A GIFT FOR YOU

I Believe in God, But Who Is Jesus?

Stay close to the Shepherd,
and away from the fence line.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

This booklet was given to you with care

Given to you with care by: _____

Contact: _____

_____

QR CODE

Scan or tap to listen and read along

Listen and read along. Scan the code with your phone's camera, or tap the card that came with this booklet. It opens a page where you can hear the message in this booklet read aloud while you follow along.

The person who gave you this would love to hear from you.
Questions are welcome. So is a cup of coffee.

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PREFACE

Before You Begin

Why someone gave you this

Someone who cares about you put this booklet in your hands. They didn't do it to argue with you or to make you feel small. They did it because they found something that changed their life, and they wanted you to have it too.

Maybe you already believe in God. You can see His handiwork in the sky, the sea, and a newborn baby's face. Something deep inside tells you life has meaning. That belief matters. But a natural question follows: *If God is real, has He told us who He is? And who is this Jesus that so many people talk about?*

This booklet answers that question from the Bible, in plain words. It is not about joining a club or keeping a list of rules. It is about meeting the God who made you, and finding out how much He loves you.

A thread that runs through these pages

In the very first pages of the Bible, the enemy of our souls came to the first woman with a question: *"Did God actually say …?"* (Genesis 3:1) From that day until now, the oldest trick has been the same: to plant a seed of doubt about what God has said.

This booklet is an invitation to do the opposite: to hear what God has actually said, and to trust Him. The Bible calls this believing God's report. Our hope is that a small seed, as small as a mustard seed, will be planted in your heart and begin to grow.

How to use this booklet

- **Listen.** Scan the code or tap the card inside the front cover to hear the message read aloud.

- **Read along.** Chapter 1 follows the same words you will hear, so you can read while you listen.
- **Go at your own pace.** There is no rush. Read a little each day. Come back to the parts that speak to you.
- **Look up words.** When you see a church word you don't know, turn to the Glossary at the back.
- **Ask questions.** Chapter 10 answers common questions people ask. And the person who gave you this would be glad to talk.

All Bible quotations in this booklet are from the English Standard Version (ESV). When you see a reference like (John 3:16), it means the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 16.

CHAPTER 1

The Good News

This chapter follows the narrated message. Listen and read along.

You are loved

Before anything else, hear this:

> *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
>
> John 3:16

You are loved. In the next few pages, we'll walk through the good news of Jesus Christ, which the Bible calls the *gospel*. It's simple enough for a child, and deep enough for a lifetime. Let's begin.

God made us, and God is holy

The story starts with God. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells us:

> *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
>
> Genesis 1:27

You were made on purpose, by a God who loves you. And this God is *holy*. That means He is completely pure, good, and right, with no evil in Him at all. The angels cry out, *"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"* (Isaiah 6:3)

Who is God, really?

When some people hear that God is holy, they picture someone harsh and distant. Maybe a parent was cold, angry, or hurtful, and it's hard to imagine God any other way. Or maybe someone you loved died, and in your pain you've blamed God. If that's you, those feelings are real, and God is not afraid of them.

But an earthly parent's failures are not a picture of God. The Bible says, *"For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in."* (Psalm 27:10)

If you want to know what God is really like, look at Jesus. He said, *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."* (John 14:9) Jesus welcomed children, touched the outcasts, and wept at His friend's grave.

Death is not God being cruel. The Bible calls death an enemy, one that came into the world through sin, and one that Jesus came to defeat: *"The last enemy to be destroyed is death."* (1 Corinthians 15:26) And *"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted"* (Psalm 34:18). God's holiness means He is perfectly good, never cruel, never unfair, and always true.

The problem: sin separates

But we have all turned away. *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23)

So what is sin? Sin is going our own way instead of God's. It breaks His law, misses the good He made us for, and it always ends up harming us and the people around us. But sin isn't just a mistake. It's a wrong done against the God who made us and loves us, and it breaks our relationship with Him.

And it carries a cost: *"For the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). Sin separates us from the holy God who made us, and we cannot fix it on our own.

Why do we need a Savior?

Let's be honest with ourselves, using God's Ten Commandments as a mirror (Exodus 20:1–17).

> **Love God:** 1. No other gods. 2. No idols. 3. Do not take His name in vain. 4. Keep the Sabbath holy. 5. Honor your father and mother.
> **Love people:** 6. Do not murder. 7. Do not commit adultery. 8. Do not steal. 9. Do not lie. 10. Do not covet.

The first five show how we sin against God, and the next five show how we sin against people. Have you ever told a lie, even a small one? Have you ever taken something that wasn't yours, no matter how little?

Jesus said, *"everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart"* (Matthew 5:28). His point is for all of us, men and women alike: if anyone lusts after another person, God sees it as adultery of the heart, even if no one else ever knows. Have you ever put something ahead of God, or used His name carelessly?

If we're honest, every one of us has to say yes. And the Bible says, *"For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it."* (James 2:10) That isn't meant to shame us. It's meant to show us the truth, because *"through the law comes knowledge of sin"* (Romans 3:20). The law can't save us. It shows us we need someone who can.

The first promise

Yet on the very day sin entered the world, God made a promise. He said to the serpent:

> *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*
>
> Genesis 3:15

One day a Son of the woman would come, crush the enemy, and be wounded doing it. From the very beginning, God planned a rescue.

God's covering, not ours

Many people today believe there are many paths to God. But look at what happened in the very beginning. After Adam and Eve sinned, they felt shame, and they tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. That was the first human attempt to fix sin, and it didn't work. They hid.

But God came looking for them, calling, *"Where are you?"* (Genesis 3:9) Then God did something they could never do for themselves: *"And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them."* (Genesis 3:21)

For that covering, an animal had to die, perhaps a lamb, an animal Adam himself had named. From the start, God was teaching a lesson that runs through the whole Bible: *"without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins"* (Hebrews 9:22).

Our own efforts are fig leaves. Only God's covering works. Jesus said, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved"* (John 10:9). And He said:

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

Thank God, Adam and Eve came out of hiding and received His covering, instead of staying in their shame.

God came Himself

And then, God came Himself.

> *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
>
> John 1:1

And *"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14). Jesus is not just a good teacher or a prophet. He is *Immanuel*, *"which means, God with us"*: God in the flesh, who came to rescue us.

Jesus even said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."* (John 8:58) He was using the very name God gave Himself when He spoke to Moses: *"I AM WHO I AM"* (Exodus 3:14). The crowd understood exactly what He meant. He was claiming to be God.

The cross: His blood takes away sin

Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live. He said, *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (John 10:11) No one took His life from Him; He laid it down. Then He went to the cross in our place.

> *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*
>
> 1 Peter 2:24

Isaiah saw it centuries before: *"he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities"* (Isaiah 53:5). When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29) Like the Passover lamb in Egypt, whose blood marked the doors so that judgment passed over, Jesus is God's Lamb. And John writes, *"the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). His blood takes away sin. Not some of it. All of it.

The Judge took our place

Think of a courtroom. A good judge can't just ignore the law. If someone is guilty, the sentence must be carried out, or the judge isn't just. God is a perfect Judge, and He will not pretend our sin didn't happen.

But here is the wonder of the gospel: Jesus, who is God, and who will judge the world, came down from the judge's bench and took our sentence on Himself. That's how God can be *"just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"* (Romans 3:26).

We see it on the very day He died. At the Passover feast, the governor had a custom of releasing one prisoner, whoever the crowd chose. Pilate offered them Jesus, but the people cried out, *"release to us Barabbas"* (Luke 23:18). Barabbas was a guilty man, a rebel and a murderer, and he walked free while the innocent Jesus went to the cross in his place.

Then, on the cross, two criminals hung beside Jesus. One of them railed at Him, saying, *"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"* (Luke 23:39) But the other rebuked him:

> *Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly ... but this man has done nothing wrong.*
>
> Luke 23:40–41

Then he said, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* (Luke 23:42) And Jesus answered, *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."* (Luke 23:43)

Both men were guilty, and both were dying. One mocked Jesus; the other trusted Him. He had no time to earn anything. He simply trusted Jesus, and he was forgiven.

One day, every one of us will stand before God, meeting Him face to face and answering to Him for our lives. But for everyone who trusts Jesus, the verdict is already in. We are *justified* by His blood, declared not guilty. *"as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us"* (Psalm 103:12). When we give account, we stand covered by the blood of the Lamb: *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 8:1)

It is finished, and He is risen

On the cross, Jesus said, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). The debt was paid in full. Nothing is left for us to add. Then, just as the Scriptures said:

> *Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*
>
> 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

The empty tomb is God's proof that the payment was accepted, and death is defeated. Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25).

Saved by grace, through faith alone

So how do we receive this gift? Not by earning it.

> *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
>
> Ephesians 2:8–9

We are saved by faith alone, in Christ alone.

Believe God's report: repent and trust Jesus

Jesus said, *"repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15). To *repent* is to change your mind: to turn from going your own way, and turn to God. *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out"* (Acts 3:19).

To *believe* is to trust what God has said about His Son.

> *if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
>
> Romans 10:9

This is God's report: *"that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son"* (1 John 5:11).

Trust Him today

If you're ready to trust Jesus, you can tell Him right now, in your own words. There are no magic words. God looks at the heart. You might pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned. I believe You are God in the flesh, that Your blood paid for my sin, that it is finished, and that You rose again. I turn from my sin and trust You alone. Thank You for saving me. Amen.

If you prayed that, God has done something you could never do for yourself. Jesus told a very religious man named Nicodemus, *"unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Being good or religious isn't enough; we need new life from God. And when you trust Jesus, God gives you that new birth by His Spirit.

> *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:17

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). Welcome to God's family.

CHAPTER 2

What You Just Believed

Let's take a moment and look at what you just believed. Read it slowly. If you trusted Jesus, every line is now true of you.

- **God made you, and He loves you.** You are not an accident.
- **Your sin separated you from Him,** and you couldn't fix it on your own.
- **Jesus, God in the flesh, took your place** on the cross, and His blood paid for your sin.
- **He rose again,** and the work is finished. Nothing is left for you to add.
- **By trusting Him,** not your own goodness, you are forgiven and made right with God.
- **You have been born again** as God's child, with new life from His Spirit.

You have been born again

Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus: unless a person is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Nicodemus was a respected religious teacher. If anyone could have earned his way to God, it was him. But Jesus said he needed something only God could give: a brand-new start, from the inside out.

That new birth is not something you do. It is something God does in you when you trust His Son. *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). You may not feel different right away, and that's okay. A newborn baby doesn't understand much yet, but it is fully alive. You are, too.

And you belong. You are now a child of God, part of His family (John 1:12).

You can be sure

Many people hope they will go to heaven but are never sure. God doesn't want you to wonder. He wrote it down so you could know:

> *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*
>
> 1 John 5:13

Your certainty doesn't rest on how strong your faith feels today. It rests on who Jesus is and what He promised. And Jesus is a Shepherd who holds on to His sheep:

> *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*
>
> John 10:28

On hard days, when doubts come (and they will), come back to this page. Remember the oldest trick: *"Did God actually say …?"* Yes. He did. And He keeps His word.

CHAPTER 3

The Seed and the Soil

Jesus often taught with *parables*: simple stories from everyday life that carry a deeper meaning. One of His best-known parables is about a farmer planting seed. It is really about our hearts.

The story

> *"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."*
>
> Matthew 13:3–9

When His friends asked why He taught in stories, Jesus answered:

> *And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."*
>
> Matthew 13:11

Understanding God's truth is a gift. If these pages are starting to make sense to you, that is God at work. Ask Him to keep opening your eyes.

Jesus explains the story

Later Jesus explained the story Himself (you can read His words in Matthew 13:18–23). The seed is *"the word of the kingdom"*: God's message. The four kinds of ground are four ways people hear it. The difference is never the seed. It is always the soil.

Four kinds of ground, four kinds of hearts

The path: a hard heart. The word bounces off, and the enemy snatches it away before it can sink in. *Guard against:* brushing off what you've heard.

The rocky ground: a shallow heart. There is quick joy, but no roots. When life gets hard, faith withers. *Guard against:* faith that lives only on feelings.

The thorns: a crowded heart. Worries and the chase for money choke out the word. *Guard against:* letting busy-ness and worry crowd out God.

The good soil: an open heart. It hears, understands, holds on, and bears fruit over time.

Here is the hopeful part: soil can change. A farmer breaks up hard ground, clears the rocks, and pulls the weeds. God can do the same in us. Pray, *"Lord, make my heart good soil."*

The first doubt

Notice who snatches the seed away: *"the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart"* (Matthew 13:19). He has worked this way from the beginning, when the serpent came to Eve in the garden:

> *He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"*
>
> Genesis 3:1

He didn't start with a lie. He started with a question that made God's word sound unsure, and God Himself sound unkind. Then came the lie: *"You will not surely die."* (Genesis 3:4) The first step away from God was doubting what He had said. The first step back is trusting it. *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17)

Small seed, big tree

Maybe your faith feels tiny right now. Jesus has good news for you:

> *The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*
>
> Matthew 13:31–32

And again: *"For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."* (Matthew 17:20)

It isn't the size of your faith that saves you. It's the size of the God you trust. A small seed of trust in a great God is enough to start. Water it with His word, and give it time.

CHAPTER 4

Getting to Know Your Bible

The Bible is God's word to us. It isn't one book but a library of 66 books, written by many writers over many centuries, telling one big story: God made us, we turned away, and God came to rescue us through Jesus.

> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*
>
> 2 Timothy 3:16

An easy way to remember

B · I · B · L · E

Basic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth

This is a memory aid people use, not a verse from the Bible. But it points to something true: God has given us what we need to know Him and to live well.

The Bible is more than instructions, though. It is a love letter, a history, a songbook, and the story of a Savior. Most of all, it shows us Jesus. Jesus said the Scriptures *"bear witness about me"* (John 5:39).

> *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
>
> Psalm 119:105

How the Bible is arranged

- **The Old Testament** (39 books) tells of creation, the first sin, and God's promises to send a Savior.

- **The New Testament** (27 books) tells of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and how His first followers lived.
- **The four Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are eyewitness-based accounts of Jesus' life.
- **References** work like an address: "John 3:16" means the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16.

Start with one version you understand

The Bible was first written mostly in Hebrew and Greek. Today it has been carefully translated into many languages and many versions. Different versions say the same things in slightly different words. Some stay very close to the original wording, and some are written in simpler, everyday language.

Start with one version you can understand in your own language, and stick with it for a while. This booklet uses the English Standard Version (ESV).

> **A free tool:** The YouVersion Bible App (**bible.com**) is free on your phone or computer. It lets you read and listen to the Bible in many versions and languages, and compare versions side by side when a verse is hard to understand. You can also read the ESV online at **esv.org**.

Where to start

Start with the **Gospel of John**. It was written *"so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"* (John 20:31). John has 21 chapters. Read one a day, and in three weeks you'll have read the whole story of Jesus from a close friend who was there.

How to read: three simple steps

1. **Read a short passage.** A few verses or one chapter is plenty. Read it slowly, maybe twice.
2. **Ask two questions.** *What does this say about God?* and *What does this say about me?* Jot down one thing you notice.
3. **Pray.** Talk to God about what you read. Thank Him, ask Him questions, and ask for help to live it.

Don't worry if you don't understand everything. Nobody does at first. Write down your questions and ask the person who gave you this booklet. That's how all of us learn.

CHAPTER 5

Your First Bible Study: Who Is Jesus?

Read these passages from the Gospel of John, then answer the questions. You can do this alone, or better yet, with the person who gave you this booklet. An answer key is at the end of this chapter.

Read: John 1:1–14

"The Word" is a name for Jesus. Verse 14 tells us the Word became a human being. (Verses 6–8, left out here, tell about John the Baptist, who came to point people to Jesus.)

> *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
>
> *...*
>
> *9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

> *14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
>
> John 1:1–14

Read: John 3:16–18

> *16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*
>
> John 3:16–18

Read: Jesus in His own words

> *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*
>
> John 10:11

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

Read: Why John wrote

> *30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*
>
> John 20:30–31

Questions to talk about

1. According to John 1:1–3, who was "the Word," and what part did He have in creation?

2. John 1:14 says "the Word became flesh." What does that tell you about who Jesus is?

3. In John 1:12, what does God give to those who receive Jesus?

4. What does John 3:16 say about why God sent His Son?

5. John 3:17 says God did not send His Son to condemn the world. Does that change how you picture God? How?

6. In John 10:11, what does the good shepherd do for his sheep? How does that point to the cross?

7. In John 14:6, how many ways to the Father does Jesus give? Why might that be good news and not bad news?

8. According to John 20:31, why was John's Gospel written? What is one thing you want to ask Jesus after reading these verses?

Answer key

1. The Word is Jesus. He was with God and was God, and all things were made through Him. He is not a created being; He is the Creator.

2. God became a real human being. Jesus is fully God and fully man, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

3. The right to become children of God. It is a gift received by believing, not earned by being good (John 1:12–13).

4. Because God loved the world, so that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.

5. Personal answer. God's purpose in sending Jesus was rescue, not condemnation. He came to save.

6. He lays down his life for them. Jesus gave His life on the cross for us, by His own choice (John 10:18).

7. One. It is good news because there is a real, open way to God, and Jesus Himself is that way, open to anyone who comes to Him.

8. So that we may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have life in His name. The second part is personal. Bring your question to God in prayer, and to the person who gave you this booklet.

CHAPTER 6

First Steps of the New Life

A new baby doesn't run on the first day. It grows step by step. The new life in Christ is the same. These ten steps aren't a ladder to earn God's love. You already have it. They are simply how God's children grow. Take them one at a time, and don't be discouraged when you stumble.

1. Believe: rest in what Jesus has done

Your new life starts and stays with trusting Jesus. *"whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life"* (John 5:24)

2. Repent and confess, every day

Repenting isn't a one-time thing. It is a daily turning back to God. When we sin, we don't hide like Adam and Eve. We come into the light. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9)

Confessing doesn't save us again; we were made right with God once for all by Jesus' blood. Think of a child. When a child disobeys, he doesn't stop being his father's child. But he comes and says, "I'm sorry," so nothing stands between them. That's why Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father":

> *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*
>
> Matthew 6:9–13

And when we fail, Jesus speaks up for us: *"But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* (1 John 2:1)

3. Read the Word

Feed your soul every day, even a little. Jesus said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4) Start with the Gospel of John (see Chapter 4).

4. Pray

Prayer is simply talking with God, honestly, like a child with a loving Father. *"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

5. Join a church family

You were never meant to walk this alone. The first believers *"devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers"* (Acts 2:42).

> *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
>
> Hebrews 10:24–25

No church is perfect, because it is full of forgiven people who are still growing. Look for one that teaches the Bible and points to Jesus. The person who gave you this booklet can help.

6. Be baptized

Jesus told His followers to make disciples, *"baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). On the first day the church began, *"those who received his word were baptized"* (Acts 2:41). Baptism doesn't earn

salvation (the thief on the cross was never baptized), but it is a joyful first step of obeying Jesus. It is a public picture of what He has done: your old life buried, and your new life raised up with Him.

7. Forgive

Forgiven people learn to forgive. It may take time, and it doesn't mean pretending a wrong didn't hurt. It means handing the debt over to God. *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* (Ephesians 4:32)

8. Guard what you feed your heart

What we watch, listen to, and dwell on shapes us. *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."* (Proverbs 4:23)

Fill your mind with good things: *"whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely … think about these things"* (Philippians 4:8).

9. Serve

Jesus *"came not to be served but to serve"* (Mark 10:45). Look for small ways to help someone this week. *"through love serve one another"* (Galatians 5:13).

10. Share your story

You don't have to be a preacher. Just tell what happened to you. The woman at the well ran to her town and said, *"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"* (John 4:29) Jesus told a man He had set free, *"Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."* (Mark 5:19)

CHAPTER 7

Healing Starts with a Changed Mind

In Jerusalem, by the Sheep Gate, there was a pool called Bethesda, surrounded by covered porches. A crowd of sick people lay there: blind, lame, and paralyzed, hoping to be healed. Jesus walked in among them and stopped beside one man.

> *5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.*
>
> John 5:2–9

"Do you want to be healed?"

It seems like a strange question to ask a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Of course he wanted to be well! But Jesus asks it on purpose. After a very long time, it is easy to get used to things as they are, even when they are hurting us. Jesus' question goes to the heart: *Do you really want things to change?*

The reasons we give

Notice that the man never actually says "yes." Instead, he explains why it hasn't happened: *No one helps me. Someone always beats me to it.* His reasons were real, and his pain was real. But he was

looking at the pool, at other people, and at his own weakness. He wasn't yet looking at the One standing right in front of him.

We do the same. *It's my family. It's my past. It's too late. I've tried before.* Jesus listens to every one of those reasons with kindness. And then He invites us to stop leaning on them, and to start trusting Him.

Healing starts with a changed mind

In the Bible, the word *repent* carries the idea of a changed mind. It means turning around: from our way to God's way, from our excuses to His word. Real change begins on the inside, with what we believe, and then it shows on the outside, in how we live.

Mustard-seed trust

Jesus didn't need the pool. He simply said, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." The man didn't have great faith, but he did what Jesus said, and he got up. You don't need huge faith either. Remember the mustard seed (Chapter 3). A small trust in a great Savior is enough to take the first step.

A change of lifestyle

Later Jesus found the same man and told him, *"See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."* (John 5:14) Healing wasn't the end of the story. It was the start of a new way of living. God cares about the whole person: soul, mind, relationships, and body. Turning to Him often means letting go of habits that are slowly hurting us, and learning new ones that bring life. The next chapter looks at one place where many of us can start: how we care for our bodies.

Some steps to take

- Answer Jesus' question honestly in prayer: *"Lord, yes. I want to be made well."*

- Name one excuse you've been leaning on, and give it to God.
- Take one small step of obedience this week, even a very small one.
- Ask someone you trust to pray with you and walk with you.

A gentle and honest note. We cannot promise that every illness will be healed in this life. Faithful believers still get sick, and sickness is not always caused by a person's own sin. Jesus said of a man born blind, *"It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."* (John 9:3) The apostle Paul prayed for his own affliction to be removed, and God answered, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9) One day God will make all things new, with no more pain at all. Until then, please keep seeing your doctor. Nothing in this booklet replaces medical care.

CHAPTER 8

Your Body Is a Temple

> *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
>
> 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

When you trust Jesus, God's Spirit comes to live in you. That makes your body a kind of temple, a place where God lives. Jesus bought you with His own blood. Your body matters to Him, and caring for it is one way to say thank you.

The apostle John wrote to a friend, *"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."* (3 John 1:2)

We take better care of our cars

Think about it. Most of us would never pour just anything into a car's gas tank. We use the right fuel, change the oil, and listen for strange noises. Yet we often put almost anything into our own bodies, skip sleep, and ignore the warning lights, and then wonder why we feel run down.

Your body is far more precious than any car. You only get one, and God made it.

Eat from God's table

From the very beginning, God gave people good food to eat:

> *And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."*
>
> Genesis 1:29

A simple way to begin is to eat more foods that look the way God made them: vegetables, fruits, beans, whole grains, nuts, and seeds, along with other simple, fresh foods. And eat less of what comes heavily processed in boxes, bags, and drive-through windows, with lots of added sugar, salt, and ingredients you can't pronounce.

When Daniel was a young man in a foreign king's palace, he asked, *"Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink."* (Daniel 1:12) At the end of the ten days, he and his friends looked healthier than the others (Daniel 1:15).

Drink what sustains life

Water is God's simple gift for our thirst, and our bodies need plenty of it every day. Many of us drink most of our sugar in sodas, sweet coffees, and energy drinks. Try swapping one of these for water each day. The Bible also warns, *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18).

> *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
>
> 1 Corinthians 10:31

Keep learning

Learning about nutrition is part of caring well for God's gift. Doctors and researchers keep learning more about how whole foods, movement, sleep, and rest affect our health. Start small. Change one thing at a time, and give yourself grace. This isn't about earning God's love. You already have it. It's about stewarding (caring well for) the body He gave you.

Recommended videos (coming soon). A short list of helpful videos from doctors and researchers will be added to the listening page. Scan or tap the code inside the front cover to find them when they are ready.

A sample day of whole foods

General ideas, not medical advice. Please check with your doctor before making big changes to how you eat, especially if you have diabetes, heart or kidney problems, food allergies, are pregnant, or take medication.

Morning	Oatmeal topped with berries and a few walnuts, or eggs scrambled with spinach and tomatoes. A glass of water.
Midday	A big salad of leafy greens, beans or chicken, cucumbers, carrots, and a drizzle of olive oil and lemon. A piece of fruit.
Snack	An apple or banana with a small handful of nuts, or carrot sticks and hummus.
Evening	Baked fish or a hearty lentil and vegetable stew, a sweet potato or brown rice, and steamed vegetables.
All day	Water, plenty of it. Herbal tea is a good choice too. Go easy on sugary drinks.

CHAPTER 9

The Fruit of the Spirit

When God's Spirit lives in you, He begins to grow something new in your life. The Bible calls it "fruit," because it grows naturally over time, the way an apple grows on a healthy tree. It is not a list of rules to work up in your own strength. It is what God produces in a life that stays connected to Him.

> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
>
> Galatians 5:22–23

What the fruit looks like

Love: caring for others the way God cares for you, even when it costs you something.

Joy: a deep gladness in God that is still there on hard days.

Peace: a settled heart that trusts God is in control.

Patience: putting up with people and delays without giving up or blowing up.

Kindness: treating others gently, the way Jesus treated you.

Goodness: doing what is right and helpful, even when no one is watching.

Faithfulness: keeping your word and staying loyal to God and to people.

Gentleness: strength under control: firm when needed, never harsh.

Self-control: saying no to what harms you, and yes to what is good, with God's help.

Stay connected to the vine

A branch doesn't grow fruit by straining. It stays connected to the vine. Jesus said:

> *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
>
> John 15:5

To *abide* means to stay and make your home in Him: trusting Him, talking with Him, reading His word, and staying close to His people. Fruit takes time to ripen. Keep close to the Vine, and He will do the growing.

CHAPTER 10

Common Questions, Honestly Answered

Questions are welcome. God isn't afraid of them, and neither are we. Here are short answers to twenty-three questions people often ask. Each one could fill a book, so treat these as a starting place, and keep asking.

1. How do we know God even exists?

Every building has a builder: *"For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God."* (Hebrews 3:4) The order, beauty, and design of creation point to a Maker: *"his invisible attributes ... have been clearly perceived ... in the things that have been made"* (Romans 1:20). Our conscience, that inner sense of right and wrong, points to Him too.

2. Doesn't the Bible contradict itself?

Most "contradictions" fade when we read a passage in its context: who is speaking, to whom, and why. The four Gospels tell the same events from different viewpoints, much like honest witnesses who each notice different details. Different details are not the same as a contradiction. If a verse troubles you, bring it up. Good questions often lead to deeper understanding.

3. Hasn't the Bible been changed over time?

There are thousands of ancient handwritten copies of the New Testament, far more than for any other book from the ancient world, so scholars can compare them and see what was originally written. The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in 1947, include Old Testament copies about a thousand years older than those known before, and they show the text was carefully preserved. *"All Scripture is breathed out by God"* (2 Timothy 3:16).

4. Hasn't science disproved creation?

Science studies *how* the world works. The Bible tells us *who* made it and *why*. Many great scientists, such as Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton, and Michael Faraday, believed in God and saw their work as exploring His creation. *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1) *"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."* (Hebrews 11:3)

5. Wasn't Jesus just a good teacher?

A good teacher doesn't claim to be God, yet Jesus did. He said, *"I and the Father are one."* (John 10:30) and *"before Abraham was, I am."* (John 8:58) He told a paralyzed man, *"Son, your sins are forgiven"* (Mark 2:5), and the religious leaders rightly asked, *"Who can forgive sins but God alone?"* (Mark 2:7) As many have pointed out, a man who said these things would be either a liar, out of his mind, or truly the Lord. "Just a good teacher" isn't one of the choices He left us.

6. Did Jesus even exist?

Yes. Historians who were not Christians wrote about Him. The Roman historian Tacitus (around A.D. 116) wrote that "Christus" was executed by Pontius Pilate. The Jewish historian Josephus (around A.D. 93) mentioned "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James." In 1961, archaeologists found a stone at Caesarea Maritima bearing Pilate's name and title. Peter wrote, *"we did not follow cleverly devised myths ... but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty"* (2 Peter 1:16).

7. Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Paul lists people who saw the risen Jesus, including *"more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:3–8). In other words: "Go and ask them." The disciples went from hiding in fear to boldly preaching, and many died rather than deny what they had seen. People don't die for something they know they made up.

8. If God is good, why is there so much suffering?

God made a good world, and suffering came in when sin entered it (Genesis 3). God doesn't always tell us why a particular hurt happens. But He has not stayed far away from our pain. In Jesus, God came and suffered with us and for us on the cross. And He promises: *"for those who love God all things work together for good"* (Romans 8:28), and *"the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us"* (Romans 8:18).

9. Don't all religions lead to God?

Religions teach very different, even opposite, things about God, sin, and life after death, so they can't all be true. Most religions are about what we must do to reach God. The gospel is about what God did to reach us. Jesus said no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12)

10. Isn't the church full of hypocrites?

Sadly, sometimes it is, and Jesus was hardest of all on religious hypocrites. Jesus told a parable about weeds growing among the wheat. The master said, *"Let both grow together until the harvest"* (Matthew 13:30), and God will sort them out justly (Matthew 13:24–30). Every church is also full of real sinners who are still learning. Don't let people who fail keep you from the Savior who never does.

11. How could a loving God send anyone to hell?

A good judge who let guilty people go free would not be good. God is both loving and just. Sin earns death, but *"the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23) But the Judge Himself came to pay the penalty for us. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it (John 3:17). No one has to face that judgment alone. The gift is offered to all.

12. Doesn't the Bible support slavery?

This deserves an honest answer. God's law said, *"Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death."* (Exodus 21:16) So the kidnapping and selling of people, the kind of slave trade the world later knew, was punishable by death. Much servitude in ancient Israel was a way to work off debt, and the law gave protections and limits. But it is also true that Israel's law allowed buying servants from the surrounding nations and keeping them for life (Leviticus 25:44–46). Jesus explained that some laws allowed things in a hard-hearted world that were never God's ideal: *"from the beginning it was not so"* (Matthew 19:8). From the beginning, every person is made in God's image (Genesis 1:27), and the New Testament lists *"enslavers"* among the ungodly (1 Timothy 1:9–10). It was believers, moved by these truths, who led many of the fights to end slavery.

13. Hasn't religion caused most wars?

Some wars have been fought in the name of religion, and that is a real sorrow. But the *Encyclopedia of Wars* lists 1,763 wars in history, and it counts only 123 of them, about 7 percent, as religious wars. Greed, power, and land have caused far more. And Jesus told His followers to love their enemies (Matthew 5:44).

14. What about people who never heard about Jesus?

God is perfectly fair. *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"* (Genesis 18:25) He has shown Himself to everyone through creation (Romans 1:20) and conscience (Romans 2:14–16), and He will judge each person justly by the light they had. God *"desires all people to be saved"* (1 Timothy 2:4). That is exactly why Jesus sends His people to tell others. And now that you have heard, the question becomes: what will you do with Jesus?

15. If God made everything, who made God?

Everything that *begins* to exist needs a cause. But God never began. He has always been. *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."* (Psalm 90:2)

16. How can God be three and one?

The Bible teaches there is only one God: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."* (Deuteronomy 6:4) Yet the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each fully God, sharing one name: *"in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). This is called the Trinity. We can't fully understand it, and we shouldn't expect to fully understand an infinite God. But we can know it is true, because God has told us.

17. Isn't the God of the Old Testament cruel?

Read closely, and you'll find a God who is very patient. He waited four hundred years before judging the Amorites, because *"the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete"* (Genesis 15:16). And He says, *"As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live"* (Ezekiel 33:11). The God of the Old Testament is the same God who came in Jesus, full of grace and truth.

18. Isn't faith just believing without evidence?

Biblical faith is trust based on good reasons. Luke carefully researched eyewitness accounts so that his reader would *"have certainty concerning the things you have been taught"* (Luke 1:1–4). Believers are told to always be ready to give *"a reason for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15). Faith isn't a leap in the dark. It is trusting Someone who has proven trustworthy.

19. Are miracles even possible?

If there is a God who made nature, He is not trapped inside it. The One who made the laws of nature can act in His world. The biggest test case is the resurrection. Paul said everything rests on it: *"if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:14). And the evidence for it is strong (see question 7).

20. Isn't it arrogant to say Jesus is the only way?

It would be arrogant if we made it up. But Jesus said it, not us (John 14:6). And the door is open to everyone, whatever their past. In Jesus' story of the great banquet, the host says, *"Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled."* (Luke 14:23) We aren't saying, "We're better than you." We are one beggar telling another where to find bread.

21. Who decided which books are in the Bible?

The church didn't make these books Scripture. It recognized the books God had already given, books that came from the prophets and the apostles and were already being read by God's people. Jesus Himself affirmed the Old Testament: *"everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled"* (Luke 24:44).

22. I've done too much to be forgiven.

Paul once hunted down Christians. Later he wrote, *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost"* (1 Timothy 1:15) King David and the thief on the cross were forgiven too. Jesus' blood is bigger than your sin.

23. I'll think about it later.

None of us is promised tomorrow. God's invitation is for today: *"Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

CHAPTER 11

Stay Close to the Shepherd

Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, and He calls His people His sheep. That's not an insult. Sheep aren't strong or fast, and they can't defend themselves. Their safety is in staying near the shepherd. And this Shepherd loves His sheep so much that He laid down His life for them (John 10:11).

The fence line

Shepherds will tell you that some sheep spend their days along the fence line. They graze at the edge, poking their heads through, sure the grass is greener on the other side. Little by little, they drift farther from the shepherd. And the edge is where the danger is: the gaps in the fence, the steep places, the wolves.

It's the same with us. We rarely run from God all at once. We drift. We spend our time at the edges, tasting what's on the other side, half-listening to that old question, *"Did God actually say …?"* Until one day we find we have wandered a long way from home.

The answer isn't to try harder to be good. It is to stay close to the Shepherd: listen for His voice in His word, talk with Him in prayer, and stay with His flock.

> *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*
>
> John 10:27–28

And if you wander

If you do find yourself far from Him, don't hide. Listen to how Jesus describes the Shepherd's heart:

> *What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'*
>
> Luke 15:4–6

He doesn't drive the lost sheep home with a stick. He carries it home on His shoulders, rejoicing. That is how much He wants you.

Your next step

You were never meant to walk this new life alone. God gives us a family of believers to learn with, pray with, and grow with. Like the very first believers, we learn, pray, and share life together (Acts 2:42).

Reach out today. The person who gave you this booklet cares about you and thoughtfully shared it with you. Contact them and tell them what you decided, or simply what questions you have. Maybe over a cup of coffee.

They would love to hear from you, to pray with you, and to help you get connected with a church family where you can grow. Until then, read a chapter of John each day, and talk to God in your own words. He is listening.

Stay close to the Shepherd, and away from the fence line.

READING PLAN

21 Days in John

One chapter a day. Check the box when you finish. Ask: *What does this say about God? What does this say about me?* Then pray.

☐	Day 1	**John 1**	The Word became flesh
☐	Day 2	**John 2**	Water turned into wine
☐	Day 3	**John 3**	Nicodemus: “You must be born again”
☐	Day 4	**John 4**	The woman at the well
☐	Day 5	**John 5**	The man at the pool
☐	Day 6	**John 6**	“I am the bread of life”
☐	Day 7	**John 7**	Rivers of living water
☐	Day 8	**John 8**	“I am the light of the world”
☐	Day 9	**John 9**	A man born blind sees
☐	Day 10	**John 10**	“I am the good shepherd”
☐	Day 11	**John 11**	Lazarus raised from the dead
☐	Day 12	**John 12**	The King rides into Jerusalem
☐	Day 13	**John 13**	Jesus washes His friends’ feet
☐	Day 14	**John 14**	“I am the way, and the truth, and the life”
☐	Day 15	**John 15**	“I am the vine; you are the branches”
☐	Day 16	**John 16**	The Helper is promised
☐	Day 17	**John 17**	Jesus prays for His people
☐	Day 18	**John 18**	Arrested and put on trial
☐	Day 19	**John 19**	The cross: “It is finished”
☐	Day 20	**John 20**	The empty tomb
☐	Day 21	**John 21**	Breakfast by the sea: “Feed my sheep”

GLOSSARY

Church Words Made Plain

Advocate
Someone who speaks up for you, like a defense lawyer. Jesus is our Advocate with the Father when we sin (1 John 2:1).

Atonement
Making things right between God and people. Jesus did this by dying in our place to pay for our sin.

Baptism
Being placed under or washed with water as a public sign that you belong to Jesus: the old life buried, a new life raised with Him.

Believe / Faith
Trusting God and relying on what He has said, not just agreeing that something is true. Faith is leaning your whole weight on Jesus.

Blood of the Lamb
Jesus' death on the cross, pictured as a lamb sacrificed in our place. His blood washes away sin (1 John 1:7).

Born Again
The new spiritual life God gives when a person trusts Jesus. A fresh start from the inside out (John 3:3).

Church
Not a building, but God's people: everyone who belongs to Jesus. Also a local family of believers who meet together.

Confess
To agree with God and say it out loud: admitting our sin honestly, and declaring that Jesus is Lord.

Covenant
A solemn, binding promise. God makes covenants with His people and always keeps them.

Eternal Life
Life that never ends, with God. It begins the moment you trust Jesus and goes on forever.

Fruit of the Spirit
The good character God's Spirit grows in a believer: love, joy, peace, and more (Galatians 5:22–23).

Glory
God's greatness, beauty, and shining goodness. To "glorify" God is to show how great He is.

Gospel
"Good news." The message that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again, and that everyone who trusts Him is saved.

Grace
God's kindness that we don't deserve and can't earn. A free gift.

Holy
Set apart, completely pure and good. God is holy, with no evil in Him at all.

Holy Spirit
God Himself, the third person of the Trinity, who lives in every believer to guide, comfort, and change them.

Immanuel
A name for Jesus that means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

Intercede
To go to God on behalf of someone else. Jesus intercedes for His people, and we can pray for one another.

Justified
Declared "not guilty" and right with God, because Jesus paid for our sin. A legal word from the courtroom.

Lord
Master, the one in charge. To call Jesus "Lord" is to trust Him and follow Him as the rightful King of your life.

Mercy
God holding back the punishment we deserve. (Grace is getting what we don't deserve; mercy is not getting what we do deserve.)

Parable
A short story from everyday life that Jesus told to teach a spiritual truth.

Passover
The night God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. Families put a lamb's blood on their doorposts, and judgment passed over them. It pointed ahead to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Redeem / Ransom
To buy back or set free by paying a price. Jesus paid the price for our freedom with His own life (Mark 10:45).

Repent
To change your mind and turn around: from going your own way, to God's way.

Resurrection
Coming back to life from death, in a real body. Jesus rose on the third day, and He will raise His people too.

Righteous
Right with God; good and just in His eyes. Believers are counted righteous because of Jesus, not their own goodness.

Salvation
Being rescued by God from sin and its penalty, and brought into His family forever.

Sanctified
Set apart for God. Also the lifelong process of God making us more like Jesus.

Sin
Going our own way instead of God's. A wrong done against the God who made us and loves us, which harms us and our relationships.

Stand before God
To meet God face to face and answer to Him for our lives. Those who trust Jesus stand covered by His blood, with no condemnation.

Trinity
The Bible's teaching that there is one God who exists as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Worship
Honoring God as worthy of our love and praise, with our songs, our words, and our whole lives.

STEP 10

My Story

You don't need to be a preacher to share what Jesus has done. Jot down your story in a few lines, so you're ready when someone asks.

Before I trusted Jesus, my life was ...

How I came to trust Him ...

What is different now ...

PRAYER

People I'm Praying For

Who in your life needs to hear the good news? Write their names here, pray for them by name, and ask God for a chance to share.

- ☐
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- ☐

Pray, and when the time is right, share your story. You can ask the person who gave you this booklet for a copy to pass along.

NOTES

My Notes and Questions



Let's Meet for Coffee

Questions? Decided to trust Jesus? Just want to talk?
The person who gave you this would love to hear from you.
Coffee is on them.

Given to you with care by: _____

Contact: _____

Let's meet: _____

Stay close to the Shepherd,
and away from the fence line.

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