

The Way of Christ

Basics for Believers

This document is formatted to be printed out and assembled as a booklet.

Printing instructions for a stand printer

1. Set color to gray scale only
Print > Properties > Color > Grayscale only
(unless you want the graphics in color)
2. Print Cover Page (page 2)
You might want to use color paper for the cover
Set the cover aside for step #6
3. Print: Even page 4-16
4. Flip the whole stack over - long ways
(In the tray it will be face up - with the left text edge at the front of the tray)
Different printers may vary on this step
5. Print: Odd page 3-15
6. Assemble, fold and staple

HOW TO ACCEPT JESUS AS SAVIOR

1. **ADMIT** that you need God's help - that you need to be saved because you have not led a perfect life. Be willing to change and repent from sin: turn away from your old lifestyle.

2. **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ as your savior. Accept the facts that Jesus is the Son of God, died in your place on the cross to pay for your sins, and rose from the dead on the third day.

3. **COMMIT** to a personal relationship with God. Give your life to walk in Christ's Ways. Follow Jesus and do what's right in God's eyes. Trust Him with your life.

Salvation Prayer: *God, I admit my sin, and that I need your help to be saved. Please forgive me and help me to change.*

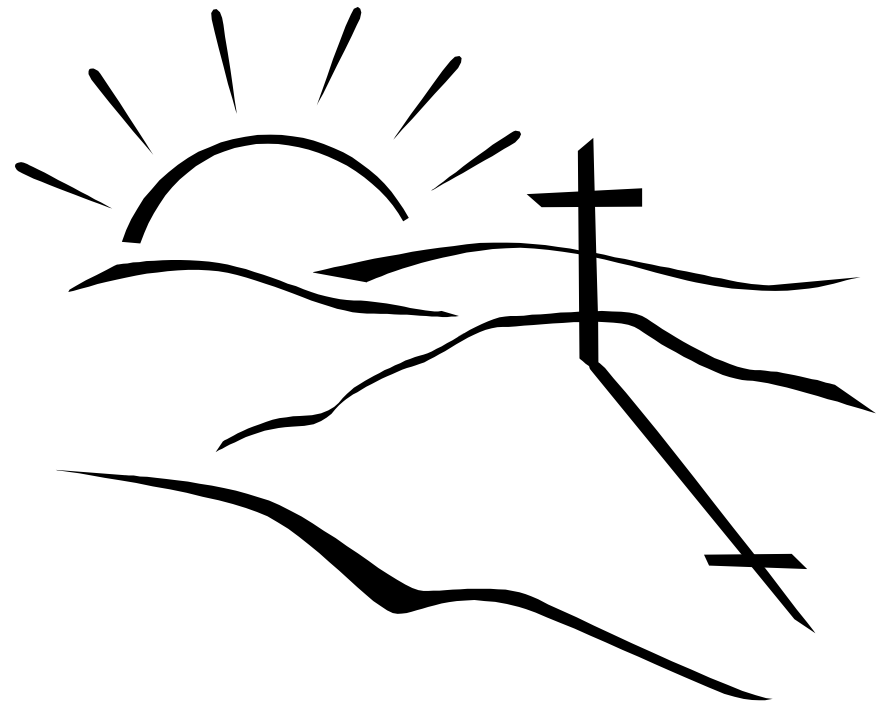
I believe in you Jesus, that you are God who came to earth, that you died in my place on the cross, and rose from the dead. I put my trust in you Jesus as Lord and my Savior.

I commit to love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength for the rest of my life. I ask for your help so I can live a new way of life. Thank you Jesus. Amen.



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The Way of Christ **Basics for Believers**



Tyler Daniels

DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE



class is available.

Class #1 - Water Baptism

This class is especially designed for new believers in Christ. This class covers: the wonderful meaning of baptism, and prepares you for the celebration of public water baptism.

Class #2 - Holy Communion

This class teaches the reasons and meanings for the church practice of communion as Jesus explained at the last supper, and how we can renew our commitment to our Savior and Lord.

Class #3 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This class prepares you to connect spiritually with God. This class covers: The relationship of the Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, introduction to the spiritual gifts, and living in the flow of the Spirit.

Class #4 - The Church Vision

This class gives you a chance to meet with the church Pastor and hear first hand about the vision of the Church. This class covers: The vision, purpose, and practical ministries of the church, and how you might best fit in the church family.

Class #5 - Church Membership

This class explores how you can "jump in" to church membership. Covers: the process of becoming a member, the church beliefs and membership responsibilities, finding your place in ministry, and our church plan for getting along as a family.

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TIPS TO BENEFIT THE MOST FROM CHURCH

1. ATTEND Church regularly

Build the habit of gathering with other believers.

2. Make some FRIENDS

Don't wait for people to come you, meet them halfway. Be friendly and try to learn some names.

3. Focus on the POSITIVE

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.
Phil 4:8-9

4. WORSHIP - rather than watch

Church is not for entertainment, it's to please God. Get into it: sing, clap, and raise your hands with just as much enthusiasm as you would at a concert.



5. Practice GIVING

Generosity feels wonderful. Give just as God gave to you. The Bible encourages us to practice tithing, giving one tenth of your income to God's work. **Acts 20:35** "*Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"

6. Take NOTES

Actively listen to the message. Look up in your Bible the passages being spoken of. Find at least one thing that you learned.

7. Join a SMALL GROUP

This is where you will be able to really get to know people, and work together in your spiritual journey to know God more. You can ask questions. In a small group you can build trust so you can share your needs and help one another.

8. Make a COMMITMENT to the church family

Tell your friends and family about church. Get involved. Give or help with needs that you see.

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Lesson 6

What's Next?

BEING A PART OF A CHURCH

All the lessons of this book are best lived out with the help of a church family. Believers are meant to be part of the body, the family of Christ, working as a team.

The Church is a supernatural organization that is a living entity instituted by God, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the extension of God on earth, with Christ as the Head and the Church as the Body. There is nowhere else you can go to find supernatural solutions to life's challenges and questions.

You are not a believer who is in this alone. As a part of the Body of Christ, we're in this together! The Church makes it possible to participate in corporate worship, to receive support, and to help build your faith.

The Church is a place where you can serve God. There are many exciting, important ways and opportunities to serve which you will discover as you become a part of the Church. Your participation multiplies rather than simply adding to the ministry that is possible within the Church. With your help, the ministry of the Church reaches out to touch the whole world.

The Church plays a strategic role in helping you grow in your faith and discover what gifts God has for you.

The Church is a life-link for all who belong. The relationships you develop are family ties. You will soon discover that your church family is just as real as the family you were born into. Many people find their church family is closer. Church relationships can develop trust that goes deeper than the norm. It is a family that is ready to celebrate the good times in your life, and is equipped to help in times of difficulty.

Introduction to The Way of Christ

Congratulations! Accepting Christ is the best decision you've ever made. It's a WIN-WIN - you gain freedom from your past, and begin a new future with God's help.

The Lord has so much He wants to give you.

- He wants to know you and give you a new life.

- He wants to set you free from the pain of the past.

- He wants to help you make the world better.

All these were modeled for us by the person of Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Being a follower of Jesus Christ, or disciple, means to live in the same ways that Jesus did. That's what this booklet is designed to teach you.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet includes the most important lessons a new believer needs to learn. These are the fundamentals that every believer needs to master; the teachings of Jesus which are essential for a long and happy Christian life.

This booklet is designed to be read through with the help of another believer to guide you and answer your questions. If you have someone who can help you, invite them to read through this booklet with you. If you don't know of someone, contact the church office so someone can be partnered with you. Christian life is meant to be a team effort. Don't go it alone.

Take your time and really learn these lessons. Like any relationship, your life with God can be as good as your investment of time and effort. **No one can do it for you.**



Lesson 1

Understanding Salvation

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED?

1. We were **CREATED** to be with God

The Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth. His completed creation was “very good” (Genesis 1:31), and all the animals and the first people, Adam and Eve, at first only ate plants (Genesis 1:29–30). There was no death, disease, or fear in the original creation. Life was perfect. We were all created to be with God in the Paradise of Eden.

2. The first **SIN** of Adam and Eve

After God finished creating the world, He had just one law that Adam and Eve had to keep. The Creator said, *"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."* Genesis 2:15-17

Now the devil was a fallen angel who came and tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God’s rule. They listened to the lying snake, and desired to become more powerful. They chose to eat the fruit from the tree of evil, disobeying God’s law. (Genesis 3:6)

3. Creation was **CORRUPTED** by Humankind

It was Adam and Eve’s disobedience that corrupted God’s perfect creation and brought in death. (Romans 8:20–22). As a result, the world that we now live in is under the curse of “sin” - everything decays and dies. Women have great pain in child birth, and men must labor and toil to work out a living from the cursed ground. As well, humankind was separated from God, banished from Eden. (Genesis 3:16-24) People spoiled the world with sin. Sin is like a poison - even the smallest amount brings certain death.

But there was still hope. God promised Adam and Eve that He would one day send a savior, born of a woman. He would pay the penalty of sin, break the power of death, and restore His people to lasting life, “crushing the head of the snake” (Gen 3:15).

YOUR WITNESSING LIST

List here those you know who you want to bring to Christ:

HOW TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

Acts 1:8 *Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses"*

1. **PRAY for those you know who need Christ**

Write a list of specific people in your relationship circle who you want to reach and then pray daily for them. Pray in advance of your time with those you want to lead to Christ. Also, Share your list with your small group, and prayer partners.

2. **PRAY with them for help with problems as they arise**

Join their spiritual journey. Bring a need to God together. Act in prayer, and show how God can rescue us from pain.

3. **DEMONSTRATE your faith with integrity**

People watch you messenger. Your actions speak louder than words. Represent Christ well with your personal life.

4. **INVITE them to church**

Bring them to a Sunday service, small group study, or a special event or holiday. Set a date, and arrange where and when you will meet. Help them feel comfortable in a new place.

5. **SHARE your personal story of life with Jesus**

Your experience of relationship with Christ brings faith into reality. Explain how you started your relationship with Jesus.

6. **TELL them how to accept Jesus as savior (the ABC's)**

You can find the ABC's on the back cover of this booklet:
A - **Admit** you need God's help, B - **Believe** in Jesus as savior, and
C - **Commit** to a relationship with God. Memorize some key verses.

7. **BE BOLD and live as a Christian**

Stand up for faith in public. You don't need to be dogmatic, but stand up for what you believe with conviction that Christ is "*the way the truth and the life.*" John 14:6

4. God's Dilemma of **JUSTICE**

Eventually all people will face the Lord and be made to answer for their choices - all the sins of one's lifetime. "*for all have sinned....and the wages of sin is death.*" (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

The dilemma for God is that He is perfect, and therefore must uphold justice by keeping the Law. He can not condone sin by ignoring it. God doesn't want to punish anyone. "*The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" 2 Peter 3:9. But it's His very goodness that requires Him to confront sin. Even the smallest amount of sin can NOT enter into heaven because it brings death.

Therefore anyone who carries sin can not enter eternal life in Heaven. They and their sin are cast out and sent to the place of eternal death in Hell, the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15).

There is nothing you can do to save yourself from sin. The past can't be undone. The Penalty of death must be paid.

But there is someone who can save you.

5. Jesus the second Adam - **PAYMENT for sin**

It's because of this dilemma that God sent Jesus. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that who believes in Him will not perish but have ever lasting life.*" John 3:16.

Jesus, God's Son, the promised Savior, was born of a virgin woman (Luke 1:26-38). He became both completely human and still completely God Himself. The Creator became part of His creation to save His people (John 1:1-3, 14).

Jesus, the "second Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45), lived a perfect, sinless life. He sacrificed Himself on the cross in our place and died to pay the penalty for our sins (Isaiah 53:6). By Jesus' sacrifice, the penalty for sin was paid in full for those who accept Him. Jesus said on the cross, "*It is finished!*" John 19:30.

Jesus Christ however was not defeated by death. Three days later he arose back to life. He showed His power to give life. He now makes that life available to us.

**There are only two eternal destinations: heaven or hell.
It's your choice: which place you will go?**

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? ...

HOW A PERSON IS SAVED

1. Salvation is a free GIFT



“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

God gives salvation to us by grace, meaning as a gift - its not earned or deserved. It’s offered to all people for the same price - FREE!

“the gift of God is eternal life.” Romans 6:23

His love for you is unconditional, as a father loves his child. *“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8) God offers you the gift of His son, but you must choose to receive Christ and His sacrifice.

2. Salvation is received through FAITH

Putting your faith in Jesus means to accept Him and enter into a trusting relationship. You must respond by making a commitment to love, honor, and obey Him for the rest of your life.

You are forgiven your sins and accepted by God because of your choice. You are not saved by your “Works” - good deeds. You can’t save yourself, but you can rely on Jesus who saves.

Jesus said, “Your faith has saved you” Luke 7:50

Through faith *with* Christ, you can be “born again” into a new life - and with God’s help live a better life, free from the fear of death.

3. Saved for a new Way of LIFE

The good works you do as a Christian are done because you are saved, in gratitude for the salvation that you have received. Confirm and demonstrate your faith and love for Christ by being like Him. Be willing to change and repent of your old ways, and embrace what is pleasing to God. The gift of eternal life should motivate you to do your best with the help of the Holy Spirit. As the saying goes, “actions speak louder than words.” God gave you His only son. Live in a way that honors that gift.

We also look forward to eternal life with God in the new heaven and new earth, when we return to **paradise!** (Rev 21)

TIPS FOR REACHING PEOPLE

You can build a bridge with people who don’t know Christ yet where ever you are. You can meet the challenge is getting them to open up to hear the good news by giving them the help they need by showing them the LOVE of Christ.



1. You can SMILE

Your positive attitude can really make life easier for someone else. People need encouragement.

2. Learn people’s NAME

Get to know something about the people in your circle. You may be one of the few people that actually knows they exist. People need friends.

3. Strike up CONVERSATIONS with new people

Take the risk of meeting someone who is lonely. Especially look to befriend people new to the neighborhood, job, school, or group. People need help fitting in.

4. LISTEN to other people’s interests and stories

Notice what’s important to those you met. Show them love and respect by getting to know who they are. Ask about where they came from. People need to be heard.

5. Comfort with SYMPATHY

Be there for people in their tough times.

6. Show APPRECIATION for someone

Recognize how they have contributed to your life. Tell them how they have helped you. People need to be valued.

7. Lend a helping HAND

Do what you can - every little bit does help. A friend in times of need is a friend indeed.

OVERCOMING EXCUSES

In Jesus' parable, three men made choices about what to do about a Jewish man dying man on the road. All three had excuses - reasons to choose to do nothing. We too can have excuses.

1. The Priest's excuse - "I CAN'T"

Jewish priests were bound by religious law not to touch a dead body. If he helped the man and he died, the Priest would have to go to great trouble and expense to be able to serve again. It may have cost Him his job, and he might be robbed in the process.

A life was at stake, yet the Priest chose to do *nothing*.

2. The Levite's excuse - "I'M BUSY"

Levite's were busy people, serving the whole nation as religious leaders. They had important work, probably at the Temple in Jerusalem where it was his turn to serve. He had important responsibilities that couldn't wait.

A life was bleeding away, yet the Levite did *nothing*.

3. The Samaritan's excuse - "But that's my ENEMY"

He had the most compelling excuse of all. They were enemies. The Samaritans were rivals of the Jews, much like modern day Palestinians. The Samaritan's wanted to see the Jews destroyed. It's likely the Jewish man dying on the road wouldn't have helped the Samaritan if their places were reversed.

Yet, the Samaritan chose to do the right thing and helped his enemy. Likewise, God loves us unconditionally even though we are guilty. How will our enemies and people everywhere ever change unless we start breaking the cycle of revenge?

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES



Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15

We all have a responsibility to ACT.

HOW YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED

Proof 1. The assurance in God's Word THE BIBLE

- "*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*" 1John 5:13
- "*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" Rom 10:13
- "*God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*" Hebrews 13:5-6



Proof 2. The felt presence of the HOLY SPIRIT

"Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us." 1 John 3:24

The Holy Spirit fills our heart. For some people - it's a miracle to feel anything at all. He softens our heart, makes us sensitive to - love, joy, peace, laughter and crying. When you are close to God, you feel His presence.

Proof 3. The witnesses of your CHANGED LIFE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Your personal experience is valid. Claim those changes proudly. How has God already changed your life?

Proof 4. The confirmation of ANSWERED PRAYER

You will see your prayers answered. The impossible will come to pass by God's doing. Darkness will be defeated and the Kingdom of God will advance. And the greatest miracle of all - that you might lead someone else to know Christ as their Savior.

Proof 5. The date of your SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY

Like a married couple celebrates their wedding anniversary, you have the proof of the event of our commitment to Christ or your baptism date. Celebrate your second birthday. Be sure to write down the details of when and where you first accepted Christ as savior. *See next page*

WHEN YOU WERE SAVED

Write here all the details of the event of when you were saved. Include as many details as possible so you can recall your story such as: where it happened, what people were there, how you felt.

Lesson 5

How to Make the World Better

Jesus was asked - what is the most important thing we can do in life? Jesus' answer was, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*" Matthew 22:36-39

These two rules guided everything He did. But what does it mean to "love one's neighbor"? Who does that include? To what extent are we really expected to help others? What does God truly expect of us? Jesus told a story to answer these very questions, and illustrated the importance of the **choices** we make and what we should do about those choices.

THE PARABLE OF THE "GOOD SAMARITAN"

Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:30-37

Jesus would have us "do likewise" as the Samaritan who chose to help those in need and not make excuses. Like Jesus did himself, we should come off the sidelines of life and take action.

GET STARTED READING

A great place to start reading the Bible is the life events of Jesus Christ, beginning with in the book of Matthew. (see below how to find a book in the Bible). Jesus was an amazing person - and you need to know more about Him. He made a greater, more lasting impact than any other single person in the history of the world. He has inspired generations with his incredible heroism. His teachings have challenged and influenced the thinking of entire civilizations. Even today's date is a measure of the years since his birth in Bethlehem.

Four different accounts confirm the truth. The life story of Jesus Christ is told in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four men each wrote an account of Jesus' life from a different perspective. All four include many of the same episodes, yet each included different details about Jesus, yet amazingly they all agree! They reveal Jesus' miracles, teachings, and adventures.

See how Jesus is relevant today. Jesus talked about modern issues such as: suffering, poverty, crime, corruption, death, and even taxes! Jesus' life and teachings point us toward a life of loving God and our neighbors.

How to find your way around the Bible

Open the Bible to the table of contents in the front. You will see listed there all the different books. The Bible is actually a library of 66 books including: histories, prophecy, poetry, and important letters. All together they cover the whole history of the world from creation in Genesis to the last days in Revelation.

Find the book of Matthew and turn to the page number. Matthew is the first book in the New Testament (which includes those books written after the time when Jesus lived).

Each Bible book is divided into *chapters* and *verses* which provide a convenient way to find a specific place of the Bible. The first number is the chapter, the second number is the verse. You can find the numbers within in the text.

Example: Matthew 1:2 (chapter 1, verse 2)

Lesson 2

How to Mend a Broken Heart

Christ can do a miracle in your life today!

In the events recorded in Luke 4:18-19, Jesus declared his purpose in being sent to earth:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor” Isaiah 61:1-2

That passage continues on saying: *“to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”* Isaiah 61:2-3

Your freedom includes freedom from the past and its pain. How can you receive this help that Jesus came to give?

RESCUED FROM PAIN

Now that you have given your life to Christ, you are entitled to His help. Christ's death on the cross was a ransom paid to save every part of you - body, mind and spirit. As well, His sacrifice covers your sins, in the future and in the present.



*But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:5-6

THE HEALING PROCESS

1. Find the ROOT of your pain

Pain has a *positive* purpose - it reveals that something needs attention. It's time to Deal with the cause of your pain. Stop running, hiding, medicating, denying, and blaming. Admit that you need help, then overcome with courage and the Lord's help.

Start by identifying what's troubling you:

A. Write a list of all the things you are angry about.

Which memories make you feel hurt?

B. Write a list of all the people you have wronged.

What things make you feel guilt or shame?

* These lists help you understand the causes of your pain.

2. REMOVE the *root* of your pain

Like dealing with a splinter, taking it out can hurt. But, you need to face the causes of your pain so you can be free of it.

A. Forgive those who have hurt you (including yourself) - Surrender your right to revenge. You are only hurting yourself with that anger and bitterness. Stop playing the role of a victim.

B. Make amends to those you have hurt. Confess, apologize, and set things right. Start treating people the way you want them to treat you. Take responsibility for your half of the conflicts in your life. "What goes around comes around."

3. RENOUNCE your connection to that pain in your life

A. Resist *out loud* any evil spirits affecting you

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7-8

B. Get rid of items or things that tie you to the past.

Throw away worldly media, occult items, and intoxicants

C. Break old habits that are associated with your pain.

Clean out general sinful practices from your life.

There is more that you need to do to be **STAY FREE...**

Jesus told a story to his disciples: "*When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.*" Luke 11:24-26

TIPS FOR DAILY STUDY

1. Develop a daily / weekly ROUTINE

Determine where, when, and how you will study the Bible. Schedule it in your daily routine. Also, make a habit of reading God's word in your free time. Begin with a prayer for God to open your eyes and mind so that you will understand.



3. READ it for yourself

Don't wait for someone else to "feed" you. Learn the major events and people of the Bible. You are fortunate to even have a Bible! For 1500 years after Christ, there were no printed Bibles, only a few handwritten copies.

4. DIVE into it

You can use the *theater* of your mind. Visualize the people, places, action, and real life adventures!

5. LOOK up interesting words in the *dictionary*

You can learn more as you study the meanings of specific words in *depth* and really get at what the scripture is saying.

6. LEARN your favorite verses

Write a list of your favorite verses.

Memorize great verses that you can use in your life.

7. FOLLOW-UP the Sunday message

Take notes during the weekly services.

Look up the scriptures for yourself. Confirm the truth.

8. TALK about what you read

Share with someone, in your own words, what you read. Tell others who don't know God about the interesting events and truths of the Bible. Quote or read to them your favorite verses.

9. USE what you read

Try out what you learn in your daily life.

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." James 1:22-25

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIBLE (*continued*)

1. The Bible is “SCRIPTURE” - It has remained unchanged for thousands of years. This collection of holy writings has stood the test of time, and is the best documented ancient writing of its kind.

2. The Bible gives us LITERAL HISTORY - It's completely accurate. There is factual, verified proof of the Bible's events. You can read about history from creation (Genesis) clear through the Roman empire. The archeological evidence is undeniable.

3. The Bible is “INSPIRED” by God - The Holy Spirit guided the authors to write on God's behalf, using their personalities and abilities. Amazingly, all 60+ authors are in complete agreement.

4. The Bible gives us SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

It allows us to understand God's perspective on life, the activities of angels and demons, and what things have eternal value.

5. The Bible is “REVELATION” of God - It shows us who our Creator is, His will for us, and what He is doing to fulfill that will.

6. The Bible gives us PRINCIPALS OF WISDOM

“For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6

7. The Bible is the “INFALLIBLE” message of God - We take the Bible as completely correct - that it means exactly what it says.

8. The Bible accurately predicts the future in PROPHECY

The Bible has hundreds of predictions. Over half of them were already fulfilled in Jesus' life. You can read the predictions about the last days: Christ's return, our resurrection, and heaven and hell.

9. The Bible is “AUTHORITATIVE” instruction from God - It's the final word on what is right. In matters of dispute between Christians, the Bible is used as the guide book on our conduct.

10. The Bible gives us PRACTICAL EXAMPLES for Life

Learn from real people whose struggles were just like yours.

4. REPLACE the pain with God's presence

You can't leave your heart empty. Don't give the enemy any open space. Put the Holy Spirit in the place of all your pain. Fill yourself up with God's health, happiness and wholeness.

A. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill your heart.

B. Begin new habits - Do the right things and do things right. Build the disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, serving others, going to church, choosing positive media, etc.

5. RECEIVE a healing - invite God to reform your heart

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” Romans 8:28

Recovery from spiritual pain can take time. Keep praying and seeking God until you get a breakthrough. Be patient as you work through your issues, grieve past losses and purge your fears. Allow the Lord to restore you to wholeness in Christ.

“Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Phil 1:6

REPEAT THE PROCESS

Spiritual recovery can be like **taking layers off an onion**: with time and tears. But with each layer, the process is easier, and eventually you finish.

This healing process is called sanctification, which means: making something clean or fit to be used in a holy place. The more you deal with your issues, and clean-up your life, the deeper you can know the holy God.

Throughout your Christian life, new troubles will arise that require you to repeat this process of healing. Watch out for pride - denying you have problems and need God's help.

Guard your freedom.

YOUR MIRACLE

What are some needs in your life that God could heal?

Emotional Needs: (freedom from negative feelings)

Spiritual Needs: (deliverance from evils)

Relational Needs: (reconciliation)

Physical Needs: (sickness, disease, injury)

Practical Needs: (work, school, legal issues)

Trauma / major events in your past you want to release:

Lesson 4

How to Learn God's Ways

Jesus told a Parable (teaching story) about the importance of learning God's ways: "*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*" Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus' words - God's words - are found in the Bible. To study and learn the Bible is the most important and reliable means to learn the Way of Christ.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIBLE

The teachings of Jesus are found in the Bible, along with other teachings that are from God written down for us by godly people who have been recognized through the ages to have heard from God. The Bible is a unique book, more enduring than any ever written. It's an **anchor** for your faith, giving you stability and strength.



What's great about the Bible is that you can read it for yourself. There are no secrets in Christianity. Everything we believe is in the Bible. You have access to the greatest teachings in history first hand. **It truly is a treasure.**

What we believe about the Bible:

We believe that the Scriptures are Inspired

"The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct."

YOUR PRAYER LIST

List here the people that you want to pray for:
Family, friends, church, neighbors, school, co-workers, community

Lesson 3

How to Know God in Prayer

Prayer was a major part of Jesus' life as we read in the Bible. "*Jesus went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.*" (Matthew 14:23). Other examples: Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12, 9:28; John 17:1. Jesus even prayed for you! Read it in John 17:20-23.

Prayer works. There is nothing more powerful you can do.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

It's important to talk to God everyday. Set aside time in your daily routine to spend with God. Prayer is as important to your spiritual life as eating is to your physical life.

Prayer is a very personal practice. It's a conversation between you and God. There is no one right way to pray. Feel free to speak in a way that's comfortable for you. Talking to God is somewhat like using a cell phone. Prayer isn't just for church or drastic emergencies. Try talking to God any time. The Bible encourages us to "*Pray continually.*" 1 Thessalonians 5:17



JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS FOR TALKING TO GOD

Jesus said, "*When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*"

Matthew 6:5-8

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

1. Don't pray like the hypocrites = Pray to please **GOD**

Hypocrites are actors, putting on appearances. Don't pretend to be spiritual, trying to impress people. Pray and worship to please the Father. When you're at church, pray and worship to make the Lord happy. Don't be concerned with people's opinions.

2. Pray in your room = **PRIVATE**

You need to talk with God yourself. Don't expect others, such as the pastor or your Christian leaders to pray for you. No one can build your relationship with God for you. Take responsibility for your spiritual life.

* It's also good to pray with others, supporting each other.

Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

3. Pray without babbling = **GENUINE**

Think about what you're saying. Don't just go through the motions. Don't fall into a rut, and fail to really talk with God from your heart. Consider the difference between receiving a generic greeting card, and a hand written note. Keep it real.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:16

4. Pray in **JESUS'** name

Jesus said, *"the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."* John 15:16

Praying in Jesus' name means to ask according to His authority, for His sake, acting on His behalf, for His service (not for your own sake). This is equivalent to saying - on my account. If a man who has money in a bank authorizes you to withdraw it, you are said to do it "in his name." Jesus authorized us to apply to His Father for aid because we are his friends. Even though we are undeserving, He loves us on account of our relationship with His Son. We can approach God in the name of His Son, receive salvation, and anything else that we need to serve Christ.

WHAT SHOULD I SAY WHEN I PRAY?

Jesus' disciples asked this very question: *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples"* **Luke 11:1**. This is what Jesus taught them to say:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 *"This is how you should pray:"*



1. *Our Father in heaven, Holy is Your name*
Begin by showing your appreciation to the Lord:
 - A. Praise and thank God for what he has DONE
- How has He answered your prayers already?
 - B. Worship and admire God for who he IS
- You could read a Psalm or Sing a worship song
2. *Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*
 - A. Submit your life and work to God's will
 - B. Pray for your circle: family, church, community
 - C. Pray for those in your circle who don't know Christ yet
3. *Give us this day our daily bread*
 - A. Thank God as your provider - count your blessings
 - B. Present requests - for yourself and others
 - C. Ask God for a generous spirit - to be a blessing to others
4. *Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*
 - A. Confess your sins to God (Exodus 20:1-17)
- Ask God to heal your sinfulness and hurts
 - B. Forgive those who have hurt you
- Ask God to help those who have hurt you
5. *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*
 - A. Lead us - listen for God's voice to guide you (1 Cor. 10:13)
 - B. Deliver us - seek the Lord's protection from evil
'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'
says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 4:6