

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

VALERIE WILSON



*God has given me the privilege of helping boys
and girls learn to know and love the Savior.
I dedicate this study to all of them,
many of whom are now grown up
and have children of their own.*

How to Use This Book

This book is designed to be used by children who have professed faith in Christ and who need to understand the meaning and ramifications of their decision. A parent or other family member may use it with a child; a teacher may use it with a child or group of children; any adult may use it to disciple a child.

While some very young children make genuine decisions to follow Christ, this course is designed for children who can read their Bibles, write some answers, and do some directed thinking.

Do not rush through these lessons; use only one at a time. Pray with the child each time you begin a lesson. Trust the Holy Spirit to do His work in the child's life. If early on in these studies you sense that the child has not truly made a salvation decision, go back to the basics. You do not want to push on through and give a false sense of security; you want to disciple a child who really *does* know the Savior.

Welcome to the Family!

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Presented to

by

on

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L E S S O N 1

Your New Name

Welcome to the family! You have made an important decision: you have asked Jesus to be your Savior. According to God's Word, the Bible, you are God's child.



Read John 1:12. Underline this verse in your Bible.

When you were born into your earthly family, you were given a name.



Write your personal, or first, name here.



Write your family, or last, name here.

When you became a member of God's family, you received a name too. Now you are called a "Christian."



Read Acts 11:26. Underline the word "Christians" in this verse.

The people in the town of Antioch who were first called Christians received that name because they no longer acted the way they once had. They were different. Their lives had changed. They were now followers of Christ. Other people saw these changes and called the believers in Jesus Christ "Christians"—followers of Christ, or "little Christs."

Sometimes today the word "Christian" means something else. Sometimes it means someone who is not a Jew or a Muslim. Some people use it to refer to someone who lives in the United States. Other times it is used to mean

someone who is not an atheist (a person who does not believe in God) or a person who lives a good life.

But the real meaning of "Christian" is "a follower of Christ."

Now that you have this name, you need to act like a member of the family. (More about that in lesson 7.) Are you like the people in Antioch? Do other people know you are a believer in Jesus Christ, a Christian?



Thank God for making you a member of His family. Ask Him to help you live up to your new name.



Look up the meaning of your first, or personal, name in a book of baby names or on the Internet. Can you make that meaning and your new name, Christian, fit together? For instance, if your name means "strong one," you could put them together this way: My name is "Strong One Christian." Write the meaning of your name here.
