



# ABIDE

## LESSON ONE: HOMECOMING

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TAMI GLASER

***This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17***

First, if you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, congratulations! The moment you accepted Jesus has been prayed for, planned for, and rejoiced over. We join you and all of those who have prayed for you in giving thanks and praise to the Lord for your decision. You have been accepted into the family of God. You have been chosen, the Holy Spirit now resides in you, and you have been given the gift of eternal life.

You may be feeling a gamut of emotions as the result of your decision. They may include happiness, gratitude, relief, wholeness, belonging, joy, jubilation, humility, or any combination of these, among others. You now belong to Christ. He created you and you were on His mind when He sacrificed Himself to save you on the cross. In other words, He took the cross for you because He does not want to spend eternity without you. The prophet Isaiah recorded in Isaiah 43:1b the words that Jesus spoke over you when you accepted Him, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine."

For a moment, think about the excitement you felt when you moved to a different house, apartment, or dorm room. While counting down the days until the day of your move, did you daydream about paint colors and which pieces of furniture needed to be purchased? Did you envision how you would place your belongings to create a feeling of warmth and comfort after a long day at work or school? As you unpacked boxes did you find yourself moving your collection of dishes, and towels to different cupboards and drawers to find the perfect spot for each one to reside? Did you change or update your color choice of placemats, towels, or candles to decorate your new living space with? As you packed up in preparation of the big day, did you find yourself meticulously scrutinizing your belongings to determine which items would make the move, which items would be donated, and which would be tossed? When you become a follower of Jesus your physical address may not change, but He changes you from the inside out. In other words, the "old you" moves out and the "new you" moves in.

When you accept Jesus, you become the child of the Most High King, and you will notice that your thoughts and behavior change to mirror those of Him. You will begin to scrutinize the thoughts you think and begin to repent and confess those that you realize will not please Him. Your behavior and words change also because you want to please Him with your thoughts, words, and actions. In essence, your eternal address changes and you become filled with such gratefulness for what He has done for you that your desire is to please Him with all that you do.

Becoming a new creation is an amazing metamorphosis. Christians often compare the process of metamorphosis from a caterpillar to a butterfly to demonstrate the transformation a person undergoes when they accept Jesus into their life. Just like the cocoon that is shed and left behind when a butterfly emerges, so is the former life of someone who comes to Christ. Paul said it well in 2 Corinthians 5:17 when he reminds us that we are a new creation when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The old is gone, the new is come. Hallelujah!

**YOUR TURN:** Read the following passages and take note of the person's before and after transformation that occurs once they encounter Jesus. Pay attention to how the person lived before they encountered Jesus, what need Jesus met, His reaction to their need, and how the person reacted, and how they became a new creation.

- o **Mary Magdalene**

Luke 8:1-3

Matthew 27:55-61

Acts 1:14

- o **Jesus heals a man possessed of demons.**

Luke 8:26-39

- o **Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman.**

John 4:1-42

- o **Jesus heals an official's son.**

John 4:43-54

- o **Jesus heals a woman who was bleeding for 12 years.**

Luke 8:43-48