

Day 2 - Session 2: Chair 2 - The Believer

Participant Handout

Session Theme

New believers are spiritual babies who need nurture, identity, and patient modeling of the basics - just as Jesus spent up to eighteen months with His disciples, helping them learn to walk, talk, and feed themselves.

Scripture Focus

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (New creation in Christ - the old has gone)
- Hebrews 5:13-14 (Infants needing milk, mature eating solid food)
- 1 John 2:1, 12, 28 (John addresses believers as "teknon" - dear children)
- John 2:1-12 (Jesus takes disciples to a wedding - modeling life together)
- John 3:22 (Jesus spent time with them in the Judean countryside)
- Matthew 3:17; Psalm 2:7; Genesis 22:2; Isaiah 42:1 (Jesus's identity affirmed at baptism)
- John 13:34-35 (Love as the mark of discipleship)

Learning Objectives

1. Describe new believers as spiritual infants (nepios/teknon) who need intentional nurture
 2. Name the six priorities Jesus modeled for new believers in the first 18 months
 3. Identify one specific new believer they can help grow and one practical next step
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Teaching Block 1: New Believers Are Spiritual Babies

Core Idea: New believers are not problems to solve - they are spiritual babies to celebrate. They are radically transformed but still need patient nurture.

- Two Greek words for new believers:

Word	Meaning	Picture
Nepios (Heb 5:13)	Infant - immature, totally dependent	A newborn who cannot feed, walk, or talk
Teknion (1 John 2:1, 12, 28)	Little child - a term of endearment	A beloved grandchild - celebrated at every milestone

- **What happens at new birth:** Dead is made alive (Eph 2:5). Old has gone, new has come (2 Cor 5:17). A RADICAL transformation - yet they still need nurture.
- **The village baby:** A mother in a remote village does not hand her newborn a survival manual. She feeds, holds, talks, and patiently teaches everything. New believers need the same patient love.

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

Discussion Block 2: How Were You Nurtured as a New Believer?

Small groups of 3-4

1. (5 min) When you first became a believer, who helped you grow? What did they do that helped most?
2. (5 min) Looking back, what was missing from your early discipleship? What do you wish someone had done for you?

3. (5 min) As a group, list 3-4 things every new believer needs in their first few months:

1.

2.

3.

4.

Teaching Block 3: Six Priorities Jesus Modeled

Core Idea: Jesus spent up to 18 months with His disciples, modeling six priorities that were more caught than taught.

- The six priorities:

Priority	How Jesus Modeled It	What It Looks Like For Us
1. Dependence on the Holy Spirit	Conceived, anointed, filled, led by the Spirit (Luke 4:1, 18)	Teach dependence on the Spirit, not willpower
2. Centrality of prayer	Began in prayer, ended in prayer, slipped away constantly (Luke 5:16)	Pray WITH new believers, not just for them
3. Obedience to the Father	"I seek not to please myself but Him" (John 5:30)	Teach obedience as the Father's love language
4. Centrality of God's Word	90+ OT quotes from 70+ chapters	Help them open the Bible: What does it say? Mean? Apply?

5. Exalting the Father	"The Father living in me is doing His work" (John 14:10)	Give glory to God for everything
6. Relationships of love	"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14)	New believers need a family, not a program

- **Key principle: More is caught than taught.** In an oral culture, new believers learn by watching, not reading manuals. A church-planter who takes a new believer along on visits models more than any lesson.

Scripture: "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." - Luke 5:16

Discussion Block 4: The Five Needs of New Believers

Five stations - groups rotate through each (3 min each)

Station	Need	Your Ideas
1. Identity	Knowing WHOSE they are	_____
2. Walking	Learning to walk with God	_____
3. Talking	Sharing God's story and their own	_____
4. Feeding	Feeding themselves from Scripture	_____
5. Potty Training	Dealing with sin, walking in the Spirit	_____

Best ideas from the stations:

Teaching Block 5: Four Principles for Ministry to New Believers

Core Idea: Four non-negotiable biblical principles for nurturing new believers.

Principle 1: Without nurture, they will not survive

- Infants are totally dependent. New Christians are the same.
- "I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow" (1 Cor 3:6) - but someone must plant and water!

Principle 2: Give personalized attention to the basics

- Identity, walking, talking, feeding, potty training - celebrate each milestone
- We duplicate how we were treated. Good nurture ensures future multiplication.

Principle 3: Never forget identity - Whose they are

- 33 things happen the moment we come to Christ: chosen, adopted, forgiven, sealed, made alive
- We do not strive for victory - we **live from victory**
- Satan attacked Jesus's identity right after the Father affirmed it (Matt 3:17; 4:3). He does the same to new believers.
- **Contextual illustration:** A new believer from a Muslim background, disowned by family, mocked by neighbors. Identity is the anchor: "I am a child of God, chosen, adopted, forgiven, sealed."

Principle 4: Spiritual children need a family

- Values are learned, lessons taught, love experienced IN a family
- All four chairs around the same table - that is the family of God

Scripture: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" - 1 John 3:1

Discussion Block 6: My Chair 2 People - Making an Action Plan

Pairs first (8 min), then whole group prayer (7 min)

1. Identify 1-2 new believers (Chair 2) in your life:

2. For ONE person, create a simple action plan:

My Action Plan	Write Your Answer
Name:	
What they need most:	(identity / walking / talking / feeding / potty training)
One thing I will do this week:	
One thing I will model for them:	

3. Share your plan with your partner.

Commitment: This week I will: _____ For this person: _____

Prayer: Pray for your Chair 2 person. Pray for wisdom, patience, and love to nurture them well. Thank God for the privilege of being a spiritual parent.

Application Handles

1. **When you meet a new believer who does not know the basics (prayer, Bible, how to share their faith),** do not be surprised - they are a spiritual baby. Celebrate where they are, the same way you celebrate a toddler's first steps. Model the basics patiently and joyfully, knowing that **more is caught than taught**.
2. **When a new believer struggles with sin and feels like a failure,** help them practice "spiritual breathing" - exhale (confess the sin, 1 John 1:9) and inhale (claim God's forgiveness and walk in the Spirit). Remind them of their identity: they do not strive for victory, they **live from victory** because Christ has already won.
3. **When you disciple a new believer who faces persecution (family rejection, community pressure),** ground them in their identity first. Teach them the 33 things that happened when they came to Christ - chosen, adopted, forgiven, sealed. A secure identity is the anchor that holds in the storm. Remind them that even Jesus was tested on His identity right after the Father affirmed Him.

My Notes
