

### **Lesson 3:**

## **Christian Children Need To Live For God**

*Theme - How To Live The Christian Life*

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#### ***Information For Teachers***

*The first two lessons in our series dealt mainly with the doctrines of salvation and assurance – teaching the children how they can be saved and how they can start the Christian life even though they are young. They also taught the saved children how they can be sure that they are Christians. The next step is to show them how to live the Christian life. That is the purpose of this lesson which teaches the doctrine of sanctification. Its main purpose is to give a general overview of the doctrine.*

The Christian child needs to be introduced to two important and basic truths concerning sanctification:

- GOD’S PURPOSE for his life – the “WHAT” of sanctification. Sanctification is the process by which the saved child becomes more and more like Jesus Christ. The Bible makes it clear that God wants each one who trusts the Lord Jesus to become more righteous in his character, and more like His Son in his thoughts, words and actions (2 Corinthians 3 v18; Romans 8 v28,29; Philippians 3 v14-16; 1 John 2 v6).
- GOD’S POWER for his life – the “HOW” of sanctification.

*The Christian child needs to understand that he does not have the power or ability to grow spiritually and become more like Jesus Christ – no matter how hard he tries. But you need to teach him that the Holy Spirit lives in him and that He will give him the ability and power to become what God wants him to be (2 Corinthians 3 v18; Philippians 2 v13; 1 Thessalonians 5 v23, 24; Romans 2 v4).*

*It is absolutely essential that you also emphasize over and over again two important principles with regard to sanctification:*

- That it is completely impossible for the Christian child to be perfect – or anything like perfect. Later lessons will teach him more about his old sinful nature and the continual battle between it and his new nature.

- That his Christian growth is a process – a slow, little by little and step by step, process. There will be no great or sudden transformation. He does not become an angel overnight. Consequently great patience is needed.

### **Supplementary Evangelistic Lesson No. 1.**

*“A Talk about Nothing” (see page 87).*

### **Memory Verse**

*“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (1 Peter 1 v15).*

### **Powerpoint Slide 3-1 – Every Cook Has A Plan**

Have any of you ever cooked a meal? What did you cook? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I want you now to use your imagination.

Just imagine that you have been asked to cook a special meal for a very important person who is coming to visit your house. What would you do? How would you start? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

You would need to have a plan first of all and in that plan you would need to take three steps:

- First of all you would need to decide **WHAT** you are going to cook, just as this man in our first picture is doing. Your first step is to choose or plan the meal you are going to cook and serve. What would you like to cook? What is your favourite meal? (*Give an opportunity to respond*)?
- And then you must work out **HOW** you are going to cook that meal. You must write, or find, a recipe which will tell you all the ingredients or things you will need, and how to mix them and cook them – so that you can do what you had planned. You can see in our second picture (*Advance Slide*) that our cook has collected his ingredients. Do you know what they are? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).
- And then you will **START** cooking like our cook here in our third picture (*Advance Slide*). I hope it will be a success and that it will taste well!

### **Powerpoint Slide 3-2 – God Has A Plan For You**

I am glad that some of you have trusted the Lord Jesus and have begun a new life with Him. This lesson is especially for you. God has a plan for your life and

that plan also involves three steps just like the three steps you would follow if you were cooking a meal:

- Your first step in cooking a meal would be to decide what you will cook. So first of all God decides what He would like to see in your life – the result He is going to aim at in your life. Do you know what His decision is? What do you think? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). The Bible tells us that God’s plan is that you should be like His Son the Lord Jesus. He wants you to be holy like the Lord Jesus as our Bible verse for today tells us (*Repeat it*). That is His decision, His plan and His desire for you.
- Your second step in cooking would be to choose a recipe to guide you when cooking your meal and this recipe would give all the ingredients or things you will use. And so God decides on a recipe or plan which will include the ingredients which are necessary to make you like the Lord Jesus. He knows exactly what He is doing and, just as you would choose and mix your ingredients together to produce the meal you want, He chooses and mixes His ingredients like these in our picture - some joy with some sadness (*Advance Slide*), some problems with some solutions, some hard times with some easy times, some friends with some enemies – but all are mixed together to make you more like the Lord Jesus. The Bible says that “*all things work together for good to them who love God*” (Romans 8 v28). Some of the ingredients your mother uses when she makes a cake don’t taste so nice on their own (*Give examples*) – but together they make a nice cake. So some of these ingredients or things God brings into your life aren’t so nice when they are on their own. But all the ingredients are mixed together for your good to make you more like the Lord Jesus.
- Your third step in cooking is to get to work (*Advance Slide*). So, thirdly, God as shown by this circle has started to work already in your life. He doesn’t just decide and plan. He has started “to mix and cook”. That is why these arrows are here. You will become perfectly like the Lord Jesus when you die. But becoming like the Lord Jesus and becoming holy is not just something which happens when you die. God’s work, His “mixing and cooking” is something which goes on in your life every day. And He uses the things which happen to you to help you and to change you.

God wants you to be like the Lord Jesus. He wants you to be holy as our memory verse tells us and He is working in your heart and life right now to make you more and more like Him.

### **Powerpoint Slide 3-3 – The Result of God’s Plan**

Have you ever seen a cookery book? Before giving the list of all the ingredients or things used in making a meal, the book usually includes a nice coloured picture of what the meal will look like when it is cooked (*Show a cookery book and a picture of a meal if possible*). Here is a picture of what you may be aiming at when you are cooking – a beautiful cake.

And in the Bible God gives a picture of what He wants us to look like. He gives us a picture of the final result of His plan. He wants you and me to be holy like the Lord Jesus (*Advance Slide*), and so He gives us a picture of the Lord Jesus in the Bible (*Hold up Bible*).

What does it mean to be like the Lord Jesus? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). We can answer that question by reading about Him in the Bible and seeing what He is like. Do you see these flowers in our picture? They look so nice and each one reminds us of how nice and how holy the Lord Jesus was:

- He was **honest** and **truthful**. He never told lies or tried to deceive people. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

- He was **patient** and **loving** to all people – even to those who hated Him and tried to kill Him. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

- He **forgave** those who hurt Him and harmed Him – and did not try to get His own back on them. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

- He was **kind** to those who did not agree with Him. He was never rude or bad tempered. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

- He was always **obedient** to His earthly parents – and to those who were in authority over Him. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

- His thoughts and His actions were always **pure** – and He always said “No” to the temptations to do things which were wrong. (*Advance Slide*)

What about you and me?

**Powerpoint Slide 3-4 – God Wants You To Be Holy**

Can you see what God's plan and picture is for you and me? Can you see that God wants us to become like the Lord Jesus? He wants us to become holy like Him. Our memory verse reminds us that just as the Lord Jesus is holy He wants us to be holy (*Repeat the memory verse*). This will mean doing the kind of things which the Lord Jesus did and saying the kind of words He said. That's what the word "holy" means. What do you think it means to be holy, and to be like the Lord Jesus? We have already seen some things we should do. What should you do and what should you not do? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

It will mean helping mother at home (*Advance Slide*), obeying our school teachers and working hard at our lessons (*Advance Slide*), helping blind people and older folk (*Advance Slide*), being kind to animals and birds (*Advance Slide*). It will also mean being sure that our words are kind, that we are always honest, that we will not be selfish with our toys and books, that we will not lose our temper, that we will not tell lies, and that we will not be lazy.

"Oh my!" we all say, "That is impossible. I could never be like that. I could never be like the Lord Jesus."

Well, you are right. It is impossible.

- Firstly, you will never be completely like Him until you die. But you can start to be a little like Him, and then little by little you can become more and more like Him. None of us is perfect. But we can become a little like Him today – and then a little more like Him tomorrow.
- And secondly, you cannot make yourself like the Lord Jesus – no matter how hard you try. But I have good news for you. There is Someone Who is ready to help you. You are not on your own.

**Powerpoint Slide 3-5 - God Gives You The Power**

Gary had a problem. He liked to work in the garden. He liked to dig the soil and grow things. And he had just discovered a big rock below the surface. He dug around it and then tried to move it. But he couldn't. It was impossible – at least it seemed impossible. Just then his father came out into the garden.

"Do you have a problem, Gary", he asked.

"Yes", said Gary, "I can't move this rock. Could you help me?"

"Of course I can", said his father.

The two of them caught hold of the rock as you can see here, and they pulled together and out it came. Gary did not have the power to move that rock but his father did.

Tracey, Gary's sister, also had a problem. She was doing her homework. (*Advance Slide*) She was not very good at maths and couldn't work out how to get an answer to one of the questions. She knew that her mother was good at maths, so she called her and asked if she could show her how to find the answer. Her mother was able to do so immediately, as you can see in our picture. Tracey was not able to find the answer but her mother had the ability to do so.

Christian boys and girls have a problem (*Advance Slide*). How can you and I ever be like the Lord Jesus? How can we ever be the kind of people God wants us to be? We are like Gary, we are not strong enough. We don't have the power to be like Him. We are like Tracey, we are not clever enough. We are not able to live the right way.

But just as Gary's father helped him and gave him the power he needed, and just as Tracey's mother helped her and gave her the ability she needed, we have Someone Who is ready to give us the power and the ability to become more and more like the Lord Jesus every day. Do you know Who that is?

### ***Powerpoint Slide 3-6 – The Holy Spirit Will Help You***

The One Who will help you is called the Holy Spirit and He lives inside everyone who has trusted the Lord Jesus. Do you know who the Holy Spirit is? There is only one God – but there are three Persons in God. The first Person is God the Father. The second Person is God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And the third Person is God the Holy Spirit.

The moment you asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour, God the Holy Spirit came to live in you. He is the special gift of the Lord Jesus to all Christians.

Are you good at figures? Have you a good memory? You should try to remember these three numbers – 3, 40 and 10. Do you know what they are and what they mean?

The Lord Jesus died for our sin on the cross on a Friday. Three days later He rose again and came back to life. He then stayed on this earth with His disciples for 40 days after that (*Advance Slide*). At the end of those 40 days He took His disciples or followers up onto a mountain top, and right before their eyes He went back to Heaven. But before He went, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for He was going to send them a special gift which would help them to live for Him and tell others about Him (Acts 1 v8). That gift was the Holy Spirit. And ten days later (*Advance Slide*) He gave them this gift. The Holy Spirit came to live in each of them. But the Bible teaches that, ever since then, every person who trusts the Lord Jesus receives at that very moment this special gift – without having to wait. Isn't that wonderful?

The Lord Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in every Christian boy and girl to give them the power and ability to become what God wants them to be. The

Bible shows you **what** God wants you to do, and the Holy Spirit shows you **how** to do it.

But there are two things you must do first of all if you are going to receive this help from the Holy Spirit:

- You must WANT to have this help. If Gary and Tracey had not wanted help with their problems they would never have received it. You must have a desire to be like the Lord Jesus and you must WANT to overcome or beat the problems which stop you from becoming like Him.
- You must ASK for this help. Gary and Tracey both asked for help with their problems. If they hadn't asked they would never have received that help. And so you and I need to ASK our Heavenly Father to make us strong and help us with our problems (Ephesians 3 v16) and He will.

### **Powerpoint Slide 3-7 - You Need To Do Something**

When Gary asked his father for help he did not step back and let his father do all the work. It was HELP he asked for and he worked with his father to solve his problem. There was something he had to do.

When Tracey asked her mother for HELP she did not go to sleep and allow her mother to solve her problem. Her mother showed her what to do and helped her to do it. But she still had her part to play. There was something she had to do.

So when you ask your Heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit Who lives in you to give you the power and ability to become more and more like the Lord Jesus, it does not mean that you can step back or go to sleep and wait for Him to do everything. He expects you to play your part; there are some things He wants you to do – and He will then HELP you.

Just imagine that you are old enough to drive a motor car and that you have a car to drive. You set off in your car and it goes well because it has a good strong engine. But in front of you is a red light and you must stop. How are you going to stop? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Your car has the power to move because of the engine and the power to stop because of the brakes. The brakes have enough power to stop the car but will these brakes stop the car when they see the red light? Certainly not. You have your part to play – and if you don't play your part the car won't stop. What is your part? You need to put your foot on the brake and press hard. Then the power of the car's brakes will stop the car.

The power is in the brakes, but the desire and the first step comes from your foot. Do you understand what I mean?

The power to be like the Lord Jesus and to be what God wants you to be comes from the Holy Spirit. He is “the brakes”. But the desire and the first step comes from you. You are “the foot”.

You have your part to play. Just as there is enough power in the car’s brakes there is enough power in the Holy Spirit. But just as the brakes don’t stop the car on their own, the Holy Spirit will not make you like the Lord Jesus on His own. If you don’t play your part nothing will happen.

What do you need to do?

➤ Firstly, you need to say “**I WANT** to be like the Lord Jesus” – and really mean it (*Advance Slide*).

Do you really want to be like Him – right down in your heart?

➤ Secondly, you need to say, “**I WILL** (*Advance Slide*) be the person He wants me to be – honest and truthful, obedient and helpful. I will, I will, I will. That is my decision.”

➤ Thirdly, you need to say, “**I WON’T**” (*Advance Slide*) to things which are wrong – like alcohol, smoking, using drugs, drinking and watching X rated videos. “No, I won’t, I won’t, I won’t. That is also my decision.”

These are the things which you yourself must desire, which you must decide and which you must do. God will not do these for you.

When you “use your foot” in this way and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you He will give you the strength to stop doing what is wrong and He will help you to do what is right.

If you are saved and you have a problem or question which is bothering you and you still don’t know what to do about it, I would be glad to speak with you and pray for you. If you would like my help please remain seated after the meeting is over, and if I see you sitting there I will come and sit with you and speak with you.

### ***Powerpoint Slide 3-8 - It Is Possible To Backslide***

That’s a strange word, isn’t it? What does it mean to backslide?

If you lived in an area which becomes very cold in the wintertime you would have to travel on roads which are icy and slippery. Imagine yourself walking on one of these roads which is going steeply up hill. You are walking up the road, trying to keep your feet – and then suddenly you slip, and fall and slide back down the road again – just like the boy in our picture.

The same thing can happen to boys and girls who are Christians. They are growing and moving upwards in their Christian life and becoming a little

more like the Lord Jesus every day. Then sometimes they slip, and fall, and slide back down the road on which they are walking. No one is perfect, and no matter how hard we try we will often slip and fall. We will tell a lie, or disobey our parents, or say or do something we shouldn't. We will backslide. This will often happen when we don't take time to read our Bibles or talk to God, or when we don't meet together with other Christians.

What happens when you slide back? Do you lose your salvation? Certainly not. Do you need to become a Christian again and start all over again? Certainly not. You may slide back a good distance down the hill – but you will still be on the hill and on the road which you started on when you trusted the Lord Jesus. When Jesus Christ saved you He gave you eternal life and you can never lose that.

So you just need to pick yourself up, tell God you are sorry, and start to move upwards again.

The apostle Peter was a man in the Bible who really loved the Lord Jesus - he was one of His disciples. Do you remember what happened to him? He slipped and fell back. (*Advance Slide*) The Roman soldiers had captured the Lord Jesus before they crucified Him, and Peter watched from a distance what was happening. Then he went over to where the servants and officers stood to warm himself at their fire as you can see in our picture. Some people said that he was one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus. But each time Peter said, "No, I am not" and he even cursed and said, "I do not know Him." Peter had denied His Lord. He had backslidden – and he had gone a long way back down the hill. When he saw what he had done he wept bitterly. But the Lord Jesus still loved Peter and Peter still loved the Lord Jesus. So he picked himself up again and made things right with His Lord. He was still on the road, which he had never left, although he had gone back quite a way. He started to climb up the road again and became one of the greatest men who ever lived – a great preacher, a great missionary and a great witness for the Lord Jesus.

Are you becoming a little bit more like the Lord Jesus each day? Have you asked God to help you do this? Are you playing your part by wanting to be like Him, by deciding that you will be more like Him – and by doing what you can to control yourself. you have backslidden you can pick yourself up right now. Tell God you are sorry for what happened and ask Him to help you get going again. He will forgive you and give you the help you need.

But there may be some boys and girls here who are not Christians at all, and who have never started the Christian life. You cannot backslide because you have never gone forward. You can start your Christian life today by trusting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Do you remember our verse from last week? "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved*" (Acts 16 v31). Trust Him today and start your Christian life.

