

# 10 Disciple New Converts

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Jesus described John the Baptist as being “a lamp that burned and gave light” (John 5:35). He pointed people to “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” He faithfully warned people of judgment to come and preached repentance (John 1:29). He told people about Jesus and prepared them for His coming. Everything He said about Jesus was true (John 10:41). What an example he is to us in evangelizing!

Have you ever thought about the wonder of one flame? One lamp is able to light hundreds of lamps! John’s lamp, burning and shining as it was, lit the life of a disciple named Andrew (John 1:35–40). Andrew’s lamp lit the life of his brother, Peter. At Pentecost, Peter’s burning and shining lamp lit the lives of 3000 who believed and were added to the church. And on and on it has been over the centuries to this present day.

Become a soul-winner and disciple your converts. Let the lamp of your life light many others! Teach them to pass their lights on to others. This is the challenge of your final lesson in this course, *Sharing the Good News*.

## ***lesson outline***

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A Convert Becomes a Disciple

Care for New Converts

Train New Converts

Each One Win Two!

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson, you should be able to:

1. Explain the growth that can occur in new converts' lives if they are given proper guidance.
2. List ways to care for new converts and help them grow spiritually.
3. Suggest ways to train new converts and help them evangelize.
4. List reasons why each believer should win at least two people to the Lord. learning activities

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read the lesson in this independent-study textbook and write the answers to the study and self-test questions.
2. Review Lessons 7–10, answer the questions in Unit Student Report 3, then submit your answer sheet to your GU instructor.
3. Consider ordering another course in this Christian Service series if you have not already done so.

## ***key words***

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crucial	mandate	reliable
formula	nourishment	
indispensable	nurture	

## ***lesson development***

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### **A CONVERT BECOMES A DISCIPLE**

**Objective 1.** *Explain the growth that can occur in new converts' lives if they are given proper guidance.*

Something about Menase attracted one's attention. Perhaps it was the way he seemed to forget himself entirely as he evangelized. No matter whom he met, before long out would come his little Indonesian New Testament, and he would be sharing the good news with them.

Lack of funds for proper clothing did not deter him. The pockets of his trousers were always bulging with gospel tracts that he gave to people he witnessed to of Jesus and His love, and his manner was such that he offended no one.

Menase first heard the gospel during an evangelistic crusade held in his hometown. The congregation's joyful singing attracted him, and he stopped to listen. Then, the fervent preaching gripped his attention. Moved by the gospel message, Menase lingered after the meeting. The pastor and the evangelist talked with him and saw that his heart was open to receive Christ. That night, he was born from above; he became a believer! He adopted the name Menase, Indonesian for Manasseh, the first son of Joseph (Genesis 41:51).

Menase's father, a moneychanger and a teacher, became angry when Menase told him about his conversion. His mother, a Muslim, was also greatly displeased. This made it hard for Menase, who felt torn between respect for his parents and love for his Lord. Then, he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and with it a new love for souls and power to take his stand for his Savior. This started him witnessing to others of the change in his life.

Older Christians encouraged and assisted Menase in getting further Bible training. Menase's father refused to help his son, which meant that he had to work hard earning whatever he could to stay in school.

Evangelizing became as normal as breathing to Menase. By nature a shy fellow, his rare gift in approaching people amazed those who knew him. He witnessed to members of the military personnel stationed nearby. Once, a man with both hands blown off while fishing with explosives at sea was brought to the hospital. Hearing of his plight, Menase went to talk to him about his spiritual need, and the man gratefully accepted Jesus as his Savior.

During one Christmas vacation he felt strongly that the Lord wanted him to evangelize on the island of Seram. He had no money, but he started out. Just before he was to board the boat at the dock, someone handed him enough money for the boat fare! After landing in Seram, he met a soldier and chatted with him about the Lord. The soldier said, "Oh, I've heard about the Bible Institute at Kate-Kate. Here, take this," and he placed some money in Menase's hand. Menase walked on, praising the Lord for supplying his financial needs.

On down the road, he befriended a family who invited him to stay with them. After Menase carefully explained the way of salvation to them, the whole family of eight accepted the Lord! Menase now knew why the Lord had led him to Seram.


Menase is a good example of how encouragement and training can help new converts become more effective in service to the Lord. He continued his studies at the Bible Institute. He was the class speaker at the graduation service. He married a fine Christian girl and became a pastor; he later became a district leader in his area of Indonesia. Evangelizing became a way of life for him, and this is what our Lord wants it to be!

## ***Application***

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**1** In your notebook, explain how evangelizing became a way of life for Menase.

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## CARE FOR NEW CONVERTS

**Objective 2.** *List ways to care for new converts and help them grow spiritually.*

Already in your studies you have learned that conversion is like the birth of a child. A convert is a born-again person, one who is born of the Holy Spirit from above (John 3:3–6).

The first week of a newborn baby’s life is a crucial time. Newborn babies need constant vigil to make sure that their little bodies function normally and that they learn to take nourishment and begin to gain weight and grow. Some babies are born strong and healthy; they immediately start feeding and growing. Others may have problems that require special attention. When these problems are taken care of, the babies will grow.

What a tragic thing is an abandoned baby, perhaps left on someone’s doorstep! Yet equally disturbing is the neglect of a new convert. Spiritually newborn babies need to be watched over lovingly to help them gain a good hold on spiritual life. Some may be filled with joy immediately. Others may need extra counseling to gain assurance of their salvation. (See Appendix—Type 2.) But they all need help to feed on God’s Word and grow.

Paul wrote to his converts at Corinth, “I became your father through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:15). Like the parent of a new baby, soul-winners have both the joy and the responsibility of seeing that new converts receive the help they should have. The next section gives ways in which you can do this.

### ***Application***

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**2** Why do new converts need help?

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## Keep in Touch With Converts

Find out where converts live and *visit them*. As you learn more about them—what they do, their families are, their backgrounds—you will then understand better how to help them, or find help for them.

The apostle Paul never forgot that when he was a new convert in Christ, Ananias came to visit and to encourage him (see Acts 22:12–16). Paul, in turn, faithfully visited his new converts. During his first missionary journey, he and Barnabas returned to cities where they had been “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith” (Acts 14:22). His second missionary journey was prompted by the desire to visit converts, as he said, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing” (Acts 15:36).

In some cases, such as where strong opposition to the Christian faith exists, a visit to the convert’s home may not be possible or wise. In this case, you can invite the new convert to your own home or to a friend’s home to keep in touch.

When Paul was unable to visit his converts personally, such as during his imprisonment, he *sent a reliable person in his place*. To converts at Philippi, Paul sent young Timothy in his stead as one who shared his feelings for them and who really cared about them. (See Philippians 2:19–20.)

You can also keep in touch through *correspondence and prayer*. Paul encouraged his converts by writing to them and praying for them. To converts at Philippi, the first church he and Silas planted in Europe, he wrote:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel

this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart. (Philippians 1:3–7)

To new converts at Thessalonica, the capital city of Macedonia, Paul wrote:

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. (1 Thessalonians 3:9–10)

A great strength of the apostle Paul's ministry was his unceasing prayer for the believers. You can follow his example further by *attending gatherings* with new converts. They can get acquainted with other Christians at prayer meetings and Bible studies. It might also be possible for you to keep in touch with them by telephone or e-mail.

## Application

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**3** Suggest four ways of keeping in touch with new converts if you cannot visit them.

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**4** Who helped Paul when he came to Christ?

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## Help Them Grow In Grace

You must help new converts begin doing things right away that are needed for them to grow in grace. We will talk about *three essential habits* for him to develop.

The first is the habit of *daily prayer*. Prayer is communion with the Lord—worshipping Him, loving Him, and talking with Him. Encourage new converts to start a life of prayer by setting apart some time each day to pray. If possible, be an example

yourself in times of prayer and worship *with* new believers. Pray for them in your own regular times of prayer.

The second is the *daily reading and study of God's Word*. Help converts set a time to read the Word every day. They might begin by reading the Gospel of Mark and then the Gospel of John. You could also encourage them to start with one of the Global University courses in a home Bible study group. *Your New Life* is a most helpful course for a new convert.

Also, encourage new converts to seek and receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. God's promise concerning the gift of the Spirit is to every believer (Acts 2:39). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gateway to a life of spiritual fullness. It makes prayer and Bible study become more than a duty—it's a fulfillment, a joy! The Holy Spirit coming upon believers in power helps them grow in grace (John 14:17; Luke 24:49).

The third good habit for new converts and longtime Christians alike is to *attend church services regularly*. One's own spiritual life is strengthened by gathering together with others in the name of the Lord Jesus for worship and hearing the Word preached. Also, fellowship with other believers helps the growing process.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

## ***Application***

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**5** What three essential habits should you encourage new converts to develop?

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**6** How would you counsel new converts who tell you that they no longer feels as if they are saved? Write your answer along with Scriptures of reassurance in your notebook.

**7**  *Fingertip Text*

<i>Title:</i> <b>Life in the Son</b>	<i>Reference:</i> <b>1 John 5:11–12</b>
<i>Text:</i> <b>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.</b>	

## TRAIN NEW CONVERTS

**Objective 3.** *Suggest ways to train new converts and help them evangelize.*

### Make Them Disciples

We must take the gospel to all people of the world and lead them to a salvation experience through faith in Jesus Christ. We must also lead them into the fellowship of His church and train them to become responsible and fruitful disciples. Disciples are learners of biblical truth, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ

Merely sharing the good news or even winning people to Christ is not enough. Evangelizing must lead to nurturing or discipling. Converts must be *trained*. Invite new believers to a training class for young Christians. Perhaps your church has a special class for this during the Sunday school hour or at some other time. If not, ask your pastor if something can be arranged.

Major doctrines of the Christian faith can be introduced to new converts in this class. The Global University Christian Life course, *We Believe*, will be good for this. Other courses may also be studied, and discussions on how to live the Christian life are profitable for everyone. As you and new converts take these courses together, you will gain spiritual knowledge that is useful in the Lord's work anywhere.

An added program can prepare new converts for the step of water baptism. They need to understand that baptism is a public act of confessing the Lord as Savior. This will make their experience meaningful. Special classes can be held for this purpose.

It is also important to have a class that prepares converts to become members of a local church. In this class, they learn what the church is and how they can take part in its activities. The Global University Christian Life course, *What Churches Do*, can be used effectively in such a class.

## Show Them How to Evangelize

Challenge new converts to share the good news right away. They can start by telling others what Christ has done for them, and you can help them by using what you have learned in this course. By developing the art of soul-winning early in their Christian lives, they will bring blessings to themselves as well as others. As they learn to give of what they have received of God's great grace, more grace will come to them as well. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. . . . For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

Encourage converts to begin just where they are, in their homes and surroundings. In Mark 5:1–20, we read about a man possessed by evil spirits. He was living a wretched life when Jesus came and marvelously delivered him. The man begged to go with Jesus in His travels and ministry. Instead, the Master told him to "go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and he has had mercy on you."

The man obeyed. Mark records that he "went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed." This man evangelized in his surroundings where people knew about his former life. This is a good example for new converts to follow. Teach them to evangelize where the Lord has placed them. Their friends and associates all need to hear the gospel through them!

Appeal to converts to win members of their own families. The promise in Acts 16:31 can be claimed for this. Noah, his wife, and their three sons and their wives all went into the boat they had made to escape the flood of judgment. The large boat was God's provision for Noah's entire family, and God is still interested in families. It is often through connections with one's relatives that the good news can be spread.

Another effective way to evangelize is by teaming up with new converts. A mature Christian and a new believer going out in visitation evangelism have a distinct advantage as they visit the unconverted with whom they have had some association. The mature believer is familiar with the Bible and the Christian life; the new convert, on the other hand, probably has more contacts and ties with the unconverted. They can combine their strengths to reach the lost.

## Help Them Become Lay Leaders

A great need of the church is to have more trained lay leaders. In Lesson 3, you studied about two kinds of lay workers. One helps primarily with internal church activities, and the other seeks to reach out and evangelize nonbelievers. Both are needed in Christian work all over the world.

When you win people to Christ, you should think of them first as new converts who need to be taught the Word of God. Then, you should think of them as workers in the church. They will enjoy working for the Lord just as you do. Therefore, it is a good idea to encourage new believers to enroll in classes. Global University courses are available for training in Bible and in Christian work. They may be taken in personal study or in a class with others.

When involving the convert and yourself in training, do remember that your pastor is the head of your local church. One of the most important roles of a pastor and his assistants is to "equip his [God's] people for works of service" (Ephesians 4:12). The pastor, however, cannot nor would he or she want to try to do everything. A growing church needs many trained lay workers applying their energies and abilities to ongoing

evangelism and nurturing of new converts. Voluntary, unpaid workers are invaluable and indispensable in every department of the church and as leaders of prayer and Bible study groups.

## ***Application***

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- 8** Write *Yes* after each suggestion that would be helpful in training new converts.
- a** Encourage them to enroll in classes for new converts. . . .
  - b** Give them Sunday school classes to teach. . . . .
  - c** Take them with you as part of a visitation team. . . . .
  - d** Tell them about water baptism. . . . .
  - e** Suggest they not witness until they have completed a course in evangelism. . . . .
- 9** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence: New converts should be encouraged to
- a)** witness to their own families and friends.
  - b)** look forward to further work for the Lord.
  - c)** not join a church until they find a perfect one.
  - d)** work with a local church.

## **EACH ONE WIN TWO!**

**Objective 4.** *List reasons why each believer should win at least two people to the Lord.*

Ancient Chinese emperors claimed that they ruled by a mandate from heaven. The Bible tells us of two real mandates from heaven.

The populating mandate was given to human beings at the time of creation. It was God's purpose that the earth should be populated according to its resources. People must exercise wisdom in their control over the earth because its resources are not limitless. God expects people and their governments to maintain proper stewardship in the earth.

Born-again believers have an additional mandate, received from Jesus himself. This is the evangelizing mandate, or the Great Commission. Review what you learned about the Great

Commission in Lesson 1. It is a sad fact that many Christians have never fully obeyed this great mandate.

Jesus Christ holds the church responsible for obedience to this command. We as believers and church leaders are to be stewards of our time, abilities, funds, and other resources in relation to this evangelizing mandate. We are responsible for reaching our generation. The only way is for believers and leaders to be yielded to the Holy Spirit and involved in ongoing evangelism and church planting.

## ***Application***

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**10** What is another name for the evangelizing mandate?

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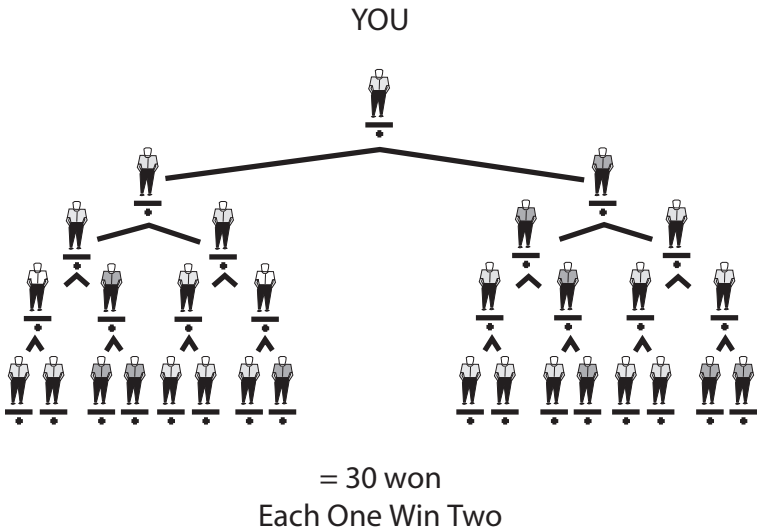
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Is it really possible to fulfill the Great Commission? Yes it is! If each believer would win two people to the Lord in his or her lifetime and each future convert in turn wins two more, fulfilling this evangelizing mandate is possible.

“Why do you suggest two converts for each believer?” you may ask.

Our answer is as follows: If each believer wins only one non-believer during his or her lifetime and if each convert, in turn, wins one other, the total number of converts gained would be simple addition. If you win A and A wins B, B wins C and C wins D, only four people besides you would be converts won to Christ in four stages.

If; however, you and each new convert win two others, converts would double in number during each stage of soul-winning. In four stages, not only four converts but *thirty* would be gained!



From the diagram, you can see the great possibilities of multitudes being won to Christ.

Winning and training two is a figure within the reach of everyone. If each convert would win at least two converts in unbroken succession, over 4 billion people could be won in your lifetime in less than 40 stages of soul-winning. Fulfilling the Great Commission is possible if we obey its terms and are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The task is great. What variety is in our world of over 210 countries and over 4000 tribes! Yet the truth of the Word of God applies to all people. We share a universal gospel that can meet the needs of everyone everywhere.

The Holy Spirit understands each individual's heart. He wants to use you and those you win in an ongoing sharing of the good news. He will confirm the Word as you give it out.

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:20)

How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:3–4)

### ***Application***

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**11** If I win one soul in a lifetime, I will have replaced myself in the church. If I win two souls, I will . . . . . myself.

**12** The word used in this lesson to describe “each-one-win-two” evangelism is

- a) increasing.
  - b) replacing.
  - c) ongoing.
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**self-test**

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TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space if the statement is true. Write **F** if it is false.

- ....**1** Each believer should have as his or her goal the winning of one soul so that he or she can replace himself or herself in the church.
- ....**2** New converts and mature believers can work together in reaching the lost for Christ.
- ....**3** The church needs both those who work primarily within the church and those with a definite outreach ministry.
- ....**4** All believers should think of themselves as stewards of God-given time, abilities, funds, and other resources.

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence.

- 5** After you have led a person to Christ, you
  - a)** have fulfilled your Christian responsibility.
  - b)** should hope he or she finds a good church somewhere.
  - c)** take steps to see that he or she continues to grow in Christ.
  - d)** must tell him or her to find some good Christian books to read.

SENTENCE COMPLETION. Complete the following sentences on the lines provided.

- 6** The Bible describes John the Baptist as being like a bright and burning .....
- 7** Paul said to the converts at Corinth that he had become their .....
- 8** By winning the lost and teaching them so that they in turn can win others, we become involved in what has been called .....  
evangelism.



SHORT ANSWER. Write the answer to the question on the lines provided.

9 What three habits will help the new believer grow in grace?

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10 What three classes would be most beneficial to a new convert's Christian growth?

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11 Jesus gave an "evangelizing mandate." What is it commonly called? .....

FINGERTIP TEXT.

12 From memory, write in your notebook or quote to someone else the *Fingertip Text* you learned. Include the title, reference, and text.

*Be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit 3 and return Answer Sheet 3 to your GU instructor.*

## answers to study questions

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- 1 He witnessed wherever he went and followed the Lord's direction in his life.
- 7 Without looking at your card, you should be able to quote all three parts of the *Fingertip Text*, 1 John 5:11–12.
- 2 Your answer. I would say they need encouragement and help to grow in their new spiritual life.
- 8 **a** Yes.  
**c** Yes.  
**d** Yes.
- 3 Your list may include prayer, correspondence, telephone, attending meetings together, and sending a reliable person in your place.
- 9 **a)** witness to their own families and friends.  
**b)** look forward to further work for the Lord.  
**d)** work with a local church.
- 4 Ananias (see Acts 22:12–16).
- 10 The Great Commission.
- 5 Daily prayer, daily reading (and study) of God's Word, and regular church attendance.
- 11 double
- 6 Your answer. Type 2 in the Appendix lists helpful Scriptures (John 5:24, 1 John 5:11–13, and others).
- 12 **c)** ongoing.