

New to Faith

Leader Guide

Welcome,

We're so glad you've chosen to share, study, and discuss *The Basics of the Christian Faith* with a friend who is a new believer or is interested in learning more about Christianity.

While most people are familiar with the word *disciple*, they may not fully understand what it means to *be* a disciple or to *make* disciples, as Jesus commanded His followers in Matthew 28:19.

And so we hope you find that this study helps you explain and teach what being a disciple of Jesus is all about.

As you and your friend move through these 7 messages that form the basis of this study then meet to discuss answers to the questions associated with each lesson, you'll have the amazing privilege of demonstrating what it looks like to be a committed follower—a *disciple*—of Jesus Christ.

Prayer will be helpful throughout the process. Our Lead Pastor Joshua Bradford often reminds us that people are brought to saving faith only when *God's Spirit does God's work through God's Word*.

So pray for God to use you so that all that will be learned and to reveal His truth to your friend.

God Bless you,

Pastor Jeff

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

ESV

USING THIS GUIDE TO

Share Your Faith with a Friend

These lessons will help you and your friend grow in your knowledge of Christ and encourage one another's faith (Rom. 1:12). Each session includes three learning phases to complete independently before meeting in person. The purpose of this study guide is to provide you with an opportunity to share your faith not just through personal testimony but also by considering the essential truths that God has revealed in His Word. Your role as the leader is to grasp the content, facilitate discussion, provide biblical answers and explanations, and—most importantly—exemplify God's love.

Tips before you begin

Consider having an informal meeting or conversation to talk about your friend's

1. goals and expectations,
2. current understanding of Christianity, and
3. faith background.

Familiarize yourself with the study's structure.

Use the QR codes to watch some of the team discuss the topics

Pray.

WHAT YOU'LL BE

Helping Your Friend Learn

We must Endeavor to understand the first principles of Christian doctrine and to bring those principles to bear on every aspect of our lives, lest we be swept away.

ALISTAIR BEGG

Heb 2v1 *Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it*

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We are anchored in the word of God. We unashamedly preach from it, ground our beliefs in it and accept it as God's divinely inspired truth.

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We value being with one another. We see gathering as a way to show each other how much they are loved. Our groups and services are not a religious obligation but an expression of our love for Jesus and His church.

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We believe prayer is powerful. We give time to prayer regularly and fast and pray throughout the year.

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We are committed to sending people, resource, money and time to build the Kingdom. We use whatever we have been given to serve the world around us.

07 WE ARE ALWAYS ON MISSION

We exist to help people Know God, Find Freedom, Discover their purpose and Make a Difference. In other words, we are here to preach the gospel and make disciples.

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How to

Use This Study

This study is designed to pair independent listening and reading with in-person discussion between you and a friend whom you will lead through each lesson.

You'll have the most success when you complete each of the three learning phases on your own then meet together to discuss your responses and answer any questions your friend may have.

When you meet, you may want to spend additional time on particular sessions, revisit questions that came up in earlier meetings, or otherwise use the format in a flexible way.

You are the one who knows your study partner, so make the study work toward your goals!

Remember, Pray.

Remember, ask for help if needed.

Remember, have fun.

Pastor Jeff Morton

Each lesson has

Three Learning Phases

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

You'll begin by reading a key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

In this phase, you'll read or listen to the lesson's message.

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

3 Going deeper 10 min

The questions in this phase are meant to help your friend fully process and apply the main ideas that were taught. You should be prepared to discuss their answers and other questions that your friend might have.

An answer key can be found at the back of this guide.

WE ARE CHRIST CENTRED

We keep Jesus the centre of everything.

From teaching to worship, groups to outreaches, everything we do exists to exalt Him.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

Begin by reading the key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Read John Chapter 1 together.

Q1 Who do you think Jesus is? V1

Q2 What did Jesus come to do? V12

Q3 What do you think grace means and how does that apply to you? V14-16

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code. (A brief summary of each topic is provided.)

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

Who is Jesus By Tim Kellor

The actual word "gospel" means "good news that is announced." That makes it different from other religious messages, which might be called "good advice to be followed."

The good news is that we are so lost and broken that we cannot find God or fix ourselves, so God has come to find and save us. To do that He became a man, Jesus of Nazareth, who lived an ordinary human life, distinguished only by the startling fact that he never did anything wrong. He kept all of God's laws, both internally and externally, and having done so, He transferred all the credit for that obedience to those who love and trust Him.

In addition to giving us the credit for His perfect life and obedience, Jesus went further and willingly took the punishment that was due to us for our imperfect, rebellious lives. Dying on the cross, He forgave those who were killing Him. When He rose from the dead, Jesus demonstrated that death had no hold on Him, nor on any who entrust their lives and souls to Him.

The good news is that ... God has come to find and save us.

Being reunited with God, therefore, doesn't depend on our own efforts, or even the strength and sincerity of our faith. It is not the quality of our faith that saves us, but the quality of the One in whom we put our faith: Jesus.

The power of this free grace and acceptance into the family of God has a transformative effect in the life of any true Christian. Since we are no longer trying to earn God's approval (making God the biggest and worst of all the taskmasters we've ever faced), we are free to love Him out of gratitude and joy. Our obedience and "good deeds" become truly good for the first time, as they are motivated by thankfulness, rather than done to accrue "good behaviour credit" with God.

Being reunited with God doesn't depend on our own efforts. It is not the quality of our faith that saves us, but the quality of the One in whom we put our faith: Jesus.

Slowly we come to resemble the master who has freed us from all our slave-driving addictions and compulsions. As He served a world which neither understood nor appreciated Him, so we are called to serve our neighbors and our world whether they believe like us or not. Jesus called Himself the servant of all and said that we, His followers, needed to serve others sacrificially if we are called by His name.

Where do I go from here?

Possessing a mere fascination about Jesus isn't enough to fulfill, nor will it enact his life-altering work. Curiosity is good, but it should drive fervent searching. This can be done by reading God's Word, and getting plugged into community in a Christian atmosphere with people personally invested in your growth.

We couldn't be more thrilled that you're ready to begin exploring the reality of Jesus' resurrection in a logical, understandable fashion. We'd love to talk with you about your journey and get you connected with people who care about you, whether that's at Anthem or elsewhere.

Okay, lets ask the question again, who is Jesus?

Jesus is not simply a carpenter from Nazareth. He is not simply a good man or even a profound teacher. The Bible reveals Him to be the key person of history through whom God is reconciling the world to Himself

Read Colossians 1v15-20 Try to think about what we read in John Chapter 1

Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT) *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

Q4 How are we reconciled back to God? V20

A Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, I have long been so foolish.
Give me Your wisdom to see and to follow Your truth.
I am so full of guilt and have no peace apart from You, but now I see
that You have died to bring forgiveness and the assurance of
pardon.
I trust You to be my Savior, and by Your grace, I turn away from my
sin.
Lord, apart from You I am weak and ruled by sin.
Give me Your power, and rule in my heart.
Set me free, and take charge of my whole life.*

WE ARE SPIRIT LED

We allow the Holy Spirit to lead our church and in our lives.

We create room for Him to move, we are obedient to His voice and we love His presence.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

Begin by reading the key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Read Romans Chapter 8 together.

Q1 What do you think when you hear the phrase, “The Spirit of God”?

Q2 V14, What do you think this means?

Q3 V11, What do you think this verse means?

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lessons message. Use the QR Code. (A brief summary of each topic is provided.)

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

The Spirit Led Life

In Romans 8:14 Paul simply states it as a fact: “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” Paul’s words helpfully teach us what this leading is.

3 Things about the Spirit led life.

First, the Spirit leads us to Christ.

Paul speaks here in the present tense of “all who are led.” In Old Testament terms, the Spirit has led us up out of the Egypt of our sins, has freed us from the pharaoh of the law of sin and death (v. 2),

and has led us to the Promised Land of Jesus Christ. As “the Spirit of Christ” (v. 9), the Spirit is closely associated with the work of Christ. Our Lord once said that because He had many more things to say to His disciples that they could not bear at that time, He would send His Spirit, who would “glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you_” (John 16:14, emphasis mine). Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit’s role is to lead us to Jesus so we can hear His truth. Any theology that speaks of the Spirit apart from Christ is not biblical theology. “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God” (1 John 4:2–3).

Second, the Spirit leads us in holiness.

He has led us to Jesus not only to forgive us, but that we would become holy and pleasing to God. When Paul says “for” at the beginning of Romans 8:14, he is giving the reason for what he has said previously about our being debtors to the Spirit by whom we are to mortify our sins (vv. 12–13). Because we are being led by the Spirit, we will show our indebtedness to Him by mortifying our sinful deeds through relying on Him and His means. He emancipated us from our enslavement to sin and death (v. 2) to be enlightened in our minds from our former darkness (v. 5), to be enlivened to walk according to the Spirit (vv. 4, 5), to be enabled to submit to and obey the law of God (vv. 7–8), and to be empowered to rely on the Spirit to mortify sin (v. 13).

Third, the Spirit leads us with assurance.

Note the connection between this leading and our knowing our sonship: “all who are led by the Spirit of God” to Christ and in holiness “are sons of God.” “Are.” Not may be; not can become; not possibly; not only some. “All who are led . . . are sons of God.” Jesus is the firstborn son who received all the inheritance of the Father and we are sons along with Him. We have it all in Christ by the Spirit. We who were by nature children of wrath, we who were orphans have been led to Christ to become sons; as sons to please our heavenly Father; and in pleasing Him to experience His assuring love. “Because [we] are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” ([Gal. 4:6](#))

3 Going deeper 10 min

So the question then is how does the Spirit of God lead us.

Read John 14v15-17

If we come to faith in Christ, come to God through Christ, then the Spirit of God comes in, and we can know God personally through the Spirit. Through the Spirit's influence in our lives, we can actually experience God, not just know about him and not just know what he requires of us, but actually experience him

The Spirit Guides in a Number of Different Ways

We find the guidance of the Holy Spirit comes in a number of different ways. They include the following.

1) The Holy Spirit Guides the Believer into Truth

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come and guide the believer into all truth. John records Him saying. John 16v13

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come

2) The Holy Spirit Allows Believers to Understand the Things of God

The Apostle Paul wrote that we are able to know the things of God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He put it this way. 1 Cor 2v12

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

We can now have a better understanding of the things of God because of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

3) We can now have a better understanding of the things of God because of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Bible says that the Holy Spirit guides the believer in their personal lives. We are told that Philip the evangelist was guided by the Spirit of God to preach the good news to the Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8v27-29

27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

4) The Holy Spirit Sets People Apart for Ministry

The Holy Spirit spoke to the people at church in Antioch. He told them to set apart two men for the ministry. The Book of Acts records the following. Acts 13v2-4

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Believers have been set apart to do God's ministry.

5) The Holy Spirit Sometimes Stops the Plans of Believers

Later in the Book of Acts, we read of the Holy Spirit actually stopping people from going to Asia. Scripture says. Acts 16v6

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

This teaches us that God may sometime stop our plans because He has something better in mind. We must always be aware that this may occur

6) The Holy Spirit May Guide into Difficult Circumstances

We find an example of the Holy Spirit leading the Apostle Paul into suffering and jail. The Book of Acts records it in this manner. Acts 20v22-23

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by[d] the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Prayer

*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.”
(Matt. 6:9–13)*

WE ARE BIBLE BASED

We are anchored in the word of God. We unashamedly preach from it, ground our beliefs in it and accept it as God's divinely inspired truth.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

You'll begin by reading a key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss there responses.

Read 2 Timothy 3v10-17

Q1 What is the Bible?

Q2 What do you think v16, means?

Q3 What does scripture in v17 help with?

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code. (A brief summary of each topic is provided.)

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

Overview of the bible

Virtually every Christian at some point has resolved to read the entire Bible. If we believe the Bible is the Word of God, it's natural not to want to miss a word of it. If God delivered a letter to your mailbox, I am sure you would read it. But the Bible is a pretty big letter, and its sheer bulk is somewhat daunting, even to the person with the best of intentions. Therefore, few Christians actually keep a resolution to read through the Bible.

I often ask for a show of hands indicating how many people have read the entire Bible. Rarely do even 50 percent of the people answer “yes.” So I ask, “How many of you have read the book of Genesis?” Almost everyone raises his hand. Then I say, “Keep your hand up if you've also read Exodus.” Only a few hands are lowered. “Leviticus?” That’s when hands start dropping quickly. With Numbers it’s even worse.

Why Do Many Christians Struggle to Read the Entire Bible?

Reading Genesis is almost like reading a novel. It is mostly narrative history and biography. It tells of important events in the lives of important people such as Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. Exodus is likewise gripping, as it tells the poignant story of Israel's enslavement in Egypt and of its liberation under the leadership of Moses. The contest with Pharaoh is exciting. But when we get to Leviticus, everything changes. It’s difficult reading about the ceremonies, the sacrifices, and the cleansing rituals because they are foreign to us today. We lack a road map to help us through these difficult portions of the Bible.

Begin with an Overview of the Bible

Here’s a simple thought.

The Old Testament is an account of a Nation.

The Testament is an account of a Man

The Nation was founded and Nurtured of God to bring the Man into the world.

Here’s my recommendation: begin with an overview of the Bible. Get the basic framework first.

Once you understand the basic framework or the overview, you are much better equipped to read the Bible. Here is a pattern I recommend for people who have never read the Bible.

Go to the table of contents page in your bible. Read these books to get the overview

The New Testament Overview:

- The Gospel of Luke: is about the life of Jesus.
- Acts: is about the early church.
- Ephesians: is an introduction to the teaching of Paul.
- 1 Corinthians: is about life in the church.
- 1 Peter: is an introduction to Peter.
- 1 Timothy: is about an introduction to the Pastoral Letters.
- Hebrews: is about persevering in your faith.
- Romans: is about Paul’s doctrine.

The Old Testament Overview:

- Genesis: is about the history of creation, the fall, and God’s covenantal dealings with the patriarchs.
- Exodus: is about the history of Israel’s liberation and formation as a nation.
- Joshua: is about the history of the military conquest of the promised land.
- Judges: is about Israel’s transition from a tribal federation to a monarchy.
- 1 Samuel: is about Israel’s emerging monarchy under Saul and David.
- 2 Samuel: is about David’s reign.
- 1 Kings: is about Solomon and the divided kingdom.
- 2 Kings: is about The fall of Israel.
- Ezra: is about The Israelites’ return from exile.
- Nehemiah: is about The restoration of Jerusalem.
- Amos and Hosea: are examples of minor prophets.
- Jeremiah: is an example of a major prophet.
- Ecclesiastes: is about Wisdom Literature.
- Psalms and Proverbs: is about Hebrew poetry.

By reading these books, you can get a basic feel for and understanding of the scope of the Bible without getting bogged down in the more difficult sections. From there, he or she can fill in the gaps to complete the reading of the entire Bible.

3 Going deeper 10 min

Q1 How and Why should I read the Bible

Watch the video by Alpha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pf6LUohTtc>

Q2 `Thoughts from the video?

O God, thank You that You have spoken, and as a result of that, I am enabled by Your grace to respond. Thank You for the Bible—that it is a lamp that shines on my feet, a light that opens up my path. Shine the light of Your Word into my life, so that in understanding its purpose—to make me wise to salvation—I might then be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

WE ARE AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

We value being with one another. We see gathering as a way to show each other how much they are loved. Our groups and services are not a religious obligation but an expression of our love for Jesus and His church.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

Begin by reading the key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Read Acts 2v42-47

Q1 What does this word fellowship mean?

Q2 Did you ever think that God is all about Relational?

2 Listen & Learn 20 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code. (A brief summary of each topic is provided.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZXjpxLEpQA&t=35s>

Q1 What is Fellowship?

Q2 What does Fellowship look like

3 Going deeper 10 min

God doesn't want us to live as isolated individuals. When He brings us nearer to Him, He also brings us nearer to one another.

I don't know if you've ever lived in a rural part of the world where there are shepherds and sheep, but if you have you notice something happening when the shepherd appears and as he gathers in his sheep using his sheepdog they not only come near to the shepherd but as they're brought near to the shepherd they are inevitably brought nearer to one another so that when we are called to faith in Jesus Christ we're called not only to come to Him but to come nearer to each other.

In May 2023, the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, declared a “loneliness epidemic” and announced a “National Strategy to Advance Social Connection” to address this epidemic of loneliness and isolation.

Community must begin with God. God is a community of three persons and invites us into His divine community to enjoy friendship and fellowship with him through His Son Jesus Christ.

If we need community for physical and mental health, how much more do we need it for spiritual health? God made us in such a way that we need relational community to thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually. That’s why He said, “It is not good that the man should be alone,” and made a companion and helper for the first man, Adam (Gen. 2:18). That’s also why He designed the family and the church, which are all the more necessary since sin disrupted our relationship with God and with one another. In His earthly life, Jesus sought out friends, built friendships, and relied upon friends in His darkest moments (Matt. 26:36–46). He even went so far as to die to secure our friendship (John 15:12–15). A core element of God’s design for humanity is that we live in community with one another in the local churches He has established for us (Ps. 122; 133; Acts 2:42–47; 1 Peter 4:8–11; 1 Cor. 12:12–20; Heb. 10:24–25).

Community, however, must begin with God. God is a community of three persons and invites us into His divine community to enjoy friendship and fellowship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ (John 14:1–6, 15–18, 23–24). No amount of marriage, family, church, or friendships will substitute for the fundamental loneliness we will experience if we try to live apart from God.

A large part of the Christian hope is that we will live forever in a perfect heavenly community (Rev. 7:9–17). Salvation, the church, and heaven are God’s plan, and they result in physical, mental, spiritual, and—ultimately—eternal health.

WE ARE FERVENT IN PRAYER

We believe prayer is powerful.

We give time to prayer regularly and fast and pray throughout the year.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

Begin by reading the key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Read Matthew 6v5-13

Q1 What is Prayer?

Q2 How do we pray?

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code.

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

Q1 So what is prayer?

That is a good question isn't it, what is prayer? What is it?

When you start to think about that question some of you are thinking, well its talking to God, some of you really spiritual people are going well its intercession or supplication or petition or a multitude of other words. And you would be right.

1 Tim 2v1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.

So, yes, asking, is a part of prayer, but that's not the only part.

Let me give an odd illustration.

Step One: Start With Praise & Worship

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

The word "hallowed" here means "honored as holy." The first step to any prayer is to give God glory and honor and praise. This positions our hearts to be aware of God's presence as we pray.

Here, Jesus also directs us to acknowledge God as our Father in heaven.

God is the creator of the universe, the alpha and omega, the King of Kings, the Almighty.

But, He is also our good, good Father who loves us and wants an intimate relationship with us.

Step Two: Pray God's Will Be Done

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Jesus tells us to pray God's will over our own because the ultimate goal of prayer is not to convince God of our heart but to align it with His. Praying God's will to be done in our situation puts His agenda before our own.

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Step Three: Pray For Your Needs

"Give us this day our daily bread,"

Here, Jesus transitions into instructing us to pray for the provision of our needs, no matter how seemingly insignificant or mundane.

We need daily bread in the sense that we need God to daily dwell with us and guide us, but also that we need literal daily bread to stay alive.

Pray for both His physical and spiritual provision in your life and the lives of those you love.

Step Four: Confess Sin & Ask For Forgiveness

"..and forgive us our debts,"

Many times when we pray, we forget these next two steps but they are vitally important to our walk with God.

We need to regularly ask God to search our hearts and reveal our sin to us. We need to regularly be confessing those sins to God and asking Him to forgive us.

Prayer is about cultivating a relationship with Jesus and in any relationship, part of intimacy is humility and openness. Humble, open, teachable hearts apologize when they are wrong.

Step Five: Ask For Help Forgiving Others

“..as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

You may not think that you regularly need to forgive others, but this doesn't just refer to obvious conflicts. This can mean forgiving someone for disappointing you or letting you down as well as forgiving someone who has wronged you.

Step Six: Pray For Safety, Protection & Deliverance

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Though God allows us to be tempted and tested, He is never the tempter ([James 1:13-14](#)). We lead ourselves into situations where we are tempted. Here Jesus is showing us how to pray against this and keep us from being our own worst enemy.

WE ARE GENEROUS IN NATURE

We are committed to sending people, resource, money and time to build the Kingdom. We use whatever we have been given to serve the world around us.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

You'll begin by reading a key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Lets read Proverbs 11v24-25 & Matthew 6v25-34

Q1 When you think about generosity, what do you think about?

Q2 What are some ways you have felt generosity come your way?

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code provided.

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

Generous is a word we may use to describe people who have positively impacted our lives. Although generosity is often associated with monetary gifts, generosity extends well beyond money and includes small acts of kindness and compassion from a loved one, friend or even a stranger.

Principles and examples of generosity are evident throughout the Bible and are just as applicable in our modern-day relationships, communities and workplaces as they were 2,000 years ago. Whether you're on the receiving end of a generous act or you benefit from the fulfillment and joy of giving to others, generosity is a character trait that we can all appreciate.

To guide us along our journey, here are five things the Bible teaches us about generosity.

1. Generosity is a simple act

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16*

In a society that revolves around trade and business, generosity can become calculative and overcomplicated, but the Bible teaches us that generosity is simple.

Just as we teach young children to practice sharing, teachings in the Bible also demonstrate that sharing what we have is the simplest expression of generosity.

2. Generosity is all about the heart

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:3

Before we practice generosity, the Bible teaches us that giving to others is inextricably tied to loving others. Without loving our neighbours— including our family, friends, colleagues and vulnerable members in our community— even the grandest acts of generosity are meaningless.

On the flip side, the smallest acts of kindness and generosity are considered momentous when coupled with a heart of love.

3. Generosity involves more than just money

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

1 Timothy 6:18

Although the Bible provides plenty of examples that encourage material generosity towards the poor and oppressed, generosity and various other good deeds can be expressed in a multitude of ways.

Giving our time, resources, talents or even a listening ear or a kind word, can be expressions of generosity to people in need. Consider baking a neighbour a cake, volunteering with your church at a local shelter or writing an email to encourage a colleague can be just as important expressions of our generosity towards others.

4. Generosity teaches us to trust God

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment...1 Timothy 6:17-19

Giving generously is an opportunity for us to trust in God's provision. Living in Australia, many of us are privileged to enjoy high living standards, accessible health care and public education but the comfort we have can also breed uncertainty and anxiety.

Ironically, the more we have, the more we fear losing our wealth. The Bible reminds us that life on earth is uncertain and nothing is guaranteed, but when we put our hope in God's provision, we can rest assured that he'll provide for our needs.

Giving to others helps us tangibly practise trusting in God rather than our riches or belongings.

5. Generosity is a blessing

... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

In worldly economic terms, giving means we have less than what we started with, but the Bible teaches us that when we give to others, we gain. It seems illogical but it's a blessed truth that Luke, the author of Acts, encourages us to remember.

This verse provides us with a heartwarming reminder that giving to someone in need or supporting a cause like homelessness, can bring us a great sense of fulfillment and joy.

The story of Jesus Christ's life and ministry in the Bible is full of examples of generosity. Jesus sets a high standard of giving and caring for others because in the kingdom of God, people in need are just as important as the wealthiest people in this world. As we learn how to adopt principles of generosity, let's continue to look to Jesus as the ultimate expression of generosity and sacrifice.

3 Going deeper 10 min

The questions in this phase are meant to help your friend fully process and apply the main ideas that were taught. You should be prepared to discuss their answers and other questions that your friend might have.

Watch the short video from the bible project and discuss

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>

Read John 3v16 God is our example of being generous.

WE ARE ALWAYS ON MISSION

We exist to help people Know God, Find Freedom, Discover their purpose and Make a Difference. In other words, we are here to preach the gospel and make disciples.

1 Getting Started 5-10 Min

You'll begin by reading a key passage of Scripture and answering a few questions. When you meet, you should reread the passage together and be prepared to discuss their responses.

Lets read 1 Peter 3v15 and Romans 1v16

Q1 Are you public about your faith?

Q2 How do you explain Christianity?

2 Listen & Learn 10-15 min

Listen to the lesson's message. Use the QR Code.

As you do so, you should take notes, fill in the blanks, read the definitions, and answer the corresponding questions. You might also want to use the additional space provided to take notes on key points you want to emphasize when you discuss the topic with your friend.

Explaining Christianity

One of the easiest ways to understand Christianity and therefore convey it, is to consider it as an Invitation.

Now if your like me, I bet you love an invitation. Even if you can't go its nice to be invited.

When you get an invitation there's three things you want to know,

- 1) Who's it from?
- 2) Who's it to?
- 3) What's its about?

John 3v 16 is going to answer those three questions for us.

16 *“For God so loved the world,[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Whose it from?

Whose it to?

What’s it about?

1. Whose it from?

Its from God. GOD. Who is God?

Many people ask the wrong questions. If you ask the wrong questions, you get the wrong answers.

A good question is, has God, Spoken? Or Has God revealed Himself?

Has God revealed himself?

God has revealed himself throughout history.

God has revealed himself in creation.

Illustration

Francis Collins Retired Sort of, was acting science advisor to the US President and, renowned physicist-geneticist noted for his service for twelve years as the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and his leadership of the international Human Genome Project, a team of over 2000 scientists who collaborated to determine the three billion letters in the human genome – our own DNA instruction book.

He said, *‘I cannot see how nature could have created itself. Only a supernatural force that is outside of space and time could have done that.’*

But God's greatest revelation of himself for all time for all cultures was in Jesus Christ.

The invisible God became visible in Jesus, The intangible God became tangible in Jesus. The unknowable God became knowable in Jesus Jesus.

The king of kings and the Lord of lords, in other words He's the king of the entire universe, the invitation is from Him.

The invitation is from Him.

2) Okays who’s the invitation for?

For God so loved the world.

Everyone of us.

Irrespective of our Age, our race, our education, the colour of our skin, the invitation is being offered to every single one us, and the RSVP is today.

What about tomorrow, I don't know?

Oh I might just creep in at the 11th hour,

What happens if you die at 10.30?

Not everybody acknowledges the invitation but that doesn't mean your not being offered the invitation.

Its from Jesus, its to you and its to me.

3). Okay so what its about. What's Christianity about?

The bible has about 800,000 words.

But if you summarize it what's it about?

its really only about three things. The whole of the of the bible, the whole of Christianity.

- 1) Forgiveness from the past
- 2) New life here today
- 3) Hope for the future

3 Going deeper 10 min

Watch the Video and discuss

Reasons why we are not public about our faith?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=badJm8_I2vQ&t=4236s

NEXT STEPS

Well done.

You have finished this short course with a friend, can I encourage you now to help them take their next step in their new Faith Journey.

Below are three steps that I would encourage you to take with the friend who you brought.

Pastor Jeff Morton

Some Good next steps

Get Baptised

Acts 8:36-38 ESV

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Join a group

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

<https://www.anthemchurch.com.au/groups>

Ask when the next Alpha course starts?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg

Join a team

<https://www.anthemchurch.com.au/join-the-team>

Join a Church