

Freezer

Scripture:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Materials List:

- (1) Butter
- (1) Microwave
- (1) Freezer

Main Message:

New Christians need to grow. Sometimes we put them in the freezer by surrounding them with apathy. Instead, let's resolve to help them grow!

Song: *Light the Fire*

Lesson:

Oh, what a convenience a freezer is! Sometimes I make three of whatever is for dinner so I have one to serve and two to freeze. With barely more time than it takes to make one, I'll have a fast, convenient dinner when I need it for my family or someone else in need of a meal. Sometimes I use my freezer to cool something down quickly. It turns out 30 seconds in the microwave is much too long for softening butter. Oh, well... just pop it in the freezer! What was a puddle will be solid again in no time.

Maybe you've seen this happen with new Christians, too. They come up out of the water hot! They're on fire and ready to conquer the world with the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16). "Whoa, whoa!" we sometimes say, "That's not really what we're doing here. Just cool down a bit." No, we don't say that with our words, but we do with our actions and lack of support. New Christians need to grow! They need a nice warm environment to grow in and a little help. If I leave my casserole on the counter instead of putting it in the freezer, some bacteria will come along and in the warm environment, it'll be growing a good crop of fuzzy greenery in no time. Unappealing (to say the least) in a casserole, but just what a baby Christian needs!

Let's resolve to not stick new Christians in the freezer. Instead, let's help them grow. Instead of sitting in frigid apathy, make a list with your new brother or sister in Christ of all the people they'd like to see in Heaven. Together, pray for two or three of them daily and watch for opportunities to interest them in God's word. Instead of letting freezer burn get at your heart, take a note from the new Christian's attitude and remember where you came from. Be grateful for your salvation. Remember that just like a turkey is really still cooking when it comes out of the oven, so too, a new Christian isn't quite there yet. Be patient while they learn and carefully (that is, with much care) instruct them.

Prayer: Thank God for the salvation you have and for paying the very high price to win it for you. Ask God to help you be on fire and not be apathetic. Pray for strength for any new Christians you know and for wisdom to help them grow.