

# Good news today... and tomorrow

by Jose Zayas

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Written and designed in Portland, Oregon.

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## Introduction

I've been following Jesus for almost 40 years now. And while I feel blessed to enjoy healthy relationships with family and friends, Jesus has influenced my life for the good more than anyone else.

Most of my adult life has been spent sharing the message of Jesus around the United States and many parts of the world. I've heard thousands of stories over the decades of people who have been changed by Jesus. Each one is powerful. Each one is special... *your story is unique.*

What God wants to do in and through your life isn't cookie-cutter. He's got purpose for you beyond your wildest imagination. Your adventure is just beginning.

There's so much we can learn from each other on how to enjoy life following Jesus. I've put together this short book to help get you started... or restarted, so whether you're new to following Jesus or just looking to get grounded in the basics, I hope this will help you take the next steps.

We'll start with the big question, "*What is the Good News?*"

Then we'll look at seven things every Jesus follower ought to know, let's call them *next steps*. They're not the only things, nor are they in any perfect order. It's just a beginning, a starting place for you. And finally, we'll wrap up with a short recap. This may be a page you'll want to cut out and tape to your mirror for a while as a reminder.

Along the way, I'd love to hear what Jesus is doing in your life. Please take the time to send me a note!

Following Jesus with you,

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## **What is the Good News?**

You've heard a message and taken steps to do something about it. Well done! Let's take a minute to review what the Good News of Jesus is.

One helpful way to describe life with God is to see it in terms of relationship. All of us want deep and meaningful relationships with those we care about. Following Jesus can be described as the “ultimate relationship” that will satisfy our deepest needs.

God's story, told in the Bible, clearly shows how we can experience this relationship today, tomorrow, and forever.

Here's a simple outline:

### **1. The relationship you were created for**

God is pursuing you. He loves you. It's God's intention to be with you through life's ups and downs, from the day you are born until you go on to eternity. Here is what the Bible says you were created for:

*God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1v27*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3v16*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10v10*

Where would you say you are now in your relationship with God? Close? Distant?

Why?

## **2. The relationship that has been wrecked**

Ever been betrayed by a family member, friend, or a person you love? What did it do to your relationship?

On a much larger scale, the entire human race is guilty of turning away from God's design and ignoring His love. We lie, we cheat, and we steal. We live for ourselves, instead of others. We know what's right and still don't do it. The Bible defines all of this as sin. Sin means to "miss the mark of God's perfection".

God is Holy. We are not. You missed it. We all have. It's our sin that has wrecked our relationship with God and heads us towards the consequences of our betrayal.

The Bible says:

*There is no difference ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3v23*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6v23*

So how can we get back to a right relationship with God?

### **3. The relationship only Jesus can restore**

Jesus, God's only Son, came to earth, lived a perfect life and willingly gave His life on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. And as He foretold, Jesus rose again three days later and is alive today.

*Jesus lived the life we could never live.  
And He paid the price we could never  
pay. He alone can and will forgive your  
sin and reconnect you with God if you  
ask Him.*

*God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5v8*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2v8-9*



You can never earn God's gift of life or do "something good enough" to make up for what you've already done. Salvation is a gift that you receive because of what Jesus Christ did for you.

What do you think about God's offer?

#### **4. The relationship that lasts forever**

The way to a real relationship with God begins when you turn to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and trust Him alone to do it for you.

*"I (Jesus) tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." John 5v24*

*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved ... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10v9-13*

When you turn from your sin and place your trust in Jesus Christ:

- Your sins are completely forgiven.
- You join God's family and your relationship is reconnected.

- You receive a new life that will last forever. Jesus will be with you today and tomorrow, and one day you'll be with Him forever.
- You begin to live in a new way. Jesus will transform the way you think, feel, and choices you make.

Why not place your trust in Jesus Christ right now?

A sample prayer:

*God, I have rebelled against you and lived for myself. I turn to you as my only hope. I trust that your Son, Jesus, died and rose again to forgive my sin and give me a new start. I want your gift of eternal life and to live for you.*



## **Chapter 1: Disciple**

### **Jesus said, “Follow me”**

**Key idea:** Jesus invites us to become His disciples (apprentices / learners). The goal of a disciple is to be with Jesus, learn His teaching, and live His way.

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Where do we go from here?

Whether you are new to faith in Jesus or looking for a fresh start, it's important that you continue in the right direction. Life with Jesus is more than a moment; it's a journey. Saying “yes” to follow Him is a lifelong adventure. We see that in how Jesus called His first disciples.

John, one of Jesus' closest followers, wrote a biography about Jesus so that those who never met Him would know what He was like, what He taught, and what He came to do (called the Gospel of John). It's one of the four Jesus biographies we have in the Bible; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.*

*It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).*

*The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." John 1v35-43*

## **What does it mean to become a disciple?**

Since it's not a term we often use today, the word disciple simply means an "apprentice, student, or learner". I think that apprentice is probably the best word to fit the meaning.

Teachers in Jesus' day would gather a group of apprentices. There are three things we know about becoming a "disciple" around the time of Jesus.

## 1. Disciples are with Jesus. It's about relationship.

Notice how John describes Jesus' first invitation to the early disciples:

*When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.*

You're invited not just to know about Jesus, but also to spend time with Him. Over the course of this booklet we'll look at how we do that practically. But please don't miss the point. Jesus already knows everything about you. Our invitation is to get to know Him.

Jesus knew that Andrew and his friend were curious. They had heard about Jesus. John the Baptist told them that Jesus was the one God had sent to pay for the sin of the world.

When they took steps to get close to Jesus, how did He respond?

*"Come and you will see."*

And Jesus spent the rest of the day talking with them. By the end of the day, Jesus invited Andrew, his brother Peter, and Phillip to "follow me."

Becoming a Christian, living as an apprentice to Jesus, is about time with Him. I know that might sound strange at first, but it's true. No matter our past, what we've done or how far we feel from God, Jesus wants you and me to spend time with Him.

## **2. Disciples learn the Master's teaching. It's about growth.**

Mark, who also wrote a Jesus biography, shares the calling of the early disciples this way:

*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1v16-17*

Jesus had plans for Simon and Andrew that they didn't know about. They were fisherman, actively involved in their family business. But Jesus let them know their lives would be about more than a job or trade. Jesus was planning to use their lives to invest in people. The same thing could be said for you and me.

Keep reading the four Gospels and you see that Jesus invested time teaching His disciples. There's so much about God that we don't know. Jesus knows the best way to live; the way that's going to bring us the greatest joy and help the most amount of people.

Disciples are learners.

*Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8v31*

Here's the good news. We know what Jesus taught. We can discover what God is like and how to live His way as we read the Bible. More on that in later chapters.

God wants you to know Him and His ways. Your relationship with God will grow as you take time to read the Bible and learn the teachings of Jesus. But "learning" isn't just about gaining knowledge. It's about a change in the way we live.

### **3. Disciples take on the Master's lifestyle. It's about a change of life.**

Time with Jesus is life-changing. Learning Jesus' teaching is life-changing. One of the most exciting realities is that part of following Jesus is taking on His work in the world. Read the four Gospels and you'll notice that they have a similar ending.

Jesus came to do the work of His Father, then pay for the sin of the world and provide a way for us to live in right relationship with God. The entire time Jesus spends time and teaches a group of disciples who will carry on His work in the world.



Matthew's biography ends with the disciples' calling:

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
Matthew 28v16-20

Jesus continues to call disciples all across His world. He's changed your life. And He's changing the lives of so many others. We get to be part of God's plan to bring people back into a right relationship with Him. God wants to help other people through you.

*To be clear: Jesus does the changing. We don't have the power to forgive sin or transform any life. But we can invite people to experience Jesus' life-changing power. We can share what He's doing in our life. We can pass on what we're learning.*

At this stage, following Jesus might sound a bit complicated or even overwhelming. It's not. This is something Jesus will

do in and through you over time.

John Stott, an author and pastor, describes the experience this way:

“You can become a Christian in a moment, but not a mature Christian. Christ can enter, cleanse and forgive you in a matter of seconds, but it will take much longer for your character to be transformed and shaped to his will ... a moment of commitment will lead to a lifetime of adjustments.” (Basic Christianity, by John R. W. Stott, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 2008, p. 151).

*What a great phrase, “a moment of commitment will lead to a lifetime of adjustments.”*

There is a moment when we actually trust Jesus to forgive our past and bring us back to a right relationship with God. Jesus described it as crossing over from death (separation from God) to life.

*“I (Jesus) tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” John 5v24*

Yet that’s just the beginning. Now we get the joy of a lifetime of adjustments. There are unhealthy habits that Jesus will enable us to get rid of. There are lies we have

believed that need to be exposed. Jesus is the better way to live. He is and has all that we need to live life to the full.

You don't have to worry about when and how the changes will happen. Jesus wants you to be transformed and He will make it happen.

Choose to spend time with Jesus. It's what we were made for. Choose to learn Jesus' teaching. It's what we were made for. Choose to continue Jesus' work in the world. It's what we were made for.

If by now you're asking "how"? How do we take steps to grow? Then the following chapters should help you along the way.

## **Chapter 2: Church Following Jesus Together**

**Key idea:** Jesus adopts us into His family. We grow with God as we grow with “brothers and sisters” in Jesus.

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### **How do we grow as disciples to Jesus?**

While following Jesus is personal, it is never private. When you read the Gospels, you see that Jesus called a group of disciples to follow Him together. Much of the attention is given to Twelve disciples (who are also called “apostles”, Jesus’ appointed leaders). But we know that Jesus had more than 70 disciples (Luke 10v1) that were made up of men and women from all walks of life.

When you think about the word “church”, what comes to mind?

For many of us it’s a building, a place that we go to for worship.

## What is “church”?

Church is broader than a building. The word in the Bible (ekklesia) that we translate “church” means a “meeting or assembly”. It refers to the gathering of God’s people. Here are a few thoughts about the church:

### 1. The church belongs to Jesus.

*Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*  
*Matthew 16v15-18*

Peter realized that Jesus is “the Messiah” (God’s Messenger). Jesus then told Peter what He was about to do. Jesus said He would build a community of people who know Him and that no enemy would be able to stop them. Remember that Jesus says, “my church”.

*The church is God’s idea. Jesus loves you (and all of His people). Even though we’re not perfect and fail often. Church isn’t for people who have it all together. It’s for those who want to learn and grow in the way of Jesus.*

Jesus calls us into a community, into a new family. Jesus spent time with, taught, and sent out His disciples to do His work in the world.

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples continued to meet. They spent time praying to Jesus together, learning His teaching, and working to continue His work in their towns and cities. They would meet in homes and in public spaces.

The church in each community looks a little different. But at its foundation the church belongs to Jesus. It's His idea. And He cares for it deeply.

## **2. The church is about people, not just events.**

The Book of Acts tells the account of the first few decades of the church after Jesus' resurrection. In it we get snapshots of what God's people did and how the church spread all over the world.

One snapshot is from Acts 2v42-47:

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their*

*number daily those who were being saved.*

- Church is a place to learn. They took time to listen to the teachings of Jesus, passed on from the apostles, the men who heard them firsthand. We have access to that same teaching in the Bible.
- Church is a place to belong. God's people pray together. Eat together. Spend time getting to know one another. Church has always been a place to build lasting relationships.
- Church is a place to encounter God. There's a sense of awe as the restoring work of Jesus continues through His people. Church is a place where we encounter God's presence together and Jesus is the center of worship.
- Church is a place to serve. It's a place where we can help one another, praying and caring for practical needs.
- Church is a place with room for more. It's not a club for just a few. The disciples continue to invite more people to follow Jesus and experience life in Him. The church continues to grow as more and more people hear the Good News and respond in faith.

### **3. The church is both local and global.**

You'll find churches in just about every country in the

world. Some are big. Others are small. Some meet in formal building and others in homes.

Read the book of Acts and you see that new churches are established in city after city. All of the references to “church” in Acts, James, 3 John, and Revelation are referring to a local group of people.

So yes, in one sense every Jesus follower is part of God’s global family. The church crosses ethnic and racial lines. God has His people everywhere.

But remember the church is also local. It’s important to get connected with a local group of Jesus followers to learn and serve.

Why? Because you have an important part to play.

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many ... in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 1 Corinthians 12v12-20*

Everyone has been given the same Holy Spirit to fill and empower us to live like Jesus. Yet God has uniquely given each person specific passions and gifts by the Holy Spirit



to share with the rest of the church. You are needed. Being part of a local church is about more than just what we get out of it.

Every time you go to gather with your church, pray something as simple as, “God, here I am going to meet with your people. Is there anyone who needs help or encouragement? Is there anything I can do to serve your people?” Great things happen when we join and serve in a local church.

Disclaimer: There are no “perfect churches” as there are no “perfect people”. If you’ve been to a church and been disappointed or even hurt, you’re not alone. When Jesus called His first disciples they were “rough around the edges” to say the least. We’re all in process. Yes, God’s forgiven us and is changing us, but transformation happens over time. Sometimes people in church will disappoint you. And I’m sure you might disappoint others as well. We are better together. We’re a “body” that Jesus has put together. While there is no perfect church, it can be a life-giving community for you.

### **What are the marks of a healthy church?**

Travel in any city and you’ll notice a variety of churches with different kinds of buildings, music, leadership styles, and programs. Local churches often take on the personality of the people who meet together. Some are more formal. Others more casual. That’s a good thing. These stylistic differences aside, how do you find a healthy church?

## Healthy churches:

- Teach from the Bible: Church is a place where we grow in learning about Jesus and how to live more and more like Him. Healthy churches spend time reading the Bible and talking about how to apply it in everyday life.
- Focus on Jesus: There are so many issues that divide us. Healthy churches focus on the Good News of Jesus. They talk about the grace that comes from Jesus through His life, death, and resurrection and try to live out Jesus' teachings.
- Show love for one another: The early churches were described as communities that were committed to the teachings of Jesus and cared for one another. They lived like a family, sharing concern and resources. Jesus said the way people would know we are His disciples is by our love for one another (John 13v34-5).

## What about water baptism?

One of the first marks of becoming a disciple to Jesus in a local church is water baptism.

- Baptism publicly identifies us with Jesus and His family. Jesus told His followers to “...*go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” Matthew 28v19-20

- Baptism follows belief. The pattern in Scripture is that baptism follows hearing the Good News and trusting Jesus for salvation (Acts 2v38; 8v12; 9v17-18; 10v47-8; 16v14-15, 32-34).
- Baptism should be done by “immersion” (going under the water). The Greek word “baptizo” means “to plunge or immerse”. While some traditions might sprinkle with water, immersion in water best represents both what the word means and the practice of the early church.

### **What does baptism represent?**

- Baptism shows our connection to Jesus in His death and resurrection (Romans 6v3-6). As He died and rose again to provide our rescue, so we recognize that our “old life” before following Jesus is gone. We are new people, filled with God’s presence and power to live in a new way.
- Baptism is an announcement. The act doesn’t save; but announces what has happened. We are telling the community (and reminding ourselves) that we are united with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we belong to God and His people.
- When should we be baptized? Now! We should be baptized in water (once) after following Jesus. It is not something you need to repeat.

## **Chapter 3: Bible Learning God's ways**

**Key idea:** God has shown us what He is like and how to follow Him in the Bible. We can read, understand, and apply the Bible to guide our everyday life.

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Remember from chapter one that two of the goals of the disciple are to “learn the Master’s teaching and take on the Master’s lifestyle”.

The question is “how?” How do we learn God’s ways and make changes to live more in alignment with His design?

Thankfully we don’t have to figure it out ourselves. God has given us the Bible; His words written down for us. And God’s given us the Holy Spirit; God’s presence to guide and direct our lives (more on that in the next chapter).

### **What is the Bible?**

#### **1. The Bible is God’s story.**

The first words of the Bible are “in the beginning God...” and the final words of the Bible in Revelation give a glimpse of life in God’s future – heaven, earth, and eternity the way God designed. God is at the beginning and end. In the pages of the Bible we see what God is like and how He relates with people throughout time.

## **2. The Bible is a library.**

- It’s big. The Bible is actually a collection, or library, of 66 books, written by 40 authors over a period of 1,500 years. The Bible is split into two sections called the Old Testament (Genesis-Malachi) and the New Testament (Matthew-Revelation).
- It’s diverse. The Old Testament starts with the creation of the world, shows God’s relationship with people over centuries, and sets the stage for the coming of Jesus. The New Testament starts with four biographies of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). The Book of Acts tells the account of Jesus’ disciples after His resurrection, followed by a series of letters (Romans-Jude) that deal with different issues on how to live a Jesus-centered life. The Bible closes with the Revelation of John, a glimpse into how world history will climax.
- It takes time to understand. The Bible is written in different styles. There’s narrative, poetry, wisdom sayings, and more. Don’t be discouraged if some of it takes time to figure out. While the Bible is an ancient

book, it's relevant to life in any generation. Reading and re-reading is worth it.

### 3. The Bible is life-giving.

- It's reliable. While human authors wrote the Bible with their unique style and personality, God guided the people and process. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3v16-17
- It's practical. The Bible is about more than information. We see what God is like and learn how to live in right relationship with Him. God will use the Bible to shape the way we think and live. *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.* Romans 15v4
- It's spiritual. Without physical food we wouldn't live long. Our spiritual walk requires "food" to keep us strong. *Jesus said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* Matthew 4v4. Some say, "I just wish God would speak to me!" Well, He has. God has already spoken to His world. When we read, understand, and apply what God has said in the Bible, we nourish our lives.

#### 4. The Bible is centered on Jesus.

The center of the storyline is Jesus. The first part sets the stage for His coming and the second half shows us who Jesus is and how He impacts the rest of human history. If you read the whole Bible and don't get a clearer view of Jesus, you've missed the point! Here's some practical advice:

- Start with Jesus. While the entire Bible is helpful, the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) are a great place to start. The goal of a disciple is to learn and live the Master's teaching. The Gospels show us how Jesus lived, what Jesus taught, and how we can follow Him. I'd recommend you start with Luke. Luke did a thorough investigation into Jesus' life to help those who never met Him. Luke covers the life of Jesus with amazing detail. Then I would read John. John writes with a different goal in mind. He highlights a few key things that Jesus did and taught so that we might believe and follow Him.
- Use helpful tools to understand what it means. There are lots of free tools out there to help.
  - \* The Bible Project: [thebibleproject.com](http://thebibleproject.com). The Bible Project offers free videos that give an overview of every book in the Bible, as well as videos on themes, key words, and more. I would suggest you watch a short video on the Gospel of Luke before reading it. Then watch the video

again when you finish. You'll be surprised how much you will learn when you first understand the big picture.

- \* You Version: [youversion.com](http://youversion.com). You Version offers free versions of the Bible in multiple versions and languages, as well as reading plans and study tools. Since the Bible was written in ancient languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) there are many translations available to read the Bible in your native language. I recommend the New International Version and New Living Translation.
- Read and talk about the Bible with other people. Spend time each day to read something in the Bible. Don't worry about how much or how fast you read. That's not the point. I keep reading until something connects. It could be something that fits what I am going through or something I don't understand. The good news is we can learn from what others are reading. Talk with others about what you're reading. God has given us people in the church to help us grow.
- Write down what you're learning. It will be helpful to keep a record of what you're learning. Nothing fancy, just your thoughts and reflections. It will help you as you go back and track your growth. Here are a couple of questions to guide your Bible reading and study:
  - \* What does the passage say? As you read, it's



good to ask what is going on. An easy-to-read translation of the Bible will help.

- \* What did the passage mean? Since the Bible was written to people long ago, we want to think about what it meant to those who first read it. This might take a little homework, but it's worth it. There are "Study Bibles" that include helpful notes and background information that help us understand what this might have meant to them.
  - \* What does the passage mean for today? It's good to think and talk to others about how to apply what we're learning.
  - \* How will I live differently? Remember the goal of Bible reading is that we will know and follow Jesus more closely. Take action on what you're learning.
- Don't get discouraged! Okay. At this point this sounds a bit academic and overwhelming. Don't worry. I have been reading the Bible since I was a child. At first, I only understood little bits. Over the years I've grown and the Bible has become more and more meaningful to guide my thoughts, relationships, and decisions. God has given us the Bible to know Him better. And a Guide to help us every step of the way – the Holy Spirit.

## **Chapter 4: Holy Spirit**

### **God's Presence and Power**

**Key idea:** God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us know Jesus' presence, follow His ways, and continue His work in the world.

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#### **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

God. God is revealed to us in Scripture as One in three Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit.

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1v1-4*

Notice it's the good news of God the Father, regarding the Son, through the Spirit. Which means the Holy Spirit

is no less God than Jesus. Perfectly distinct and perfectly united: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I know. It's a bit of a mind blow. And it should be. I mention this because I think a bunch of confusion about God's power stems from a misunderstanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in our world.

The Holy Spirit isn't a feeling or an impersonal force. The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is God. That's foundational.

### **So what does the Holy Spirit do?**

#### **1. The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our need for Jesus.**

*“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” John 16v7-11*

We know the difference between right and wrong because of the Holy Spirit. We see our sin as an offense to God because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit draws us to our need for forgiveness through Jesus.

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of*

*rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3v4-7*

When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit brings about our salvation. Our past is “washed” and we are “reborn” because of His presence and power.

## **2. The Holy Spirit brings God’s presence into our lives.**

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Romans 8v16*

*“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14v15-17*

Jesus promised that you would never be alone. He would be with you forever. The Holy Spirit enables us to know Jesus’ way and to live for Him. We know that we belong to God because of the Holy Spirit.

## **3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to continue Jesus’ work.**

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to*

*the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*  
Romans 12v4-8

*Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.* 1 Corinthians 12v1; 12v4-7

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us. Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 remind us that God's presence works in and through our lives through "gifts" or "manifestations". In other words, God wants to continue the work of Jesus as we serve with the Holy Spirit's enabling. 1 Corinthians 12v7 is helpful, "*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*"

What we are looking for is the Holy Spirit to show us God's presence in the real world. So when we see brokenness, we long to see God step in. Healing. When we don't know what to do, we long for God to step in. Wisdom. Knowledge. That's why Paul tells the church that it's the Holy Spirit that expresses God's presence in all sorts of ways. You should expect God to use you. God is already working in and through you.

#### **4. The Holy Spirit changes our desires and behavior.**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:22-26*

The Holy Spirit changes us at the deepest levels.

Paul lists out nine characteristics of Jesus that can be shown in our own lives. Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness and more. All of this is true because God has given us the Holy Spirit. That doesn't mean we will always get it right. God is perfect. We are not. But it does mean that God has given us the power to live more like Jesus and that we can expect change in the way we think and act over time.

#### **5. The Holy Spirit guides us through trials and temptations.**

What happens when I mess it up?

You are on a journey. You won't do the right thing all the time. You will still make mistakes, still sin. Every follower of Jesus does. So what do you do when you mess it up?

Remind yourself that:

- God’s love is unchanging. *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8v1*
- God doesn’t break off our relationship when we fail. You belong to God. You are His child. We should make it our goal to please Him. Yet when we fail, God will show us the path to forgiveness.
- God disciplines those He loves. *Do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Hebrews 12v5-6.* How we respond to God matters. God’s love is never a good excuse to live in ongoing sin. Like a good parent, God will at times discipline us for our good. It’s never to make us feel unworthy or discouraged. It’s to help shape us to live more like Jesus.
- God has provided a path to ongoing forgiveness. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1v9.* To confess means simply to “admit or agree”. When we confess our sin to Him, we’re agreeing with God that our behavior is wrong and harmful. By God’s grace, Jesus continues to offer free and full forgiveness. God is faithful to forgive as we come back to Him. God has spoken to us in and through the Bible. God is speaking to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit through

conviction. The Holy Spirit speaks to us to reveal our sin and calls us to confess.

- If you are following Jesus then you have the Holy Spirit. He is with you and in you.





## **Chapter 5: Prayer**

### **Talking and Listening to God**

**Key idea:** Prayer is an invitation to relationship with God. We don't have to worry about "getting it right". God wants to spend time with us.

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**What is prayer?**

*Prayer is simply an invitation to relationship. We all know the power of conversations with friends and family. Prayer is less about mechanics (what I say) and more about a shared experience. God really wants to spend time listening and speaking with you.*

## 1. Jesus modeled why we should pray.

*Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” John 5v19.* Jesus hears from the Father. Jesus lives dependent on the Father’s guidance. So Jesus prayed. He talked to and listened to the Father.

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5v16.* Jesus had choices to make. Jesus understands a life full of pressure and demands. And yet we see Jesus navigating the busyness, not by doing more things, but by getting alone with His Father.

Relationships take time. It takes effort. It takes discipline. Paul Miller, in his book “A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World”, makes a helpful observation: “You don’t create intimacy; you make room for it. This is true whether you are talking about your spouse, your friend, or God. You need space to be together. Efficiency, multitasking, and busyness all kill intimacy. In short, you can’t get to know God on the fly.”

Prayer is an invitation to relationship. Which means we get to speak with and listen to God often. We don’t have to come to God “as a last resort”.

Relationship with God is learned. You can learn. You can grow. That means knowing God, learning from God, hearing and responding to His leading is something you

will get better at in time.

## 2. Jesus taught us how to pray.

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

*Matthew 6:5-8*

Before showing us what prayer is, Jesus says what prayer is not:

- Prayer is not a show for others to see. Jesus isn't against praying together or in public places. He simply points out that praying to impress others doesn't make sense.
- Prayer is not about informing God. The “pagans” believed that the gods were reluctant to hear prayers unless they were long. The “gods” were not nice. You had to convince them that you ought to be heard and so you plead your case. The longer the prayer, the more begging you'd do, the greater the chance that they would work in your favor. Jesus says that's not how prayer works. God is a Father who knows what we need and is waiting for us to ask. Jesus sets us free to pray

with confidence. It's not about the number of words or the amount of times a day that you pray. God already knows what we need. We can and should come to God because He is already aware and His posture towards us is blessing.

- Prayer is not a “cop out”. It's not an emotional escape where I put the pressure on God to do something while I avoid the challenges I face.

How should we pray, then?

Jesus continues in Matthew 6v9-15, *“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today 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 the evil one. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

“The Lord’s Prayer”, that’s what we call it. Actually, it’s the disciple’s prayer. It’s less about repeating these words and more about coming to talk and listen to God with this kind of mindset.

Kenneth Bailey, in his book, “Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes”, suggests that each of these six requests involves an act of God, and each implies active involvement on the part of the believer.

*God makes His own name holy, and I am expected to live a holy life. God brings in the kingdom, and I am to work toward the goal of its coming. God fulfills His will, and I am to discover that will and obey it in daily life. He gives the gift of daily bread, and I must work to earn it. He forgives, and I must forgive. He guides me away from evil, and I must live a life of righteousness.*

- Again, prayer is not a cop out. It's an invitation to relationship, to see God more clearly and follow Him more closely. *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* Luke 11:9-13
- Prayer is about asking! It's about asking to see God for who He is. Asking God for His will to be done on the earth. Asking God for what we need. Asking God to

forgive us and help extend forgiveness to others. Don't be afraid to ask God. Ask. And ask. And ask again. Jesus says that the Father in heaven gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. "God, I need tuition for school." Ok. Here's the Holy Spirit. "God, I need healing in this relationship." Ok. Here's the Holy Spirit. "God, I'm sick and not getting better." Ok. Here's the Holy Spirit.

Jesus does not promise that we always get the specific thing that we are asking for! Get that. A good parent listens to their children and lovingly provides exactly what they need.

### **So when should I pray?**

It's good to set aside some time each day to read the Bible and pray. Like any healthy relationship, committing time to be together is important. I take the first few minutes of the day, before I'm on the phone, eat, or open my computer to spend time with God. That practice has helped me get off to a great start for decades. Other friends I know spend time at night. There's no hard fast rule. Yet prayer ought to be an ongoing experience.

As you go through the day and things come up, bring them to God. When a decision needs to be made, pray. If you feel lonely or hurt, pray. When you are tempted to or fall into sin, pray. If you're having a great time, pray.

Prayer is an invitation to relationship. You're invited.

## Chapter 6: Witness Sharing Your Story

**Key idea:** You are a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He's changing you and wants to use you to help others follow Him.

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When did you first begin to think about following Jesus?

What moved you closer?

Who did God use?

I think if you look back at your life there were many people God used to help you find your way to life in Jesus. I've heard it said that it often takes at least 7-12 contacts with the Good News before it starts to make sense.

Jesus is changing you. I hope by now you're growing to understand God's love for you and His plan to transform your life. God has great plans in store for you!  
Thinking back to the early conversation on what it means



to be a disciple; a disciple takes on the Master's work. Jesus was clear about His mission:

*“For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save the lost.”  
Luke 19v10*

*“For even the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10v45*

All along Jesus invited a group of disciples to learn His teaching and eventually continue His work. After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples to witness to who Jesus is and what He has done.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28v18-20*

**You are one of those disciples! And so as we follow Jesus, we need to remember:**

**1. Jesus has the power to use our lives.**

You might not feel like you have anything to share. But you do. Jesus has and is doing things in your life that people ought to know.

Jesus reminds us that “all authority” belongs to Him. He has the power to use your life, even the parts you’d rather forget, to help others know of His love.

## **2. Jesus is calling more people to become His disciples.**

We get to share what we know about Jesus. He’s the One who has the power to change them. He has the power to connect your story with their story. The pressure isn’t on you or me to force people to become disciples. Only the Holy Spirit can draw people to follow Jesus. It’s simply our privilege to listen to where people are at, share what we know, and invite people to experience life in Jesus.

We can share what we know.

## **3. Jesus is with us.**

We don’t have to worry about what to say or do. Share your story with confidence knowing that Jesus is with you providing the courage and words to say.

**Ok. If Jesus has called us to share His message through our story, where do we begin?**

### **1. Pray for people.**

Never underestimate the power of praying for people you know. While we don’t know all they are going through, God does. He wants to rescue them as well.

- Pray that God will send Jesus followers into their life. *He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Luke 10v2*
- Pray for opportunities. *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Colossians 4v3*
- Pray for boldness. *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Acts 4v29*

## **2. Spend time with people.**

Jesus didn't hide from people who lived far from God. Jesus ate with people who had bad reputations, not to copy their behavior but to demonstrate God's love. Read Luke 19v1-10. It's one of many great examples of how Jesus treated people. Many considered Zacchaeus a sinner, someone not worth eating with. As a tax collector, he found ways to cheat people. Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house before he took any steps towards following God's ways. Jesus was willing to spend time in conversation with him regardless of his current lifestyle. That's an important reminder. It's impossible to tell people what Jesus is doing in our world if we're not spending time with them.

Chances are you are already surrounded by people yet to follow Jesus. Invest time together and look for open doors

to listen to what they believe. Simply share what Jesus is doing in your life.

### **3. Look for opportunities to serve.**

Jesus was more than a teacher. He invited God's presence to change people's situations. Blind people were able to see. The deaf could hear. The lame could walk. The hungry were fed. Jesus showed the love of God as He shared the love of God.

One of the simplest ways to serve people is to pray for them. Not just talk about praying for them, but actually pray for their situation. Jesus is alive. He wants everyone to know of His love.

There might be some practical things you can do to help as well. Remember, we serve because that's what Jesus came to do. We serve without any "strings attached". When people see the love of Jesus through your life, it can open doors to share the Good News.

### **4. Think about what to say.**

*Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the*

*third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 1 Corinthians 15v1-5*

*The Good News is a message. It's news about God, our rebellion, Jesus' rescue, and how we can experience new life because of Him.*

Paul summarizes it this way: Jesus died and rose again to save sinners.

There are lots of ways to communicate the Good News with people. There's one example at the beginning of this book, on pages 9-13 called, "What is the Good News?" People can relate to language about relationships. But that's only one way.

Find one (or two) and think about them. Maybe copy some thoughts into a note on your phone or put in a page in your Bible. We ought to be ready to share when Jesus opens a door. If I think about how I would explain what Jesus has done now, I will be more confident when I'm given an opportunity. And remember, sharing the faith isn't complicated.

I love the simplicity of one encounter Jesus had with a blind man. Jesus healed his blindness. The people in the town didn't believe it was true and were looking for ways to discredit Jesus. They called Jesus a sinner and fraud. While

interrogating the blind man, he gave a telling response:

*He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9v25*

The man didn't pretend to know more than he did. He simply shared what Jesus had done in his life. You can do the same. Share your story, what Jesus has done to rescue you. Jesus wants to use you to help people know and follow Him.



## **Chapter 7: Future**

### **The Best is yet to Come**

**Key idea:** Jesus is preparing a place for you. Eternal life means you are in relationship with Jesus now and will live with Him forever.

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#### **What do you think God wants to do through your life?**

Is it big? Is it small? Does it require faith, does it require God's hand to make it happen or can you pull it off by yourself? And what happens when this life is over? Is it the end, or just the beginning of what God has in store? Thankfully, Jesus told us a lot about our future. Our future in this life and in the life to come.

#### **1. Jesus is preparing a greater place for you.**

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be*



*where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”*  
*John 14v1-4*

Jesus tells His followers that there's no reason for us to worry. There's absolutely no reason for us to get freaked out over our situation. Why? Because Jesus is planning our future. He's preparing our future. He's thinking about you, transforming you now, and going to take you to be with Him forever. This is good news!

### **What will our future look like?**

*When we die, we will be with Jesus. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15v20-22*

### **What will we be like?**

The Bible doesn't give us a lot of information, other than that we will be like Jesus. Jesus' body was raised from the dead. One day our body will be raised to life. Jesus is with the Father. We too will be with the Father. Jesus promised to return so that we could be with Him. One day God will make the heavens and the earth new. We will have new bodies, living with Jesus in God's renewed world. That is our future hope.

## 2. Jesus is the way into God's future.

*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14v5-7*

We were created in the image of God. Every one of us. But our sin, our rebellion, keeps us from enjoying a close relationship with our Heavenly Father. Jesus is the way home. Jesus is going to provide the way, in His death and resurrection. He's going to pay for my sin. Faith in Jesus is the way to life. But again, the disciples are a bit slow to understand. Keep reading:

*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves." John 14v8-11*

These disciples have already been with Jesus for years. They've seen His miracles. Heard His teaching. Watched His perfect life. But they don't understand it all. Jesus

speaks a word to those already following, already listening, and already serving. In other words, Jesus has more to say. More to share. More to show you and me. I hope you're open to hearing from Jesus. Listening. Looking. Longing to know Him better. Jesus partners with His Father in the work. That's key.

### **3. Jesus has greater things for you and me.**

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” John 14v12-14*

Jesus says His disciples will do the same things, even greater things.

How in the world can that be true?

Remember He's talking to uneducated, unconnected, ordinary young men. Fisherman. Farmers. Not top of the class or most likely to succeed.

But they have been with Jesus... so what are the “greater things”? Are we going to do bigger miracles than Jesus?

Jesus raises the dead. I don't think we're going to top that. Oh, by the way, if you read the book of Acts, the narrative of the first community of Jesus followers, you find that

people are doing the same kinds of things Jesus did. Healing. Delivering people from the power of demons. The miracles of Jesus continue through His followers. But they are not “more incredible”.

I think the “greater things” is about the scope of God’s work.

- Greater things is about more places. It’s about location. Jesus was limited to one place at one time. Now Jesus’ followers are spread out all over the world.
- Greater things is about more people. It’s about multiplication. Jesus showed the way to the Father. But now, through His followers, lots of people are going to share the Good News of God’s plan to rescue the world.
- Greater things happen when we ask. Jesus invites us to ask, in His name, and He says He will do it. I don’t think we’ve taken Jesus’ promise seriously. I think most of us, myself included, at times add all sorts of clauses and excuses as to why that’s not about us, not about now, not about our situation.
- It’s about asking for God to be God in every situation. Jesus says, “ask.”
- Greater things happen when we obey. *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him,*

*because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” John 14v15-17. Ask. And Jesus will do it. But don’t just ask. Follow His leading. Those who love Him obey what He says. Jesus always knew what to do. Jesus follows His Father.*

- Greater things happen by the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus does what He sees the Father doing, now we have the same partnership. God’s Spirit is now living in us. The Spirit lives in us. Doesn’t just visit, or text, or drop by. Lives in you. So the question is, do we really believe that? Really? I mean to the point of actually stepping out in faith to obey what God is saying to us. Let’s not sell Jesus short. He believes in you. He’s paid it all for you. He rose again for you. He promised to fill you!

Your life matters. Your time matters. Your energy and passion matter and Jesus is preparing your future. You don’t have to worry about that. Jesus has greater things to do in and through your life now.

I hope and pray that you see those greater things happen as you follow Him.

## **A Final Word**

You've made it to the end. Well done! While the book is almost over, your life following Jesus is just getting started.

**Let's recap the key ideas we covered:**

1. Jesus invites us to become His disciples (apprentices / learners). The goal of a disciple is to be with Jesus, learn His teaching, and live His way.
2. Jesus adopts us into His family. We grow with God as we grow with “brothers and sisters” in Jesus.
3. God has shown us what He is like and how to follow Him in the Bible. We can read, understand, and apply the Bible to guide our everyday life.
4. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us know Jesus' presence, follow His ways, and continue His work in the world.
5. Prayer is an invitation to relationship with God. We don't have to worry about “getting it right”. God wants to spend

time with us.

6. You are a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He's changing you and wants to use you to help others follow Him.

7. Jesus is preparing a place for you. Eternal life means you are in relationship with Jesus now and will live with Him forever.

As I said at the beginning, these aren't the only things to know or in the best order. It's just a start. There are so many more things about life following Jesus you will discover. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. And never give up!

1. Jesus invites us to become His disciples (apprentices / learners). The goal of a disciple is to be with Jesus, learn His teaching, and live His way.
2. Jesus adopts us into His family. We grow with God as we grow with “brothers and sisters” in Jesus.
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7. Jesus is preparing a place for you. Eternal life means you are in relationship with Jesus now and will live with Him forever.



# **GOOD NEWS TODAY**

**Whether you're new to following  
Jesus or just looking to get grounded  
in the basics, this short book  
will help you take the next steps.**