#### YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS, NOW WHAT?



# 1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RECEIVE CHRIST?

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JESUS ISN'T ONE OF MANY WAYS—HE IS THE ONLY WAY (JOHN 14:6).
SALVATION ISN'T FOUND IN ANYONE ELSE (ACTS 4:12).
CHOOSING HIM MEANS CHOOSING TO DIE TO YOUR OWN DESIRES, REPENT FROM YOUR CURRENT PATH, AND FULLY COMMIT TO WALKING IN HIS (LUKE 14:27, ROMANS 6:6-7).

WHEN YOU RECEIVED CHRIST...
YOU SAID YES TO HIS GRACE,
YES TO HIS FORGIVENESS,
AND YES TO A BRAND NEW LIFE WITH HIM.
YOU PUT YOUR FAITH AND TRUST IN JESUS AS THE
LORD OF YOUR LIFE.

#### THIS MEANS:

- YOU ARE FORGIVEN COMPLETELY. (1 JOHN 1:9)
- YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD. (JOHN 1:12)
- YOU'VE BEEN MADE NEW AND ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; EPHESIANS 2:4-5)
- YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE, EMPOWER, AND SEAL YOUR LIFE IN HIM. (JOHN 14:26; ACTS 2:38; EPHESIANS 1:13-14)

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RECEIVE CHRIST?

SO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WHEN YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS?

YOU RESPONDED TO THE GOSPEL — THE GOOD NEWS THAT:

"CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS... HE WAS BURIED... HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES."

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

"FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD." — ROMANS 6:23

JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE SO YOUR SINS COULD BE FORGIVEN.
HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE SO YOU COULD HAVE A BRAND NEW LIFE.
NOW, BECAUSE OF JESUS, YOU ARE FREE FROM YOUR SIN AND ALIVE IN CHRIST. YOU HAVE A NEW PURPOSE.

## WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

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BAPTISM DOESN'T SAVE YOU—BUT IT IS A BOLD, OUTWARD SIGN OF THE INWARD COMMITMENT YOU'VE MADE TO JESUS.

THINK OF IT LIKE A WEDDING RING. A RING DOESN'T MAKE YOU MARRIED, BUT IT SHOWS THE WORLD YOU ARE. BAPTISM IS A POWERFUL WAY TO SAY, "I BELONG TO JESUS NOW."

"WE WERE BURIED THEREFORE WITH HIM BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH, IN ORDER THAT... WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE."

— ROMANS 6:4

"THOSE WHO ACCEPTED HIS MESSAGE WERE BAPTIZED..."

— ACTS 2:41

BAPTISM IS ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS WE TAKE AFTER SALVATION.
IF YOU'RE READY TO TAKE THIS STEP,
WE'D LOVE TO HELP YOU!

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### **B. LEARNING GOD'S WORD**

THE BEST WAY TO TRULY KNOW GOD IS BY SPENDING TIME IN HIS WORD. READING THE BIBLE ISN'T JUST ABOUT GAINING KNOWLEDGE—IT'S ABOUT LEARNING WHO GOD IS, WHAT HE'S DONE, AND HOW HE'S CALLING US TO LIVE. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS IN GROWING IN YOUR FAITH IS READING GOD'S WORD REGULARLY AND APPLYING IT TO YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### **B. LEARNING GOD'S WORD**

THIS IS WHERE REAL TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS. BUT JESUS NEVER SAID IT WOULD BE EASY.

"IF ANYONE WANTS TO FOLLOW ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME."

- LUKE 9:23

"ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE... FOR THE GATE IS WIDE AND THE ROAD BROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION... BUT THE GATE IS NARROW AND THE ROAD HARD THAT LEADS TO LIFE..."

— MATTHEW 7:13-14

FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS SAYING NO TO THE WORLD AND YES TO HIM—EVERY DAY. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY. BUT IT LEADS TO REAL LIFE, PEACE, AND PURPOSE.

## WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

# LEARN THE WAYS OF JESUS & LIVE OUT THE WAYS OF JESUS

COLOSSIANS 3:16-17 CSB
LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL RICHLY AMONG YOU, IN ALL
WISDOM TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH
PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING TO GOD WITH
GRATITUDE IN YOUR HEARTS. [17] AND WHATEVER YOU DO, IN
WORD OR IN DEED, DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD
JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### C. DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP IS SIMPLY LEARNING HOW TO LIVE LIKE JESUS-THIS IS DONE INDIVIDUALLY & ALONG SIDE OTHERS

WHEN JESUS CALLED PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIM, HE DIDN'T JUST SAY, "BELIEVE IN ME." HE SAID,

"COME, FOLLOW ME." (MATTHEW 4:19)

THAT MEANS BECOMING A DISCIPLE—A LEARNER, FOLLOWER, AND IMITATOR OF JESUS.

#### **DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT:**

- LEARNING HIS WORD (JOHN 8:31)
  LIVING HIS WAYS (JAMES 1:22)
- WALKING IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHER **BELIEVERS WHO HELP YOU GROW** (HEBREWS 10:24-25)

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### C. DISCIPLESHIP

JESUS MODELED THIS. HE WALKED CLOSELY WITH 12 DISCIPLES, TEACHING THEM, CHALLENGING THEM, AND SENDING THEM OUT TO DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS.

"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...
TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I
HAVE COMMANDED YOU."
— MATTHEW 28:19–20

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGURE THIS OUT ALONE. FIND A TRUSTED MENTOR, JOIN A SMALL GROUP, AND COMMIT TO BEING SOMEONE WHO LEARNS FROM OTHERS AND HELPS OTHERS GROW IN RETURN.

DISCIPLESHIP ISN'T A CLASS OR A ONE-TIME THING—IT'S A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, SHAPED BY TRUTH, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COMMUNITY.

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

### D. BEING IN CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS, YOU'RE NOT JUST STARTING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM—YOU'RE ALSO STEPPING INTO A NEW FAMILY OF BELIEVERS.

FOLLOWING JESUS WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE DONE ALONE. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE EARLY CHURCH CARRIED OUT A GOSPEL CENTERED LIFE TOGETHER:

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER... ALL THE BELIEVERS WERE TOGETHER AND HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON... THEY BROKE BREAD IN THEIR HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER... PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE."

- ACTS 2:42-47

#### WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

### D. BEING IN CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

#### **IN ACTS 2:42-47 THEY:**

- LEARNED FROM GOD'S WORD TOGETHER
- PRAYED TOGETHER
- CONFESSED SIN TOGETHER
- WORSHIPPED TOGETHER
- HELPED EACH OTHER
- SHARED MEALS AND LIFE

THAT'S WHAT REAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY LOOKS LIKE.

YOU NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL ENCOURAGE YOU, PRAY WITH YOU, AND WALK WITH YOU THROUGH LIFE—AND THEY NEED YOU TOO.

SO DON'T STAY ISOLATED.
JOIN A LOCAL CHRIST CENTERED CHURCH
JUMP INTO A SMALL GROUP,
SERVE ON A TEAM,
STAY CONSISTENT,
AND FIND PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP YOU
GROW IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS.

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### E. SERVING

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH IS TO START LIVING IT OUT—AND SERVING IS A HUGE PART OF THAT.

JESUS DIDN'T COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE:

"FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY." — MARK 10:45

WHEN YOU SERVE OTHERS, YOU'RE FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE.

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### E. SERVING

#### **SERVING HELPS YOU:**

- USE YOUR GIFTS AND PASSIONS FOR GOD'S GLORY
- GROW IN HUMILITY, COMPASSION, AND PURPOSE
- BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF
- MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE
- CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF CHRIST

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### **E. SERVING**

"EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE." — 1 PETER 4:10

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU. WHETHER IT'S HELPING WITH KIDS, GREETING AT THE DOOR, LEADING WORSHIP, RUNNING TECH, SHOWING UP BEHIND THE SCENES, OR SERVING A MISSION (LOCAL OR AFAR)—YOU'RE NEEDED, AND YOUR SERVING MATTERS.

#### WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### **TOOLS TO HELP GROW YOUR FAITH**

#### **WIBIBLE READING PLANS**

- HE READS TRUTH FOR GUYS
- SHE READS TRUTH FOR GIRLS
- BIBLICALLY SOLID AND EASY TO FOLLOW.

#### **EDEVOTIONALS & STUDIES**

• THE DAILY GRACE CO. – BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED STUDIES AND TOOLS TO HELP YOU DIG DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD.

#### **BIBLE APPS**

- YOUVERSION BIBLE APP
- THE LIFE BIBLE APP
- HE READS TRUTH / SHE READS TRUTH

FOR SIMPLE EXPLANATION ON CERTAIN BIBLE VERSES

**BIBLEREF.COM** 

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

#### **TOOLS TO HELP GROW YOUR FAITH**

UTILIZE THE BIBLE STUDY TOOLS & RESOURCES FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE TO GROW IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST.

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHERE TO START IN THE BIBLE & FEEL OVERWHELMED.. NO WORRIES! CHECK OUT THE PLANS WE CREATED FOR YOU!

# BIBLE READING PLAN

#### PLAN 1: "START WITH JESUS" — 21-DAY INTROPLAN

GOAL: MEET JESUS PERSONALLY.
UNDERSTAND WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE CAME
TO DO.

#### DAY 1-7: THE LIFE OF JESUS (JOHN 1-7)

• A WEEK TO SEE WHO JESUS IS, WHAT HE TAUGHT, AND HOW PEOPLE RESPONDED.

#### DAY 8-14: THE HEART OF JESUS (JOHN 8-14)

• JESUS' LOVE, AUTHORITY, AND CONNECTION TO THE FATHER COME THROUGH CLEARLY HERE.

### DAY 15-21: THE MISSION OF JESUS (JOHN 15-21)

• HIS SACRIFICE, RESURRECTION, AND CALL TO FOLLOW.

#### PLAN 2: "NOW WHAT?" — 30 DAYS THROUGH THE NEW LIFE

#### GOAL: DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS PRACTICALLY.

#### **WEEK 1: WHO JESUS IS**

- JOHN 1, 3, 10, 14
- COLOSSIANS 1:15-23
- PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

#### **WEEK 2: WHAT JESUS DID**

- LUKE 15
- JOHN 18-20
- ROMANS 5
- EPHESIANS 2

#### **WEEK 3: HOW TO LIVE NOW**

- ACTS 2
- ROMANS 6
- GALATIANS 5
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5
- JAMES 1

#### **WEEK 4: GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU**

- ROMANS 8
- 1 PETER 2
- EPHESIANS 4
- MATTHEW 28:18-20
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

#### PLAN 3: "FOUNDATION PLAN" — 60 DAYS FOR STRONG ROOTS

GOAL: BUILD A BROAD AND BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BY WALKING THROUGH JOHN → ACTS → KEY LETTERS.

WEEKS 1-3: JOHN (21 DAYS)

→ LEARN WHO JESUS IS, WHAT HE TAUGHT, AND WHY HE CAME.

WEEKS 4-5: ACTS (10 SELECTED CHAPTERS)

→ DISCOVER HOW THE EARLY CHURCH STARTED AND WHAT FOLLOWING JESUS LOOKS LIKE IN REAL LIFE. SUGGESTED: ACTS 1-4, 9-11, 13, 16, 20, 26

#### PLAN 3: "FOUNDATION PLAN" — 60 DAYS FOR STRONG ROOTS

WEEKS 6-8: LETTERS TO THE CHURCH (SELECTED KEY CHAPTERS)

→ UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AS A BELIEVER TODAY.

- ROMANS 5, 6, 8, 12
- GALATIANS 2, 5
- EPHESIANS 1, 2, 4, 6
- PHILIPPIANS 2, 4
- COLOSSIANS 1, 3
- 1 PETER 1-2
- JAMES 1, 3

# FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

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THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST IMPORTANT JOURNEY OF YOUR LIFE. JESUS DIDN'T JUST SAVE YOU FROM SOMETHING—HE SAVED YOU FOR SOMETHING. YOU NOW GET TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE, FREEDOM, AND HOPE.

"THE ONE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS."

— PHILIPPIANS 1:6

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU. LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE—JESUS IS WITH YOU. AND SO ARE WE.

