

Celebrate

“Yes!” to Life in Christ

Marilyn Kunz & Catherine Schell

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From Matthew 1; John 3;
Deuteronomy 30; John 11; 17;
1 John 5

Celebrate Life

The baby has arrived!” All over the world the announcement of a new life stirs excitement. Birth and life are cause for celebration. The new life that comes as a result of spiritual birth is also reason for joy and great expectation.

Read Matthew 1:18-25

1. Imagine for a moment your only knowledge of Jesus is what you have read in these verses. List all the things you observe about him. What difference will his life make?

2. What is the significance of his name, *Jesus*?

What additional name will he be called? Why?

Why is his birth still celebrated around the world?

Read John 3:1-8, 14-17

3. How did Jesus explain how Nicodemus could obtain spiritual life?

4. What does this tell you about entering the kingdom of God?

5. The Israelites dying of snakebites in the wilderness were healed if they believed God and looked at the bronze serpent Moses lifted up on a pole (Numbers 21:4-9). How did Jesus, the ***Son of Man***, accomplish God's purpose in his coming?

Compare John 3:14-17 with Matthew 1:21.

6. What is promised to everyone who looks in faith to the Son of Man lifted up on the cross?

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20; John 11:25-26

7. What choice does the LORD present to the people of Israel who are about to enter the Promised Land?

Describe the two ways of life outlined in Deuteronomy 30:11-20, and the results of each.

8. Compare John 11:25-26 with Deuteronomy 30:19-20. What is the Source of life?

How does one receive this life?

How does the life spoken of in both passages differ from the ordinary life experienced by all humanity?

Read John 17:3; 1 John 5:11-13

9. What is eternal life and how is it obtained?

When does eternal life begin?

How can a person know that he or she has eternal life?

10. If you have eternal life, how could you celebrate this in your daily life? How could you share this news with others?

SUMMARY

Summarize what you learned about the life described in this study (how you get it, and the results of having it).

PRAYER

Lord, giver of all life, thank you for the life you offer us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us understand what it means to live in the light of your Word by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Note: The word “Amen” comes from the Hebrew verb that means “to believe.” Literally, it means “firmness.” You might say that purposefully saying “Amen” at the end of a prayer is not only agreement with what has been prayed, but a celebration of trust in God to accomplish what we ask.