

JOURNAL PAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL SESSION 2

DIGGING DEEPER



Sharper Image

Take a moment to think about what you just read. You may be thinking, *Great info about Jesus, but so what?* Good question. The chart below is a picture of a cross. Your job is to fill both sides of the cross with info about your spiritual journey using verses from God's Word. The cross in the middle of the two columns stands for the moment you accepted ("believed in," to use John's words) Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Read the three Bible passages below. As you read the passages, write to the left of the cross what you were like *before* Jesus. Write to the right of the cross what you are like *since* Jesus. Make it personal by using words such as *me*, *I*, and *my*.

If you don't think of yourself as a believer, you can do this exercise one of two ways:

- 1. Think of a friend who is a believer, and do this exercise with that friend in mind. You can re-title the chart, "What I Learn About My Friend,______."
- 2. Think of the "Before Jesus" info as describing your life now and the "Since Jesus" information as describing how your life could be. If you want to accept what your life could be, be sure to share that with your leader after this exercise or before your group is dismissed.

What I Learn About Me

Before Jesus	Since Jesus
Colossians 1:13-18	Colossians 1:13-18
1 Peter 1:17-25	1 Peter 1:17-25
1 John 1:1-7	1 John 1:1-7

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Now take a minute to read over what you listed in the right column. These are things that are true <i>right now</i> . But how can knowing these things affect your day-to-day life?
Printed here are several situations. As you read them, think about which statements about Jesus from Scripture could be a source of encouragement in each situation. Write your thoughts, or copy the verses in the space provided. 1. Dealing with temptation
2. Living with family difficulties
3. Talking with people who are hostile to the Christian faith
4. Overcoming difficult things such as disease or tragedy
5. Letting your life be a witness to the light (like John the Baptist in John 1)

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One more thing. If you don't think of yourself as a believer, answer this question: Which column of information—"Before Jesus" or "Since Jesus"—would you rather have your life be like? If you want your life to be like the "Since Jesus" column, please share that with your group leader now. Don't go home without doing this!
WRAPPING IT UP
Truth in Action
TWO THINGS TO HELP CHANGE MY IMAGE OF JESUS: 1.
2.
TWO TRUTHS TO HELP CHANGE MY BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDE: 1.
2.