

## What is a Christian?

### Bible Study – Based on Navigator Study “Clarifying Your Commitment”

Pastor Sharon Tidd

Read and reflect on Galatians 3:26-4:7. What does this passage say about Christians (Christ-followers)? What does this mean for you personally? According to this passage, how is it possible to become a child of God (refer also to John 1:12-13)? What privileges and benefits are ours when we become a son or daughter of God?

Reflect on the following verses/passages: Matthew 5:16; 5:43-45; 6:1-6: 6:16-18; 6:25-34. How is the recognition that God is our Father intended to affect our attitudes and behaviours in life?

According to Matthew 6:5-15 and 7:7-11 how is our relationship with God the Father to affect our prayer life?

A Christian is a child of God. What does this mean to you? How does your spiritual adoption impact and influence your daily life? How often do you stop and thank God for adopting you?

Read and reflect on Hebrews 12:5-13. What does this passage add to your understanding of God as Father? How does God differ from human fathers? In what ways have you experienced God’s discipline? How it benefited you?

Read and reflect on Romans 3:21-28. Christians are often called ‘believers’ in the Bible (Acts 2:44; 4:32; 10:45; 16:1). How does this passage in Romans help to explain this name? What is it that Christians believe? How is this belief possible? Why is it vital? What is declared about faith in this passage? How would you define faith?

Read and reflect on Hebrews 11:1-12:3. How does this passage define faith? What declarations about faith are made? Reflect on the things people did “by faith”. Which stand out for you? Why? In what ways do these faith stories inspire you? How are they intended to inspire faith in Christians today? What actions does faith require of you today? Is there are step of faith that you need to take?

A Christian is a believer. What does this mean to you? Are there areas of your life where belief is weak or faltering are present? How can you strengthen those areas today? In what areas might you need to trust God (have faith in Him) more today?

Read and reflect on the following passages: Luke 9:23-26; 14:25-33; 6:46-49. How does Jesus describe the commitment expected of His followers (disciples) in these passages? Do you find these words hard or easy to accept? Why? In what ways do they inspire you? In what ways do they scare or challenge you? As you reflect on these teachings of Jesus, how would you rate your discipleship today?

Read and reflect on Luke 18:28-30. What promises flow to true believers? What benefits have you experienced as a disciple of Jesus?

A Christian is a disciple. What does this mean to you? What does true discipleship require of you today?

Here are some quotes from great Christian writers to ponder in closing:

*“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” – JI Packer*

*“The true living faith, which the Holy Spirit instills in the heart, simply cannot be idle.” – Martin Luther*

*“Christianity is the commitment of all I know of me to all I know of Jesus Christ.” – William Temple*