

Coming to Jesus

by John Hay

It's an incredible privilege to grow up in a Christian family! The Bible teaches us that the children of Christian families are actually born as children of the kingdom of God. They are already included in the Everlasting Covenant of sonship! Moreover, they remain this way until they 'come of age', or choose, as an accountable adult, to depart from the house of the Lord.

Now, although you have not fully come of age, you are transitioning from childhood to adulthood. This means that you are growing in the understanding of who you are and what you believe. And, hopefully, you are making the shift from the faith of your parents to your own faith and discipleship. It is during these years that something precious often happens – you actually begin to know Jesus Christ for yourself.

Of course, you already know Jesus because you were born into a Christian family. As children, your parents taught you how to live as Christians. They taught you respect for God and others. They taught you to participate in the fellowship of the body of Christ. And,

importantly, they introduced you to Jesus Christ when you were little children. You came to know Him, and received blessing from His hands as you participated in the communion of the church.

Jesus Christ is not only the Lord and Saviour of your family; He is your Lord and Saviour!

Now that you are teenagers, you are ready to take the next step. You are ready to come to Jesus Christ in a more personal way. Jesus Christ is not only the Lord and Saviour of your family; He is your Lord and Saviour. He loves you, and He wants you to know Him as one of His brothers or sisters. You don't have to wait until you're an adult; you can come to Jesus now!

So, how do we come to Jesus? Well, firstly, we come to Him in prayer. In the book of Hebrews, we read, 'For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet

without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' Heb 4:15,16. Jesus knows exactly what you are going through as a teenager, so you can come boldly to Him in prayer, particularly when you are suffering.

When the apostle Paul was enduring great suffering, he prayed to Jesus. Interestingly, Jesus didn't take Paul's sufferings away, but He did comfort him, saying, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' 2Co 12:9. Jesus encouraged Paul as he joined the fellowship of His sufferings. As teenagers, you too can pray and know fellowship with Jesus in whatever circumstances you are facing.

Jesus said, 'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.' Mat 18:20. This is our second point. As teenagers, you are learning to fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ. For example, you are learning to fellowship with your leaders in the Teenage program. You are also learning to fellowship in various service teams, particularly with those who lead the teams. And, obviously, the highpoint of our fellowship in Jesus' name is the communion where we all gather together to eat and drink of Him. Whenever you fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ, He is there, and you are coming to know Him in a deeper way.

Finally, Jesus is the Word of God. Joh 1:1. We come to Jesus, and learn of Him, as we give diligent attention to hearing, studying and obeying the word of God. Because we

are coming to Jesus in prayer, and we are fellowshiping with those who are gathered in His name, such study is profitable to us. We are not like those who searched the Scriptures but would not come to Jesus. Joh 5:39-40. We are coming to Jesus and searching the Scriptures! As you give yourself to the study of God's word, you will know Jesus better, and you will be thoroughly equipped for the work of your sonship. 2Ti 3:17.

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As Christian teenagers, you have been presented with an amazing opportunity – the opportunity to know Jesus Christ in a deep and personal way. If you will give yourself to prayer, to fellowship and to the study of God's word, you will grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and you will hear the call to follow Him as His disciple, a member in particular of the body of Christ. ■

