



BECOME 101

Two Practices to Become a Christ Follower

Leader's Guide

Welcome to BECOME 101. Today we're going to look at who we become in Christ when we cross the line of faith. In the Bible, Paul says:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

How do you “become” a new creation?

*. . . since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being **renewed in knowledge** in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:9-10*

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

How do you renew your mind in a way that transforms you?
How do you “become” who God designed you to be?

You interact with God daily through Bible study and prayer.

Watch the first BECOME 101 Video.

Bible Study

Activity:

How to **Read** the Bible

- Systematically
 - Consider following a reading plan. See Bible.com/The Bible app for ideas.
 - Choose a book. Start with the New Testament
 - A Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John)
 - One of Paul's letters, like Philipians or Ephesians
 - Write down the scripture references on Sunday morning. Read them and around them during the week to reflect on the message and put the message in context.
 - Read daily so that it becomes a habit and part of your day.

- Individually and Corporately
 - Read on your own.
 - Study in small group!

- Inquisitively
 - To **study** the Bible, ask the 5 W's.
 - Who's speaking/writing to whom?
 - What's happening?
 - When?
 - Where?
 - Why?

 - To **meditate** and then **memorize**, consider: What one verse stands out?
 - Picture it: Visualize the scene in your mind or draw it manually or electronically
 - Pronounce it: Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
 - Paraphrase it: Rewrite the verse in your own words.
 - Personalize it: Replace the pronouns or people with your name or "I."
 - Pray it: Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.

 - To **apply** what you've learned, ask:
 - What did it mean to the original hearers?
 - What is the underlying, timeless principle?
 - Where or how could I practice that principle?

Bible Study Practice (30 mins.)

Depending on the size of your group, you may do this together, or you might split into groups.

Now, let's practice. While we're together, let's try an Old Testament passage, which can seem daunting.

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 **The LORD Calls Samuel**

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Talk through the questions below together. If time, help participants find 1 Samuel in their Bibles and look at any introductory pages or commentary that provides answers. Possible answers include:

> Who?

Eli, old priest; and Samuel, boy who does not know God

> What?

The Lord calls Samuel, but Samuel does not know God and thinks it's Eli calling.

> Where?

In the temple

> When?

Middle of night

> Why?

God has plans for Samuel.

> Meditate on verse 10: Speak, for your servant is listening.

○ Pronounce it. "Speak, for **your servant** is listening."

○ Personalize/pray it. "Speak, for **I am** listening."

○

> What's a timeless principle in this passage?

One possibility: Sometimes we can't interpret what God's saying to us, but a mentor can. (v.8)

Another: God knows us and speaks to us even before we know who He is. (v.7)

> How can I apply that principle to my life?

Do I have a spiritual mentor? Could I ask someone in small group? Someone with whom I serve?

Are we listening? Do we confuse His voice with others? How can we know when it's God? Do we respond immediately?

<5 minute break>

Prayer: Conversation with God

Before discussing how to pray, let's define prayer. Definitions abound, but at its simplest, consider prayer a "conversation with God." Ask: What does this definition suggest about prayer? Possible answers: speaking AND listening, a relationship

Let's continue looking at prayer by considering what Jesus says:

What did Jesus say about prayer?

- What NOT to do:
 - *And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. Matthew 6:5*
 - *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:7-8*

Ask: What do these verses suggest about what NOT to do? Consider the "underlying timeless principle." Possible answers: Don't pray for others. Don't pray for show. Pray to God as if it's just the two of you.

- What TO do:
 - *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6*

Ask: Is this the only way to pray? What about prayers aloud? Possible answers: The main point (underlying timeless principle) is to communicate honestly with God, not the specific location and conditions named here.

- > **Prayer is not for show; it's an authentic, intimate communication between you and God.**

Jesus follows these statements about prayer with an example. While this passage, known as the Lord's Prayer, is often recited and/or sung, Jesus intended it to be a model for us to follow more than a passage for us to memorize. Let's read his model:

- HOW to do it:
 - *"This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.” Matthew 6:9-13*

Watch the second BECOME 101 video.

- Analysis of Model:
 - Acknowledge who God is and pray directly to God: *Our Father in heaven*
 - Identify traits or names of God when reading the Bible. Then use them in prayer, to meditate on who God is.
 - Praise Him: *hallowed be your name*
 - Praise Him for who he is, for his holiness.
 - Seek God’s will: *Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
 - Pray with an attitude of humility, seeking His ways above our own.
 - Ask for needs: *Give us today our daily bread*
 - Claim the promises of God to supply our needs.
 - Ask for forgiveness: *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*
 - Ask God to reveal sin in your life; then confess it to Him.
 - Pray for others. Forgive others.
 - Ask for guidance: *Lead us not into temptation*
 - Claim God’s promises in scripture for *when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. I Corinthians 10:13*
 - Ask for protection: *But deliver us from the evil one.*

Prayer Practice (10 mins.)

- > Choose one of the verses below as a way to acknowledge who God is. Then apply that identity of God to your life right now. Write out a prayer to Him following the model Jesus provides in Matthew.
 - *My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26*
 - *Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8*
 - *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3*
 - *Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 8:14*

- > Acknowledge who God is and pray directly to God:

- > Praise Him:

- > Seek God's will:

- > Ask for needs:

- > Ask for forgiveness:

- > Ask God to reveal sin your life:

- > Pray for others:

- > Ask for guidance:

- > Ask for protection:

If time allows, then open the floor for questions about reading the Bible and/or prayer.

Close in prayer, asking God to speak to us through His word. Pray that we faithfully pursue Bible study and prayer as venues to renew our minds so that we can become the new creations God has designed us to be.

Next Step—Bless 101

*Homework--Complete the spiritual gifts assessment on PCC's website (<http://gifttests.com/test>) and take your results with you to Bless 101.

Suggestions for Further Development

Books to read:

- > The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson--*about prayer*
- > Wild Goose Chase by Mark Batterson
- > not a fan by Kyle Idleman
- > The Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster--*A classic book about other disciplines, or practices, that help us become Christ followers.*

Studies to do:

- > *Not a fan by Kyle Idleman--*the difference between being a fan and a follower of Jesus*
- > The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson--*about prayer*
- > All In by Mark Batterson
- > Soul Detox by Craig Groeschel

*AVAILABLE ON RIGHT NOW MEDIA.