

October 4, 2026



Title: Believer

Scripture: 1 John 2:12-13 ESV

Series: Clear Mission, Clear Vision

Speaker: Ian Bonthron

Acts 2:37 ESV

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38 ESV

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 John 2:12-14 ESV

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Step 1 - Believer

1 John 2:12-14 ESV

I am writing to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, **children**, because you know the Father.¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Your Sins are forgiven, you know God is your father.

Characterized by _____

Prayer Life - focused on tangible, physical needs

If you are in the New Believer step, grow in gratitude

**Worship - Start or keep _____ church. Get
_____.**

Community - Get _____ with a community group.

**Equip - Meet with a _____ - 101 Group - start reading
your Bible**

**Believer step - You might not know much, but you know the
_____, and you know you are _____.**

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Title: New Believer

Scripture: 1 John 2:12-13

Getting to know you Questions:

1. If you have access to a baby photo, share it with the group.
2. Why do you think babies can bring so much joy to a household?

Into the Bible Questions:

1. In 1 John 2:12-14, John calls new believers “little children.” What two big truths does he say they already know, and why do those two things matter more than a long list of spiritual achievements?
2. If you are a Christian, share your story of how you came to trust Jesus as your savior.
3. The sermon says new believers often overflow with gratitude and pray about very tangible needs. If you are new to the faith or you can remember back when it was new, which of those two has felt most natural for you so far, and which one still feels awkward?
4. New believers can get discouraged when they compare themselves to people further along. Have you felt that “I can’t walk yet” frustration? What helped (or would help) you keep going?
5. Why do you think John uses such affectionate language (“little children”) for people who just trusted Jesus? How should that change the way you view new believers (or yourself as a new believer)?
6. How have you seen a new believer’s raw gratitude actually re-ignite joy in people who have been following Jesus for years? Share a specific story if you have one.
7. When you mentor or walk with a new believer, how do you resist the urge to push them to “catch up” and instead cheer them on the way a good parent cheers a toddler’s first steps?
8. New believers often remind the rest of us how amazing forgiveness is. What’s one area where you (as a more mature believer) have started taking grace for granted, and how can a newer Christian help wake that up again?
9. How can the whole group create a culture where new believers feel safe to share both their excitement and their discouragement without anyone rushing them to the next stage?

Application Questions:

1. This week, what's one specific thing you're grateful God has forgiven—and who will you tell about it (another believer or someone who doesn't yet know Jesus)?
2. If you're a new believer, what's one tangible need you're going to bring to God in prayer this week instead of just worrying about it?
3. Where have you been comparing your walk to someone else's and feeling discouraged? What's one truth from 1 John 2 you can speak to yourself instead?
4. Look over the 5 values and potential actions steps in the notes above. Which of the five values (Worship, Community, Equip, Serve, Outreach) is God nudging you to take a concrete next step in this month? What's the actual next action (sign up, text someone, open the Bible, etc.)?
5. What's one small way you can start reading or listening to the Bible this week—even if it's just a few verses?
6. Who is one person who would be genuinely excited to hear your story of trusting Jesus? When will you share it with them?
7. Looking six months ahead, what would it look like for you to still be growing in gratitude and prayer while also taking the next small steps in community, Scripture, worship, equipping yourself, service, and sharing your story? How can this group help?