

# Welcome!

Pursuing a relationship with God is the most important thing you will ever do! Whether you are a new believer in Christ, or someone who is simply curious about learning more, the Bible holds the answers. You can look on it as a “user’s manual to life” in a way. The more you read and study it, the more you learn about God and discover that the words and lessons of this book are still relevant for your life today.

The Bible is so much more than just the best selling book of all time. It is a life-changing source of wisdom, a powerful weapon against darkness, and a road map to the heart of God.

I encourage you to read and see how the words of the Bible apply to your life. Underline, highlight or circle the verses or phrases that touch your heart. Research more about the things that confuse you. But most of all, be open to how God’s word and His great love for you can encourage, mold and change you.

The Bible isn’t just a book of stories; these words were written for you. No matter where you have been, what you have done, or the circumstances you have experienced, you are deeply loved by God. As you explore the Bible, I pray that you will discover how your personal life story intertwines with God’s and His plans for you.

I am so excited for what God has in store for you as you read. I pray that your life is transformed by God’s word, that you will grow to understand how His love frees you, and that you will continue to be amazed by Him as you grow and mature in your faith.

Andy George  
Senior Pastor

# Becoming a Believer

## How Do I Become a Christian Believer?

You have probably heard people talking about salvation and being “saved.” You may be confused by what that even means. It doesn’t have to be complicated though. The simple truth is that God wants to have a personal relationship with you.

In our own strength, we could never be good enough to approach a holy God. All the bad things you have done or even thought about separate you from Him. But, God loves you so much that He sent His perfect son, Jesus, to come to earth, die on the cross for your sins, and make a way for you to be forgiven. Accepting this free gift of forgiveness is called salvation. The moment you believe in Jesus and turn away from your sins, you are considered a child of God.

Here are the simple steps:

**1. Recognize and confess that you are a sinner.**

Pray to God and admit that you know the bad things you have done in your life separate you from Him. (Look up Romans 3:23)

**2. Acknowledge that Jesus died on the cross for you.**

Thank Him for the gift of His son, Jesus, taking on the punishment for your sins and dying on the cross. (Look up Romans 5:6-8)

**3. Repent from your sin.**

Repent means to “turn away.” Tell God you are sorry for your sins and ask for His strength to stop sinning. (Look up Acts 3:19)

**4. Receive Christ into your life.**

Pray and ask Jesus to come into your heart and change it. When you invite Jesus into your heart, you are starting a personal relationship with Him that will last forever. (Look up John 1:12)

# Next Steps

## Now What?

You believe in Jesus, and you have picked up your Bible, but you may be thinking, “Now what do I do?” Hey, the fact that you have are reading this document, means that you are open to learning and are already taking a step forward. God has incredible things for you to discover by reading His Word. Whether you are a brand new believer, coming back to Christ after wandering away, or are just looking for a fresh way to strengthen your personal walk with the Lord, there are four key steps to take to grow in your faith.

### 1. Read and Learn

Faith grows when you feed it. Just as a baby craves milk, your new faith needs to be fueled by reading and studying the Bible. The Bible provides a firm foundation of truth and is where you learn who God is and how He works. Without a strong foundation, your faith will be easily shifted or distracted. Staying in God’s Word provides a way for you to stay grounded and rooted.

### 2. Pray

Prayer is a conversation with God. You can speak directly to Him because of Jesus and His sacrifice for you. In fact, God wants to hear from you! When you accepted Jesus, you became part of God’s family; you are His child. When you pray, He hears you and begins working in your life. Although God’s timing is often different than ours, He keeps His promises and is always faithful.

### 3. Connect with Others

You don’t have to go it alone. You are part of the family of God and we were created to do life together! You can join a small group or volunteer to serve in church. Get involved with other believers who are also growing in their faith. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Life is so much better when you are surrounded by people who encourage each other to grow and thrive.

### 4. Continue to Seek God and Believe in His Word

You have an enemy, but he cannot take your relationship with Jesus away from you. Satan hates to see people come to Christ and he will use your circumstances to

distract and discourage you from focusing on God. He will taunt you with your past sins, tempt you with enticing things or make you doubt your faith. But remember, the devil is a liar. You cannot lose your salvation. God's power is far greater than the devil's lies and schemes. When you feel attacked by the enemy, look for the truth of God's word (read it aloud), stay in prayer and stand firm. Ask others to join you in prayer.

Now, let's really dig in and start reading so your faith can grow!

# Grow in Your Faith

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## A 30 Day Devotional

Reading and studying the Bible is the best way to get to know God, learn about His ways and to discover who you are as one of His children and how He feels about you (spoiler: He's crazy about you!)

This 30 day reading plan will help you get started on building a strong foundation. Check off each day as you go so you can track your progress. There's no pressure to complete it all in 30 days; read it at a pace you find comfortable. Just don't give up!

As you read, you may wish to keep a journal or have a notebook handy for jotting down any special verses or new discoveries you make. Also, make sure to spend time praying each day and do the action tasks for the week.

## DAYS 1-5: A NEW LIFE

**Prayer Focus:** Jesus, thank You for dying for me and for paying the price for my sins. My sins are forgiven and I am a new because of my faith in you. Help me to let you direct me and discover the life You have planned for me. Amen.

**Action:** As you read through this section's verses, write down one that stands out to you. Try to memorize it this week. If possible, share the verse with someone else and tell them why it means something to you. Ask that person to memorize the verse with you.

- ☐ **Day 1: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.** God chose you right as you are, but He loves you too much to leave you where you are. When you believe in Jesus, you are a new creation!
- ☐ **Day 2: 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1-2.** You are forgiven and free from condemnation (punishment from God) because of what Jesus has done for you.
- ☐ **Day 3: 2 Peter 1:3-9; Ephesians 1:3.** The moment you were saved, you were given everything you need to live a life of godliness. God will guide and empower you.
- ☐ **Day 4: 1 John 5:10-13.** Before Jesus, you were condemned to death, but you now have eternal life through Christ! Nothing can ever change that.
- ☐ **Day 5: John 10:7-10.** Believing in Jesus doesn't just guarantee eternal life in Heaven, it promises a full and meaningful life here on Earth, despite your circumstances.

## DAYS 6-10: YOUR ASSURANCE

**Prayer Focus:** God, people may have let me down in my life, but you have promised me that you will never leave me. Although there is so much I don't understand, help me remember that you love me and that I can always trust in You. Amen.

**Action:** Talk to someone about Jesus this week. Share a favorite Bible verse on social media, invite a friend to church, or tell a friend how excited you are about starting your relationship with Jesus.

- ☐ **Day 6: Hebrews 13:5-8.** God has your back; you are never alone. Jesus will never, ever leave you. He can be trusted completely because He never changes.
- ☐ **Day 7: Ephesians 2:6-10.** Life with Jesus is a gift. You could never have earned God's grace on your own, but through Jesus it was given freely. He chose you.
- ☐ **Day 8: Romans 8:35-39.** Allow yourself the luxury of knowing you are loved and secure. Absolutely nothing can separate you from God's love.

- ☐ **Day 9: Proverbs 3:5-6.** God doesn't expect you to fully understand Him, but He does want you to listen and obey Him. Even when you don't know what to do, you can trust that God, who loves you so much, will point you in the right direction.
- ☐ **Day 10: 1 John 3:1.** You have been adopted into God's family. He considers you as His son or daughter and is generous with His unconditional love.

## DAYS 11-15: YOU WERE DESIGNED BY GOD

**Prayer Focus:** God, thank You for creating me and for understanding me even better than I understand myself. Far too many times, I wrestle with insecurity or feelings of worthlessness. Help me to see that I was created specifically by you and that I am cherished. Amen.

**Action:** Reach out to someone who has greatly influenced you. Thank them for the impact they have made on your life. Find a way to do the same for someone else.

- ☐ **Day 11: Psalm 139:13-18.** You were beautifully designed. God has a purpose for every day of your life and thinks about you all the time. What love!
- ☐ **Day 12: Genesis 1:24-31.** God not only created you, but He wants to shape you into His likeness. He designed you to have a personal relationship with Him.
- ☐ **Day 13: Luke 12:6-7.** Do you ever feel like no one really knows you? You are so valuable to God, that He even knows the number of hairs on your head!
- ☐ **Day 14: Psalm 147:1-5.** God gets you. Even when you don't understand yourself, He sees your heart, your hurts and your intentions. His understanding has no limit.
- ☐ **Day 15: Zephaniah 3:17.** It's easy to think of God as an abstract being, but this verse paints a different picture of a God who loves you so much that He celebrates over you with dancing and singing!

## DAYS 16-20: MOVING FORWARD - LIFE IS A JOURNEY

**Prayer Focus:** Jesus, I believe You have gone before me into every situation I will ever face. You have a purpose and a plan for me. Give me the courage to trust where you lead me and to glorify you in every way. Amen.

**Action:** Draw two columns in your notebook. On one side write down some of the biggest moments in your life (for example: your first job, choosing a college, moving somewhere new.) Then, look over these moments and jot down the ways God guided or protected you. Think about how He used each incident in your life. In the second column, list some

challenges you are currently facing. Take a moment each day to pray over them. Trust and look for how He is going to show up in each circumstance.

- ☐ **Day 16: *Colossians 2:6-15*.** The Christian life is a process, not a project. You are spiritually born again in a moment, but you learn to follow Jesus day by day.
- ☐ **Day 17: *Psalms 143:4-10*.** You can be authentic, raw and real with God. Pour out your heart to Him. You can trust in Him to guide you because He is always faithful.
- ☐ **Day 18: *Romans 8:26-28*.** God is loving, kind, and He has a plan for all of us. Even when we don't understand, He's working something for our good.
- ☐ **Day 19: *Hebrews 11*.** Living by faith means believing that God has a greater purpose, even when your circumstances seem hopeless. Just because you can't see what He is doing, doesn't mean that He is not at work.
- ☐ **Day 20: *Acts 2:42-47*.** You must choose to follow Jesus yourself, but do not have to walk the Christian journey alone. We were created to thrive in community with other believers. Together you will encourage and strengthen each other in faith.

## **DAYS 21-25: DON'T GIVE UP!**

**Prayer Focus:** God, thank You for giving me a second chance. Even when I can't see it, You are changing me and making me more like You every day. Teach me how to stand firm even in the midst of struggles. Amen.

**Action:** Listen to the needs of others, then do something nice for a neighbor or co-worker to show you care. Invite them to church with you. If their first response is "no" continue to serve them so they can see Jesus in you.

- ☐ **Day 21: *1 Peter 5:8*.** You have an enemy who hates God and wants to destroy you. Be aware! The best defense is to stay grounded in the truth of God's word.
- ☐ **Day 22: *1 John 1:9*.** Do not stay defeated when you mess up. Satan loves to tell you that you have failed. Confess your sin, accept Christ's forgiveness and move forward.
- ☐ **Day 23: *Jeremiah 1:4-9*.** Don't compare yourself to others. God has already chosen you. You don't have to live up to anyone else's expectations. Just live out your calling.
- ☐ **Day 24: *Joshua 1:7-9*.** Life can look pretty overwhelming. Your challenges can seem very daunting, but take heart. God calls you to be courageous and will be with you.
- ☐ **Day 25: *2 Corinthians 1:3-7*.** Pain is not wasted. God can use struggles you face and survive to encourage and comfort others when they are going through difficult times.



## DAYS 26-30: FOCUS ON JESUS

**Prayer Focus:** Jesus, You change everything. When I put my focus on You, everything looks different. Teach me to place You at the center of my life so that everything I do flows out of my love for you. Amen.

**Action:** Get involved with other people at church this week, if you haven't yet. Join a small group or find a place to volunteer and serve. We were not meant to live life alone. Being surrounded by other believers will help grow your faith.

- ☐ **Day 26: *Philippians 4:4-13*.** Joy is found by centering your life on Jesus. Prayer, thankfulness and fixing your mind on Christ will allow you to experience peace.
- ☐ **Day 27: *Psalms 100:1-5*.** Gratitude is the key that unlocks the presence of God in every situation of your life. Focus on saying, "Thank you, Jesus," every single day.
- ☐ **Day 28: *John 16:31-33*.** Placing Jesus at the center of your life doesn't solve all your problems, but He promises us hope in even your darkest moments.
- ☐ **Day 29: *John 3:16-17*.** At times we need to be reminded that "it's not about you" or what you can do. We are called to live in the light of what Jesus has already done.
- ☐ **Day 30: *John 14:11-14*.** When you place your focus on Christ, He will work through you to do incredible things. Your life can glorify the Son of God!