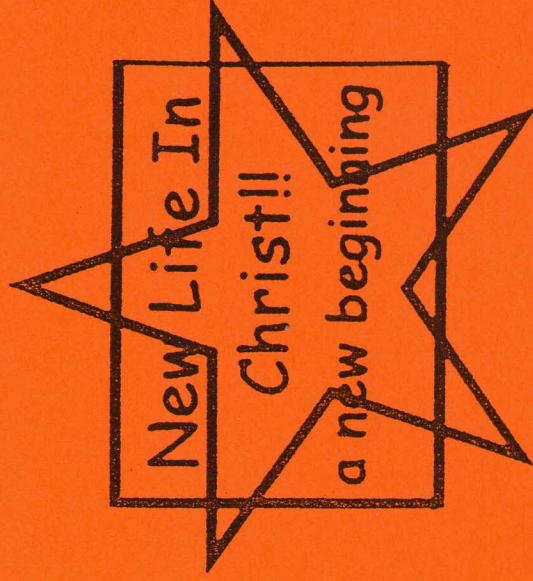


The New Life Game!

... the journey people take
on the way to a Christian commitment



The New Life Game!

The New Life Game represents the kind of journey people take on the way to a Christian Commitment.

The Rules are simple.

You will need: a playing counter for each player
one dice & if you wish, something to shake it with!

To Begin:

Place each counter on the "Start" square at the bottom left corner of the board, and throw the dice to decide who goes first.

At each Turn the Player should:

1. Throw the dice and move on the number of squares shown.
2. Read what it says on the square you land on.
3. If there are any instructions on that square, do what they say.
4. And, if that leads you to other squares on the board, repeat steps 2, 3, & 4, above until you come to rest.
5. Then the next player begins his/her turn.

Note: If you land on a square with an arrow leading from it, then you must follow that arrow to wherever it takes you, up or down!

6. The winner is the first person to reach the "New Life in Christ" square at the top right corner of the board.

Note: You do not have to throw the exact number to land on the square - any throw which takes you to or past the final square is good enough.

7. The game can either end there or continue until everyone has reached the end.

An example follows!

Example:

If you were unfortunate enough to land on the next to the last square, "Met really unhelpful Christian!! *&!!**%*)&*!! " - you would have to follow all three arrows down to the bottom of the board, and then Go forward 3, finally coming to rest at the bottom right hand corner of the board!

the Game!

2d	New Romance - I'm in Lurve!! -too busy for church now!	I want to become a Christian	Met really unhelpful Christian!! *&!!**%*)&*!!	New Life In Christ!! a new beginning
1s	Went to Church - the service really spoke to me. Go Again!	Went to church: no-one spoke to me. Go Back 2	Went to Church - great welcome Go again!	Don't Fancy Church! Miss a go! and go back 2
1e	I wonder what church is all about....?	Friend gave me a leaflet about the Gospel	Meet unhelpful Christian	Someone invites me to church
1d	God answers -Thank you God! Go forward 4	Unhelpful Christian puts me off!!	God doesn't seem to answer Go back 10	Crisis! Help me God! Throw again!
1c	I don't know... but don't like what I've seen! Go forward 3	Go forward 1 square	I Believe ... and have a positive picture of God Follow arrow up	Miss your turn until you throw a 2, 4, Or 6

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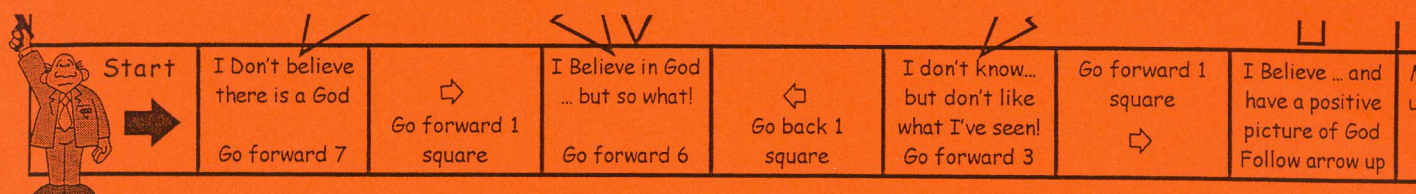
The New Life Game!

Understanding the Game

The aim of the New Life Game is to help Christians to think about the kind of process by which people come to a Christian commitment.

1. Starting Points

The bottom row of the game has a number of examples of the kind of starting attitudes people have



There is...

- ♦ the person who doesn't believe in God,
- ♦ the person who believes in God, but that belief has little or no impact on his/her life,
- ♦ the person who doesn't know if he/she believes or not, but doesn't particularly like what they have seen of Christianity,
- ♦ and finally the person who believes in God and has always been attracted by such faith, but hasn't done anything about it yet.

Of course there are lots of other possibilities, but this list offers some of the main ones!

Generally people tend to spend a long time in these positions, so don't be surprised if you spend a long time in the bottom right corner, missing goes, and returning to that part of the board.

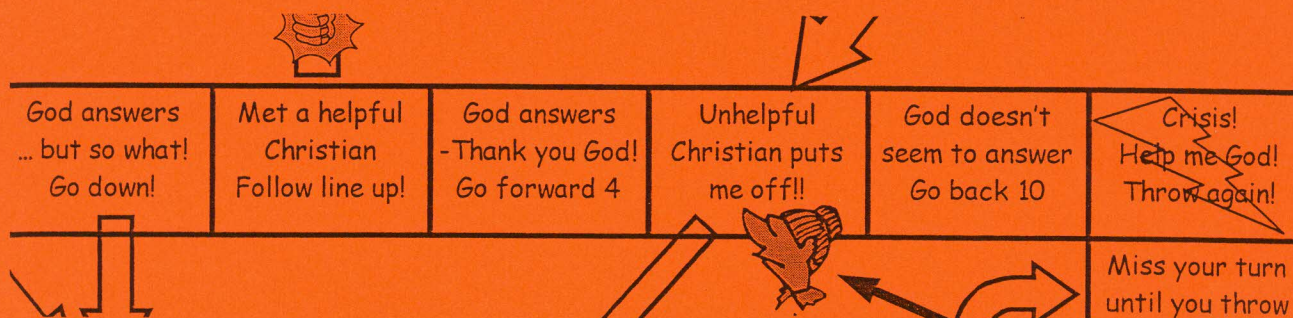
This is the place where lots of people spend a large part, if not all of their lives!

2. Getting out of the hole!

So what moves people on, and out of that bottom right corner?

Usually, it is one of two things

- 1 a Crisis Point in their lives
- 2 or meeting a helpful Christian who by their life-style and words, makes the Christian Faith attractive & relevant.



Of course, progressing up the board is never guaranteed - unfortunately, you could meet an unhelpful Christian like Mrs Snooty for example, who really puts you off; or God might not seem to answer a cry for help; or He might answer, but then we forget, and carry on just as before!

But if we do move on, there is a new openness and curiosity about God & what believing in Him means!

That is where our ministry as Christians & as a Church can be most effective:


The helpful Christian friend, the church newsletter, the leaflet about the Gospel, or what it means to be a Christian, can all help someone at this stage.

And then, of course there is the simplest & often most effective form of evangelism

Inviting someone to church!


3. Going to Church

Of course, some people find their own way to church with out an invitation,

church time	Don't Fancy Church! Miss a go! and go back 2
	Go back 1 square
ful	 Someone invites me to church

And inviting someone to church doesn't mean that they will come straight away.

As a result some people get stuck here for quite a while!

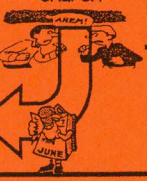
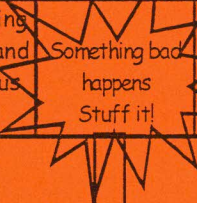










Went to Church - the sevice really spoke to me. Go Again!

I wonder what church is all about....?

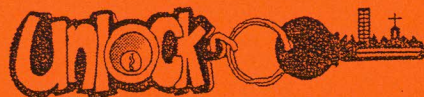
And when people finally get to church, it can go either way!

- ♦ a good welcome & a good relevant service which speaks to people helps people forwards
- ♦ but if no-one speaks to you or you neighbours laugh at you when they find out, it can really knock you back

But for those who find a welcome & persevere, things can start to fall into place, questions begin to find answers, and a caring Christian community can be a living example of the the love & power if Christ!

THE NEW LIFE GAME!

The Gospel is beginning to make sense	Argument with someone at church	I'm beginning to understand about Jesus	Something bad happens Stuff it!	Someone asked me if I was a Christian?	New Romance - I'm in Lurve! -too busy for church now!	I want to become a Christian	Met really unhelpful Christian!! *&!!**%)*&!!
Missed church for a month Go back 9							
I think God is really beginning to speak to me	Church friends helped me when I had a problem	Went to church - boring sermon	Went to church & liked it Go Again!	My neighbours laughed at me about church Go back 4.	Went to Church - the sevice really spoke to me. Go Again!	Went to church: no-one spoke to me. Go Back 2	Went to church - great welcome Go again!
							



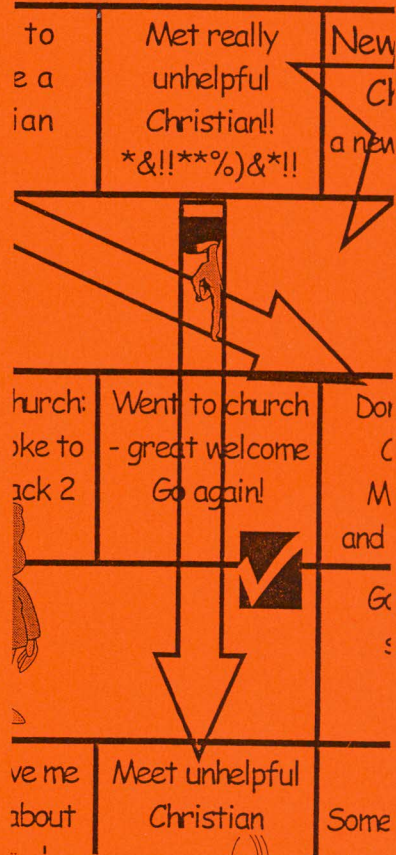
4. Reaching the Goal!

The goal, of course is that living active relationship with Christ, which is more than just getting people to church!

And right to the very end there are pitfalls that can put people back, sometimes even to the very beginning.



We have already mentioned the Unhelpful Christian, who appears in a number of guises - Mrs Snooty, Mr Angry, and the one who aggravates you so much you end up swearing at him, are just 3 examples!



Other things which are in our control include

- ♦ the welcome people receive in our churches,



- ♦ the boring sermon



- ♦ the argument at church

Some things are, of course, out of our control

New Hobbies

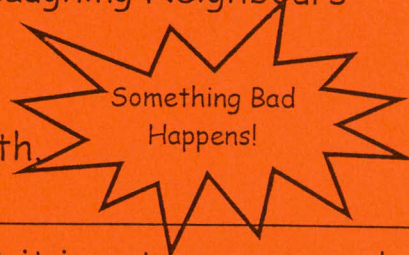


Romance

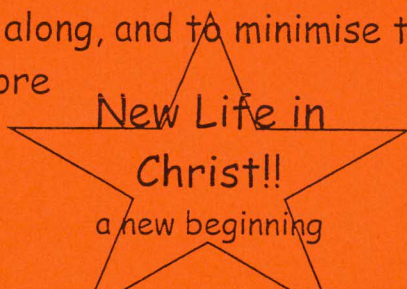


or Laughing Neighbours

and of course, those Bad Things that happen from time to time which can shake anyone's faith.



All these things, put together, mean that it is not an easy road to travel, and the way we as Christians & as the Church relate to people can either help or hinder people in their faith. But we can do a lot to help people along, and to minimise the pitfalls along the way, so that more & more people can reach ...



The New Life Game!

How to Use the Game

Although designed with adults in mind, the game appears to be accessible to all ages from 8 upwards. It can be used in Home Groups, Youth Fellowships, Church Councils, Workshops, and anywhere else you can think of!

In playing the game a number of useful avenues can be explored as you play

1. Sharing & Reflecting on Personal Experiences
 - a number of the squares might remind different players about things which happened to them
 - eg. Church friends helped me when I had a problem
 - Went to church: no-one spoke to me
 - Crisis: Help Me God!

2. Thinking about what helps people forward & what knocks people back.
 - What *can I do* to help people forward?
 - How might I have knocked people back?
 - How do we relate to new people at our church?

3. Where are our friends/families on the board?
 - Thinking about where the people close to us are
 - eg. Along the bottom row.
 - Somewhere on the middle
 - Just come to church recently
 - Maybe near the top!

Also, it is quite possible that some of the players might identify themselves as near the top, but not yet having made their own personal profession of faith. It could be an important step for them, if you allow some space for people to be able to say that too!

4. As a Encouragement to Pray

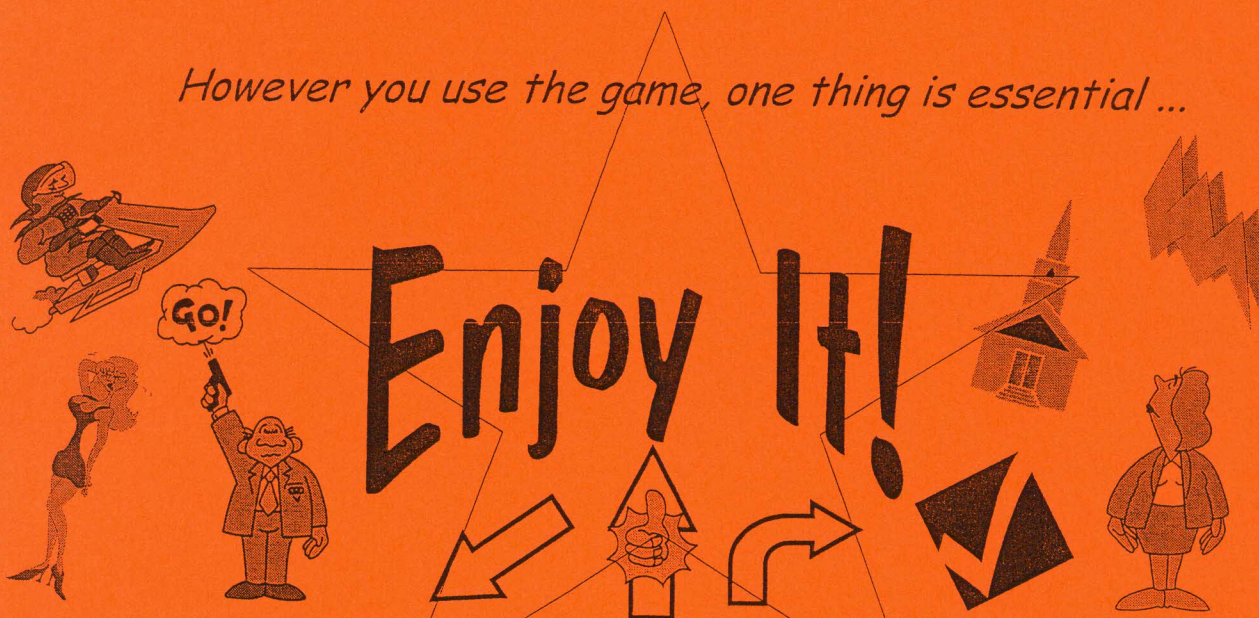
- perhaps playing the game will bring to mind people who we know, who ...
 - ◆ are on the way up the board & need support
 - ◆ we have just invited to church, or have just started coming
 - ◆ have been discouraged by something bad happening in their lives
 - ◆ have slipped out of church after a row or an argument
 - ◆ have been put off by something we said or did
 - ◆ have become more interested in something else!

This might be a good opportunity to pray for them.

5. As a Fun Way to Think About Evangelism

- Evangelism can seem quite a threatening thing at times, and perhaps this could be a less threatening way to approach it and have a bit of fun too!

However you use the game, one thing is essential ...






So I wish you the best possible fun with it, and hope it brings out the very best in everyone who plays it!

The New Life Game!

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The New

<p>The Gospel is beginning to make sense</p>	<p>Argument with someone at church</p> 	<p>I'm beginning to understand about Jesus</p>	<p>Something bad happens Stuff it!</p>	<p>Something happens I shr</p>
<p>Missed church for a month Go back 9</p>	<p>Church friends helped me when I had a problem</p> 	<p>Went to church - boring sermon</p> 	<p>Went to church & liked it Go Again!</p>	<p>My ne laugh about Go t</p>
<p>I think God is really beginning to speak to me</p>	<p>Found a great new hobby!</p>	<p>Church leaflet comes through</p>	<p>Something bad</p>	<p>Found about</p>





but ...

Picked up a Bible - what is this all about?

But I don't know any Christians!

If God is real, I wonder what's he's like?

Go on 1 Square

God answers ... but so what! Go down!

Met c Chr Follow

Start

I Don't believe there is a God

I Believe in God ... but so what!

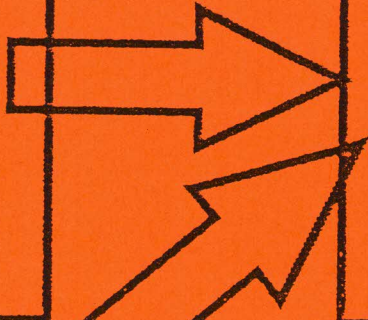
Go l sq



Go forward 7

Go forward 6

Go forward 1 square



the letterbox


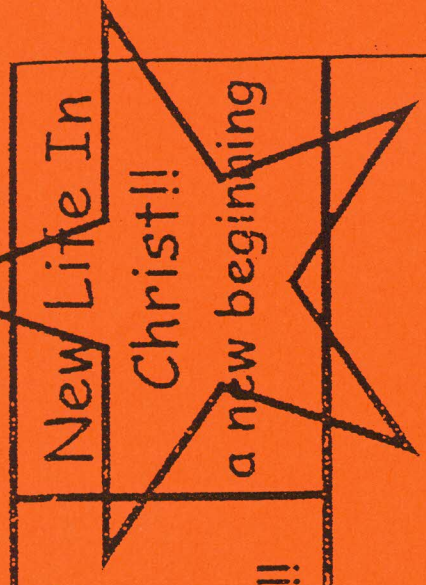

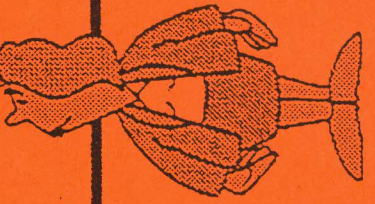




happens





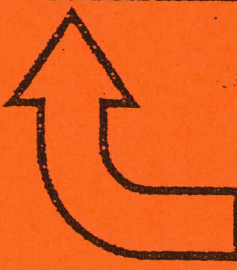

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Life Game!

<p>one asked me if I was a Christian?</p>	<p>New Romance - <i>I'm in Lurve!!</i> -too busy for church now!</p> 	<p>I want to become a Christian</p>	<p>Met really unhelpful Christian!! *&!%**%)&*!!</p>	<p>New Life In Christ!! a new beginning</p> 
<p>neighbours heard at me but church back 4.</p>	<p>Went to Church - the sevice really spoke to me. Go Again!</p> 	<p>Went to church: no-one spoke to me. Go Back 2</p> 	<p>Went to church - great welcome Go again!</p> 	<p>Don't Fancy Church! Miss a go! and go back 2</p>
<p>d out a bit but Jesus</p>	<p>I wonder what church is all</p> 	<p>Friend gave me a leaflet about</p>	<p>Meet unhelpful Christian</p> 	<p>Someone invites</p> 



	about....?	the Gospel		me to church
 <p>a helpful Christian show line up!</p>	<p>God answers -Thank you God! Go forward 4</p>	<p>Unhelpful Christian puts me off!!</p> 	<p>God doesn't seem to answer Go back 10</p> 	<p>Crisis! Help me God! Throw again!</p>
<p>↳ back 1 square</p>	<p>I don't know... but don't like what I've seen! Go forward 3</p>	<p>Go forward 1 square</p> 	<p>I Believe ... and have a positive picture of God Follow arrow up</p>	<p>Miss your turn until you throw 1, 3 or 5</p>
				<p>Miss your turn until you throw a 2, 4, Or 6</p>

The New Life Game!

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