least two things that you are "troubled" about. Remember, Jesus says to not be troubled but to trust in Him and His plan and ability to work life out for you. So, after you have written down these two things, express to God your willingness to give these troubles completely to Him. Then wait to experience His peace and His work on your behalf.
- Take some time this next week to think about the things that feed your old attitudes, responses, and actions. Some of these may not be fitting now that you are "in Christ". What is one thing you would like to change so that your actions reflect your new identity?
- The Holy Spirit, who lives inside you now, will begin to make you aware of the things of God like never before. This week, try to stay sensitive to this "inner voice". If you sense his leading, respond to it!
- Jesus promised to "show himself" to those in whom He lives. Ask Him to show himself to you in some special way this week so that you will recognize Him. The possibilities are endless!

### WRITE DOWN YOUR EXPERIENCE THIS WEEK IN THE SPACE BELOW:





## Real Stories from Central and Eastern Europe

Watch DVD



New Person in Christ | Tabita

Watch DVD



New Person in Christ | Křezsek

### Experiencing it during the week

SUMMARY VERSE AND MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

**GAL 2:20**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*



EXPERIENCING IT DURING THE WEEK:

Theme	Passage	Questions
1 <sup>st</sup> Day – No longer alive	Galatians 2:20	In what way do you think this verse means that you have died? Why do you think some part of the “old you” needed to die?
2 <sup>nd</sup> Day – Benefits of being in Christ 1	Eph 1:1-10	Read these verses and list all the benefits that you now have from God. Write down on a piece of paper those which mean the most to you.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Day – Benefits of being in Christ 2	Eph. 1:11-14	Read these verses and list all the benefits that you now have from God. Write down on a piece of paper those which mean the most to you.
4 <sup>th</sup> Day – Benefits of being in Christ 3	Eph. 1:15-23	In the section, Paul prays that the reader will understand everything that Jesus has done for them. Which of these things that he prays for would you most like to experience?
5 <sup>th</sup> Day - New Person	2 Corinthians 5:17	What was “old” about you that you are glad is now dead? What can you feel that is new about you?
6 <sup>th</sup> Day – Freedom & Confidence	Ephesians 3:12	Would you say that you feel free and confident in approaching God? If not, what keeps you from feeling this way?
7 <sup>th</sup> Day – Rescued	Romans 7:21- 25	What part of your life is “waging war” against your mind and your desire to follow Christ? What role does Christ play in overcoming that part of your life, and enabling you to live freely in Christ?



# New Person in Christ

WHO YOU ARE NOW THAT YOU ARE “IN CHRIST”