

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

A Getting Acquainted

What brings us here?

B Teaching Section

The Bible is the Handbook of Christianity, supplying answers to our questions. We shall use it each week.

i) What is Christianity?

Not a religion but a revelation and a rescue.

Reveals God	- Creator	Genesis 1:1
	- Holy	Isaiah 6:3
	- Love	I John 4:8

Christ rescues us.	John 3:16
	Mark 10:45

Christianity not a matter of:	- churchgoing
	- ceremonies
	- creeds
	- conduct

Though it embraces all four. Christianity is Christ!

ii) Who is Jesus Christ? Human, but more than human

Name means 'God to the rescue'	Matthew 1:21
Fulfillment of God's revelation	Hebrews 1:1ff
God's 'word'/message in a human life	John 1:1-4, 14, 18
Head of the universe – as of the church	Colossians 1:15-18

iii) What did he do? Why did he come?

He healed and taught.	Luke 7:22
He lived a perfect life.	I Peter 1:22-23
He died on the cross to deal with the guilt of sin.	I Peter 3:18

All humans have this disease of sin or self-centeredness.	Romans 3:23
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Sin:	- spoils lives	Jeremiah 17:9
	- imposes a bondage	John 8:34
	- separates from God	Isaiah 59:1ff
	- is fatal if not dealt with	Romans 6:23a

He rose from the dead.	John 20:19-22
	I Peter 1:3

He comes with the power of the Holy Spirit to live in believers. Philippians 4:13

iv) **How do I get in touch?**

Relationship with God is restored by taking four steps.

Admit - not in touch
 - self-centered
 - need to change
 - need a new power
 - am deeply sorry for my wrongs

Believe - God came to earth to find me.
 - Jesus' death on the cross took the guilt and penalty of my sin.

Consider - I must allow him into every part of my life.
 - I expect opposition as his follower.
 - I will need to spend time with his followers.

Do - Invite the risen Christ into my life:
 - as Savior to cleanse and forgive me
 - as Lord to control me
 - as friend to be with me (Revelation 3:20)

There are three sides to becoming a Christian:

- repentance and faith – the personal side
- baptism – the public mark
- receiving the Holy Spirit – the divine gift

You are only truly a Christian when the Holy Spirit has been welcomed aboard (Romans 8:9)

C Verse to learn Revelation 3:20

D Bible Study Section Luke 19:1-10

1. Why do you think Zacchaeus felt the need to meet Jesus? Why do we?
2. Why did Jesus bother about Zacchaeus? How long do you think it was since anyone had gone to dinner with Zacchaeus?
3. Did Zaccheaus have to smarten his life up before Jesus would enter his home?
4. What does Jesus bring when he comes into someone's life?
5. What difference did Jesus' visit make to Zacchaeus?