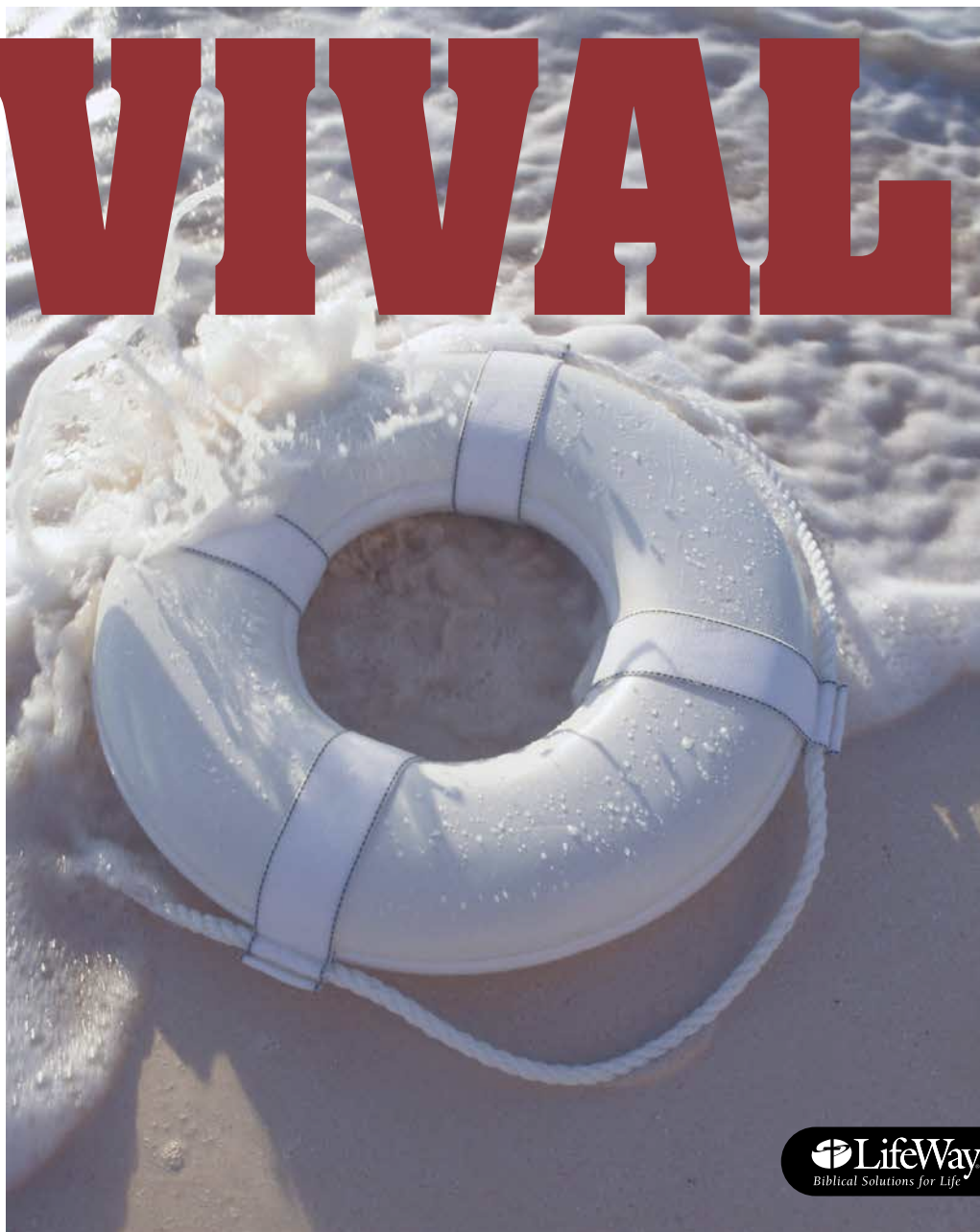


SURVIVAL KIT

**for New Christians
Basic English**

**Writer: Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr.
Translator of Basic English: Mike Waldrop**



My Personal Journey

Name _____

Place I became a Christian _____

Date I became a Christian _____

Date I was baptized into a church fellowship _____

Persons who helped me come to know Christ _____

Date I began work in
Survival Kit for
New Christians

Date I completed work in
Survival Kit for
New Christians

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Welcome to the Beginning of a New Life with Jesus Christ!

You made an important decision. Your decision was to trust Jesus Christ to save your life. You believe Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Lord (boss) in your life. This is the biggest decision for your life.

This book is called *Survival Kit for New Christians*. It is written to help you live every day the way Jesus wants you to live. This book can help you grow spiritually and win the fight with sin.

You began a new life when you prayed to God and accepted Jesus as your Savior. The Bible says you were "born again." This means you left your old life behind you. You started a new life with new values and a new way to live every day. You found God's forgiveness. Now you are ready to start learning.

There are many things you want to know. You have a new life. You need food to help you grow. This food is knowing the Bible way to help you grow from the beginning.

First, decide an exact time and place to meet the Lord daily. This is important for self-control. You will not grow spiritually the way you should if you do not do this. Call this time every day your Quiet Time. The place should be the same place every day. The first week of study will help you start a regular Quiet Time.

This book will help you learn and start new habits. These new habits will take time to develop. Sometimes these new habits will conflict with your old habits. This is normal. All of us have experienced it. Your first new habit is to start a daily Quiet Time.

What is in the *Survival Kit*?

There are five Bible principles you will be learning. You can remember them on your hand ...

the thumb = 1 Body

the forefinger (index finger) = 2 natures

the second finger (middle finger) = 3 aspects of salvation

the third finger (ring finger) = 4 sources of authority

the little finger = 5 & 5 Principle

The **palm** of your hand represents Christ living in you, controlling everything. These five Bible principles will be studied in your *Survival Kit*.

The lessons in your *Survival Kit* are planned to help you understand how God works in your life and your world. When you are finished, you will be able to explain many things about the Christian faith to other people.

You face many problems and temptations in everyday life.

This *Survival Kit* will help you understand different parts of your life. It will help you get through them. These things in your *Survival Kit* will help you have a foundation in your Christian life. Activity in other areas of church will help your faith grow on this foundation.

Almost all Christians experience several stages of growth in their Christian life.

1. The Honeymoon Stage
2. The Fight Stage
3. The Doubting Stage
4. The Panic-Search-For-What-Is-Right Stage
5. The “Silent Christian” Stage

The next few pages will explain these stages.



1. The Honeymoon Stage

This is a happy time in your life. You understand you have *new* life. You are excited about it.

You learn during this stage that you are a part of the Body of Christ. You are a member of His Church. This is the time when you are baptized. You show the world that your life now belongs to Jesus Christ.

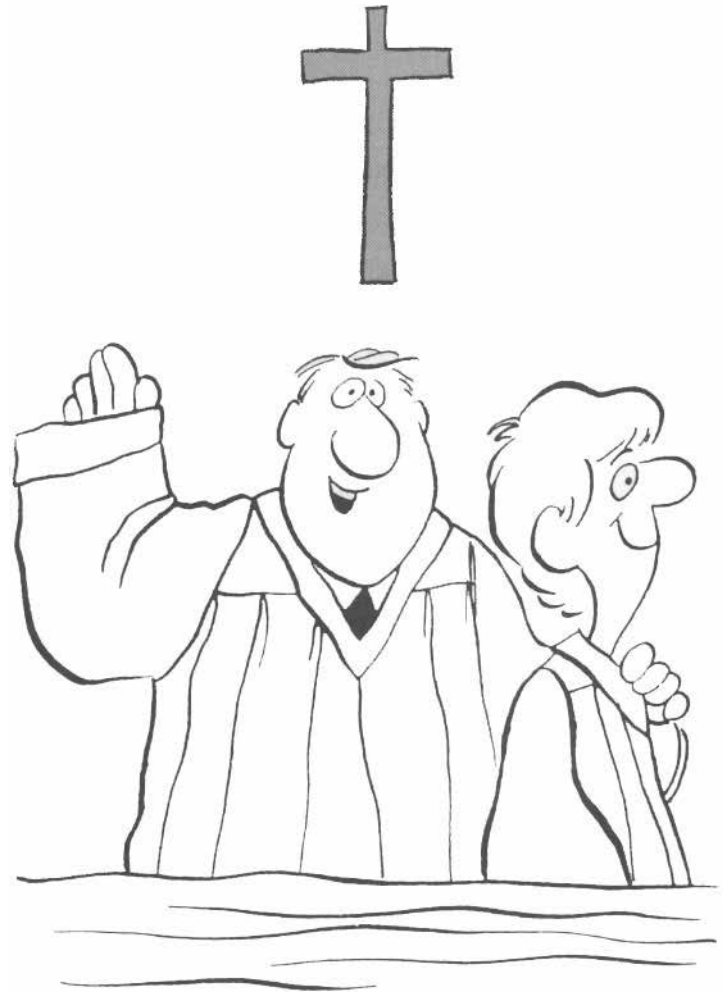
It is important in this stage to learn that much future growth in your Christian life depends on your relationship to the church.

You will learn in this stage ...

Week 1: Christ in You

Week 2: Church Life

Week 3: Church Service



2. The Fight Stage

The honeymoon ends when you have your first fight. You thought things were going well. You are a really good Christian. POW! Suddenly you have problems with frustration, jealousy, or gossip. You feel embarrassed because old problems show up again. You don't want God to be ashamed because you have the same old problems.

Now comes the dangerous part. You think about pretending to be finished with those problems. They are really still there.

You become busy with church work. You think church work will help. You later learn that church work does not help. You feel as a hypocrite feels.

You need to learn an important principle before these things happen. Christ started to live in you when you began your *new life*. The old self (nature) with all the sins did not completely pass away. There are now two natures in you—your old self with the sins and your new self with Christ.

That is the reason you need to learn about ...

Week 4: Two Natures—Part One: The New You

Week 5: Two Natures—Part Two: The Old You



3. *The Doubting Stage*

Many people begin to *doubt* their salvation if they do not learn the right things. They begin to feel that their salvation is finished. They know they are saved. They feel that is the only important thing.

Jesus promised when you became a Christian that the Holy Spirit would be in you. He would teach you all things (John 14:26). You need more information about salvation when you have conflict in yourself between the old life and the new life.

You need to learn three things about your salvation: it happens at an *exact time*; it is a *process through time* as you control the old you; there is a *final time* when Christ will make you free forever.

The next two weeks you will study ...

Week 6: Three Aspects of Salvation—Part One: Its Beginning and End

Week 7: Three Aspects of Salvation—Part Two: The Daily Process



4. The Panic-Search-For-What-Is-Right Stage

You need to learn where to find what is right to be protected from this stage. You also must learn how to compare the truth to other things.

Some people say *thinking* is the way to find the truth. Others say *experience* is the way to find the truth. Another person will say that *church tradition* (habits) is the right answer.

You will learn that the only place to find the truth (authority) and what is right is in the *written Word of God, the Bible*.

The next two weeks you will study ...

Week 8: Four Sources of Authority—Part One: Three Weak Sources

Week 9: Four Sources of Authority—Part Two: One Strong Source



5. The “Silent Christian” Stage

Do you know some Christians who never witness? Don’t worry if you have not met any. You will meet some Christians who never witness. Why not witness?

1. They feel that other Christians who know more and are more mature should be the people to witness.
2. They don’t want to talk about the Christian life when they are not living right.
3. They have a substitute for witnessing. That substitute is church activities that do not require any witnessing. These activities don’t require any *spiritual* power or maturity.

Many Christians are in this silent stage.

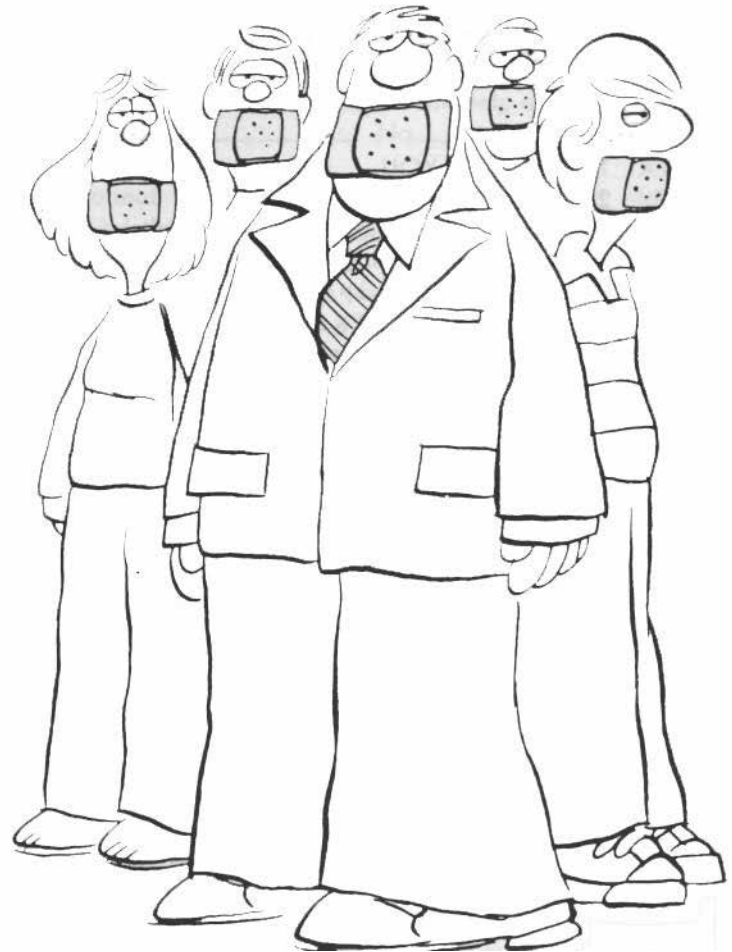
Christians who do not witness are not effective sharing about Jesus Christ. They may be busy in church. They are not helping anyone become a Christian. Their lives do not influence other people in a positive way for the Lord. You can learn the *5 & 5 Principle* so this does not happen in your Christian life.

This principle means you always have *five* people in you life you can witness to in a natural way. There should also be *five* people you cannot witness to, but you can pray for them. It is exciting to discover that God answers when we pray for people to be saved.

The last two weeks of your will study be ...

Week 10: The 5 & 5 Principle—Five You can Win by Prayer

Week 11: The 5 & 5 Principle—Five You can Win by Witnessing



Summary of your *Survival Kit* Material

Week 1: Christ in You

Week 2: Church Life

Week 3: Church Service

Week 4: Two Natures—Part One: The New You

Week 5: Two Natures—Part Two: The Old You

Week 6: Three Aspects of Salvation—Part One: The Beginning and End

Week 7: Three Aspects of Salvation—Part Two, The Daily Process

Week 8: Four Sources of Authority—Part One: Three Weak Sources

Week 9: Four Sources of Authority—Part Two: One Strong Source

Week 10: The 5 & 5 Principle—Five You can Win by Prayer

Week 11: The 5 & 5 Principle—Five You can Win by Witnessing



Week 1: Christ in You

Day 1: How to Establish a Quiet Time

Read 1 John 4:13-15.

Suppose you only eat on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Would your body stay healthy? Of course not! Do you think your spirit will stay healthy if you only feed your spirit on Sunday and Wednesday?

The only way to stay spiritually healthy is to have an everyday Quiet Time with the Lord. You must find time each day to be alone with Christ. You will be happy about what happens. Your spirit will be healthy.

Remember the idea of your hand? The palm means “Christ living in you, controlling everything.” A daily Quiet Time is important. It helps you stay in contact with Jesus. Jesus gives you spiritual life. Here are some ideas to help you start a daily Quiet Time.

- 1. Have a specific time and place.** A desk or a table beside your bed—any place will be all right. It is important to have 15 minutes to yourself. It is best to start your day with a Quiet Time. Your day will be different because you started with Christ.
- 2. Be consistent.** A “sometimes way” shows you are not as serious as you need to be about growing spiritually.

3. Have ready a Bible, pencil, and paper. For 11 weeks you will be using the *Survival Kit* for your Quiet Time. Later you will use other materials to help you study the Bible. You might want to use a notebook at that time.

4. Begin with prayer. Open your heart and mind to Christ. Ask Him to teach, lead, and discipline you in your Bible study.

5. End with a specific plan for the day that applies what you read. Before you end your Quiet Time, decide how your life will be different because of the things you learned in the Bible.

HAVE TODAY'S QUIET TIME NOW.

Pray. Tell God about your love for Him. Thank Him for your many blessings. Tell Him the things you need for God to do in your life. Ask Him to use you and control you in your life today.

Read 1 John 4:13-15 in a version of the Bible you can easily understand. We recommend the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*® (HCSB®).

Be sure you understand what the verses mean. Write the verses in your own words below to be sure you understand them. Don't copy out of the Bible.

Answer these three questions about the verses ...

What did God give you to prove you are saved? (v. 13)

What do Christian people tell other people that shows God is living in them?



What other words are used to tell who Jesus is?

As a Christian you have personally experienced that God sent His Son to be your Savior. How will the things from this verse change your life today? Write one thing you will do today that shows these verses working in your life.
