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**CREATING A  
NEW CHRISTIAN  
CLASS OR A  
NEW MEMBER  
CLASS FOR YOUR  
CHURCH**



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# WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP NEW CHURCH MEMBERS GROW IN THEIR FAITH AND BECOME CONFIDENT DISCIPLE-MAKERS?

- I heard someone say that it takes 3 months to grow a squash and 30 years to grow a big solid oak tree. Which kind of Christian do we want to produce?



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WHEN SOMEONE  
WANTS TO JOIN OUR  
CHURCH, BE BAPTIZED,  
OR WANTS TO FOLLOW  
CHRIST – IT'S NOT A BAD  
IDEA TO ASK THEM TO  
ATTEND A CLASS OF  
SEVERAL WEEKS TO  
HELP THEM LEARN AND  
PRACTICE SOME OF THE  
BASICS OF THE  
CHRISTIAN LIFE.



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# WHEN AND WHERE TO HOLD A NC/NM CLASS?

Options:

1. At the church. Many churches choose Sunday morning, Sunday night or Wednesday night so families have built-in childcare, and it's a time that is already available in a family's schedule for church activities. This is more formal.
2. In a home. I have seen churches do this once a week in a home. This is more informal.



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# HOW MANY SESSIONS FOR A NC/NM CLASS?

Options:

1. Some churches do a one-time, one or two-hour class. They worry that if there are several class sessions, everyone won't be able to attend them all. I don't care for this option.
2. Other churches create a number of sessions that meet one hour and last for several weeks. I like this option better because we want to give people lots of time to read, discuss and engage with the new things they are learning.



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# IDEAS FOR SESSION ONE

- **Read scripture that shows the different facets of what it means to be a Christian, accept Christ, and follow Him. The verses might cover:**
  - **God's love**
  - **Man's sin**
  - **Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection**
  - **What it means to have faith.**
- **Read and discuss verses about Assurance of salvation rooted in His grace despite our failures and imperfect obedience**
- **Homework: Write down your faith story and bring it with you to our next class. Be ready to tell your story in 5 minutes or less.**

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## IDEAS FOR SESSION TWO

- **Read scripture about the Woman at the Well sharing her testimony and Paul sharing his testimony.**
- **Break up into smaller groups, if needed, or go around the circle and let everyone tell their faith story (limit of 5 minutes). You might give them an outline to go by like: 1) before, 2) how and 3) after I accepted Christ. You might suggest that they end their story with a scripture verse that is one of their favorites or relates to their story.**
- **Homework: Read John 1, underline 3 verses that stand out to you and be ready to share them with the class when you come next time. After you read, pray about something you want God to do in your life.**

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## IDEAS FOR SESSION THREE

- **Read and discuss scripture about the importance and the power of God's Word working in our life as we read it during the week.**
- **Go around the circle and let everyone share some or several of the verses that stood out to them when they read John 1.**
- **Go around the circle and let everyone share some of their prayer requests and have a time of prayer for each person. If your group is large, it will be better to divide up into smaller groups for prayer.**
- **Homework: Give class members verses to read related to people in the Bible who did not choose to believe in or follow Jesus. Write down at least 5 reasons why someone today might not want to follow Jesus in a sincere way.**



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## IDEAS FOR SESSION FOUR

- **Have someone come to your class to share a testimony about their former unbelief and why.**
- **Ask everyone to share some of the reasons they wrote down that someone would not want to follow Christ. Make a list on a white board of 10 to 15 reasons.**
- **Read and discuss scripture about reasons people hesitate to believe in God.**
- **Talk about a few of the answers you might give to someone or how to handle it when people you know have doubts or questions about God.**
- **Homework: Give class members an outline of the gospel to take home with them and ask them to practice reading it to a family member or a friend. (Examples of an outline might be: EE, CWT, The Four Spiritual Laws, Steps to Peace With God, The Bridge, The Three Circles, or The Roman Road.)**

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## IDEAS FOR SESSION FIVE

- **Read and discuss biblical examples of someone explaining the gospel to someone else.**
- **Divide into pairs and let class members practice explaining the gospel to one another.**
- **You could have someone share a testimony about the first time they heard the gospel.**
- **Read and discuss what the Bible says about growing in spiritual maturity. Ask the class to brainstorm and help you make a list on the white board of 10 things that help us grow up in our faith, maturity and leadership.**
- **Homework: Ask everyone to make a list of 5 to 10 benefits of belonging to a weekly small group Bible study and be ready to share it next week.**

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## IDEAS FOR SESSION SIX

- **Read and discuss biblical examples of small groups or one-on-one discipleship.**
- **Make a list on a white board of at least 10 benefits of belonging to a small group.**
- **Discuss the eight different kinds of small groups you might find in a church.**
- **Discuss which kinds of small groups our church has and why.**
- **Give out a list of all the small groups presently meeting and options for new groups that you would like to start soon. People could sign up now if they want to find a small group to join.**
- **Have someone present in your class who is ready to share a testimony about what it has meant to them to be in a small group.**
- **Homework: Ask everyone to make a list of 10 ways a person might serve in our church and 10 ways a person might serve in the community we live in.**

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# IDEAS FOR SESSION SEVEN

- **Read and discuss Bible verses and concepts about serving others.**
- **Make a list on a white board of class members' ideas to serve in our church and in our neighborhoods and community.**
- **Give out a handout of ways people can help with your church's ministry to members and to people in the community and who to contact if they want to help. You could even have a way for people to sign up right then if they want to help in a certain area or at least to find out more information. Explain if background checks are required.**
- **Have someone present in your class who is ready to share a testimony about opportunities they have had to serve and what it meant to them.**

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# BENEFITS OF A MULTI-WEEK NEW MEMBER CLASS

1. You get to know new members and they get to know more about you.
  2. People are more likely to stay at your church for years and get involved if they find a small group, make some friends, find a place to serve and are growing spiritually.
  3. We should help every member learn how to feed themselves, find a place to serve and learn to help others grow also.
  4. If you can enlist a team of people to lead the New Member Class, then you will be building a group of people who are intentional about making disciples and coaching new church members.
  5. Every church member needs the opportunity to share their faith story and practice explaining the gospel to others. These skills will affect many parts of their Christian life.
  6. In our culture today, many people did not grow up in church. A class like this will help some of them to understand the big picture of what it means to be a Christian and what a church is.
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# AFTER THE NEW MEMBER CLASS IS OVER

1. Help everyone find a weekly small group that will continue the goal of helping them learn to feed themselves, make friendships, pray and be prayed for, learn leadership skills, and take opportunities to serve others.
2. Practicing explaining the gospel once or twice is not enough. How can you help church members practice many times this coming year?
3. Every church wants to start new small groups. Are there enough people in your New Member class that you could invite them to form a new small group meeting on Sunday morning or in a home?
4. Is there a need for another kind of New Member Class – maybe for children or teenagers?
5. Is there a need for another kind of multi-week class? It might be one about Missions, Evangelism, Disciple-Making, Teacher Training, Music, Children's Ministry, or Student Ministry.