

Receive—Believe—Become

Receive - When offered information that Jesus is the one and only Son of God and only way to a relationship with God and an eternity in Heaven, the first step is to receive that information and to process it.

Believe - Only those who receive the truth of Jesus are in a position to believe in Him. Those who walk by and won't open their hearts and minds to the possibility that Jesus is the way to God won't become believers. Sometimes the new birth process from receive to believe to become is quick and sometimes it is slow and excruciating. Where are you and where are your friends in the process?

Become - As John 1:12 puts it, *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* [NIV]

Would anyone in the group today like to take the step of becoming a child of God?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests

Welcome to the Common Ground Café!



Sunday, January 14, 2018

**Receive—Believe—Become
A Study of John 1:11-12**

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What motivates people to **become** something different? Dr. Murray explained three reasons people change, according to author Tom Harris. Ask the group to share personal examples of each to begin discussion today.

People change. . .

When it is more painful to remain as we are.
("I was in a job that was so painful I couldn't imagine being there any longer, so I changed.")

When we find ourselves in despair.
("I realized I was about to lose my . . . [marriage, job, health].")

When we discover (much to our surprise), there is something better which we have been missing.
(I had my first taste of Blue Bell Ice Cream!)

There are three critical words we need to explore in John 1:11-12 to fully comprehend how we can **become**.

Receive (Take)

Read John 1:11-12, focusing on the word *receive*.

In Greek, the word translated "receive" is *lambano*, meaning to take. When you go to Sam's or Costco and pass free sample booths, what are your choices?

What two different choices are made about Jesus in verses 11 and 12? What two groups of people are described?

When you choose to not to take a sample of a new food at a booth, what are you deciding about the product?

When you choose to take a sample and taste it, what are possible outcomes?

Believe

Read John 1:12, focusing on the word *believe*.

If you taste a sample, what would cause you to become a customer of that product?

What gives you the right, authority, or privilege to choose to become a customer?

Can a person receive information about Jesus, know all about it, and yet choose not to believe? Explain.

Become

Read John 1:12, focusing on the word *become*.

After receiving the information about Jesus, what additional step is required to be given the right, authority, power, or privilege to become?

How does a person "become" a child of God?