

First Steps



for
New Christians

by Lynne Modranski

This is a sample of the first few pages.

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First Steps



Forty Days of Devotions for New Christians



by Lynne Modranski

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First Steps: Forty Days of Devotions for New Christians

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Introduction

Early in the Spring of 2015, I began to think about the people I know who've started their relationship with Christ as well as my own walk with Christ during those first several years. And as I did, I realized there are a few basic things we need to know as we begin this new life with Jesus.

Our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a lion. (1 Peter 5:8) All he wants to do is steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). And much like the pattern we find in the wild, the ancient serpent will stalk the youngest of the flock because they're the easiest target. So I'm writing these short readings to encourage new Christians during the most vulnerable part of their journey.

I want to remind new followers of the "Way" that the Christian life is best lived in community with others who are striving to follow Jesus. One of our first responsibilities as a new Christian is to spend as much time as possible with others who are being real with their faith. Just as a soldier would never go into battle alone and unarmed, we must remember that though our struggle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12), it's still a battle. It's

important to make sure we have other soldiers around us and we are armed with the Sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17 & Hebrews 4:12)

One thing that the enemy will try to do is make you doubt your salvation. The last thing he needs is one more person confident in their relationship with Jesus Christ. As you read through these short devotions hold on to this truth: Salvation was yours the moment you acknowledged your need for a Savior (Romans 3:10-12), repented of your sins (Acts 3:19) and confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord. (Romans 10:9-10) Hopefully, you'll find other truths to hang on to as you move through the pages of this book.

So hold on to what you have (Revelation 3:11), hang tight with your "platoon" (Hebrews 10:24-25) and use the Sword (Hebrews 4:12 & Ephesians 6:17) you'll find in the following pages for your weapon as the words that accompany the Scripture give you encouragement to stay the course.



Week One
Discovering Your New Identity
in Christ

Day One: Genesis 1:26-27

You've Been Made by Hand in the Image of God

Day Two: Psalm 139:13-16

You've Been Woven Together & Wonderfully Made

Day Three: Isaiah 43:1-7

You Are His ~ He Knows Your Name

Day Four: Ephesians 4:24

You Are a New Creation

Day Five: 1 John 3:1-2

You Are a Child of the King

Day Six: Ephesians 1:3-8a

You Have Been Adopted by the King

Day Seven: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

New Life, New Perspective

1

Day One

Genesis 1:26-27

You've Been Made by Hand in the Image of God

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

One of the first things we need to realize as Christians is we are created in the image of our Heavenly Father. It's a fact that the enemy works hard to make us forget or disbelieve.

Do you realize that in all of creation, humans are the only thing that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit actually formed by "hand"? Everything else was spoken into existence, but humans were important enough to our Father that He "got His hands dirty," so to speak, in order to give them life.

Understanding this foundational concept of Christianity can help us as we develop a Godly self-esteem. It's this beautiful tidbit of information that encourages us to have self-confidence; because we are, after all, created in our Father's image. On the other hand, as we gradually become aware that even the most annoying person we encounter every day is also created in the image of the Living God, this same nugget of truth can keep us from becoming too full of ourselves. Holding on to these few words from scripture can teach us to appreciate ourselves and others in light of who we are as uniquely created individuals.

As you read the other scripture passages for this week, allow this concept to sink in. You have been created in the image of the One and Only God, formed in the likeness of the Sovereign Lord of the Universe, and you are loved by the One who made you.



Day Two
Psalm 139:13-16

You've Been Woven Together & Wonderfully Made

- ¹³ *For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*
- ¹⁴ *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*
- ¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*
- ¹⁶ *Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

Often when I'm wondering about my life and my purpose, I read these verses, and I am reminded that I am special to God. On the beginning of our Christian journey, we are often tremendously excited about our new found faith. But as the days pass and the world starts crashing in, sometimes it's easy to forget that we are

created in the image of the living God. This reminder from King David is a welcomed refresher course on those days.

You are a handmade work of art, crafted by the Master Designer, worth more than a Rembrandt. The Deceiver would like us to forget this beautiful fact, so it's important that we continually remind him of the truth.

The truth is you have purpose because the One who made the stars and the planets and put them all in their places also made you. He knit you together, and because He is incapable of making anything less than wonderful, you are exactly that!

We may question our worth because of our beginnings or things other humans have done to us in the past. Parents, other adults and even our peers may have been damaged by humans who didn't realize their worth. These same folks may have passed along their feelings of worthlessness by being abusive or hurtful. Many who start this journey are convinced they have too much sin to be redeemed by a Holy Savior. But just because we and others who've helped form us have neglected to live like we are created by Jesus in the image of God doesn't make our purpose and calling any less.

These less desirable events in our life do tend to shape us, but they don't have to define us. Our true identity is found in the scripture, and these words from the Psalms are a perfect example. I pray that as you begin this Christian journey you will embrace your true identity as a Child of the Living God, woven together and wonderfully made by your Loving Heavenly Father.



More Scripture to Help You in Your Walk

More for Week One: Your Identity

Psalm 104 (especially verse 30)

Second Peter 1

More for Week Two: You are Loved

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 John 4:7-12

More for Week Three: Scripture for Hope

John 14:1-4

Philippians 4:13

More for Week Four: The Relationship

John 15:1-17

First John

More for Week Five: Build the Relationship

Galatians 5:13-26

John 20:15-19

More for Week Six: Gifts

Romans 12

1 Corinthians 12

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

There's also a video that I love to recommend.

It's thought to be a children's clip, but it speaks to the heart of discovering the truth of who you are in Christ.

Check out Veggie Tales "A Snoodles Tale"

It's on DVD and on YouTube



Reading Recommendations

I encourage you to read the Bible first and foremost, but as you have opportunity, check out these books. I look at books outside scripture like sermons, words from those further along in the faith that help me as I study God's Word. There are so many resources to choose from, these are just a few that have blessed me.

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby

Firsthand by Josh and Ryan Shook

The Five Love Languages of God by Gary Chapman

Facing Your Giants by Max Lucado

When God Whispers Your Name by Max Lucado

Wild Goose Chase by Mark Batterson



The Most Excellent Resource

The Bible will always be the most excellent resource for every Christian. But God had also given us another great gift. Don't underestimate the value of your pastor and church leaders. These men and women of God WANT to talk with you about your faith walk. The greatest joy your church's spiritual leaders get is watching someone grow in Jesus Christ. Their job can be wearisome at times, but the knowledge that YOU are anxious to be all that you were created to be makes everything they do worthwhile! Meet one of them for coffee soon!

Devotions by Lynne Modranski



Devotions for Church Leaders and Small Groups

Forty or more devotional readings to help you grow in Christ.

Quiet Times with Jesus

Forty-five more devotional readings to help you grow in Christ.



Quiet Times for Busy Moms

Devotions written especially to inspire moms on the go!

More Devotions

Every devotion on this page is available on Amazon and at www.LynneModranski.com/store



This QR Code will take you to the first of more than 20 pages of devotions online at: <http://lynnemodranski.hubpages.com/hub/devotions-2>

Devotions in Your Inbox



Lynne has two devotion lists that go out by e-mail about once or twice a month each. You can sign up for them with these QR codes or links:



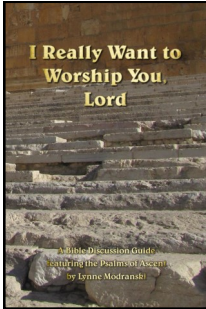
Moms Devotions

<http://tinyurl.com/momsdevo>

General Devotions

<http://tinyurl.com/devolist>

Bible Studies by Lynne Modranski

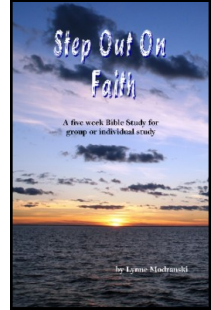


I Really Want to Worship You, Lord

*Eight weeks exploring the
Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120-134)
and discovering
the heart of worship.*

Step Out on Faith

*A five week study written for folks
new to the faith, but even a more mature group
can grow from it.*

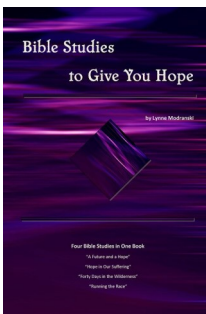
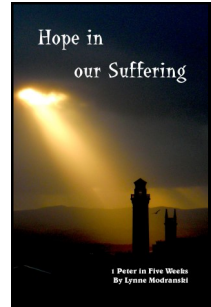


Running the Race

*Paul compared the Christian walk to a race.
This five lesson study is designed to help
Christians run the race well*

Hope in our Suffering

*First Peter offers so much hope! This
five week study on Peter's words will
help you in your time of need.*



Bible Studies to Give You Hope

Four studies in one book:

- *Hope in Our Suffering*
- *Running the Race*
- *A Future and a Hope*
- *Forty Days in the Wilderness*

Other Resources by Lynne Modranski

ADVENT READINGS

The Angels Speak

The Greatest of these is Love

Journey to Bethlehem

The Ultimate Gift

Expect the Unexpected

Jesus is . . .

This Year I Want a Rock in my Stocking

A Christmas of Heavenly Peace

Advent Through the Eyes of Mary

The Word Became Flesh

CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

Jesus, Teach Us How to Pray

Heroes, Heroines, Champs and Chumps

Fruit of the Spirit

Children of the King

Meet the Author



Lynne Modranski took her first steps in the faith in her parents' home, but she didn't really start walking with Christ on her own till the 1980's. A lot of her early steps were taken as she raised her three girls.

She and her husband, Steve, have been journeying together with Christ for more than thirty years. As a pastor's wife, Lynne has created a lot of resources for Children's Ministries, Advent, Bible Studies and more. Her devotional books are some of her most popular resources.

Besides writing, Lynne enjoys golf and genealogy. But some of her favorite times are the ones she spends with her four grandchildren. Her passion is to become everything that Christ has made her to be and to help others on their journey too!

For more information, check out:
www.LynneModranski.com

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