

02

# THE RELATIONSHIP

Establishing Your Life in Christ

THIS IS THE  
GOSPEL

THIS IS THE  
**GOSPEL**

**01: The Call**

**02: The Relationship**

**03: The Pursuit**

**04: The Journey**

## **Congratulations!**

Welcome to the family of God. As you begin this relationship with Christ, we want to provide some information that will help you pursue Him.

When you turned from your sin by placing faith in Jesus Christ, you began a new life as a Christian. The Bible uses many terms to describe this new life. It says you are “saved,” “redeemed,” “born again,” “a child of God,” “a friend of God,” “a new creation in Christ,” and so much more. According to Scripture, you have a new identity in Christ.

A major part of your growth as a Christian is understanding and embracing this new identity in Christ. You will discover that Christianity is not you living for God; it is God living His life through you. This life is possible when you understand your identity in Christ and pursue Him relationally. Over the course of the next seven days, this guide will help you find answers to the following questions:

**Day 1: What is my new identity in Christ?**

**Day 2: What is eternal life?**

**Day 3: What is the goal of the Christian life?**

**Day 4: What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?**

**Day 5: How do I study the Bible?**

**Day 6: Why should I attend church?**

**Day 7: What should I do to grow as a Christian?**

Romans 8:29 says, *“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...”*. God wants to conform your character into the character of Christ. He wants you to grow in your understanding and development as a Christian. Our objective is to help you on the right path.

May God bless you as you discover the Christ-life!



## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- 1) You will need a Bible, a pen, and a highlighter.
- 2) Read the information carefully and fill out any blanks as you go.
- 3) If possible, try to go through this guide immediately after becoming a Christian. If you've been a Christian for a while, use this book as a reference to ensure that you're on the right track.
- 4) Share these teachings with others as God provides the opportunities.



## DAY 1

### **What is my new identity in Christ?**

Our identity defines us. Our identity is often linked to what we do, what we like, where we're from, or how we see ourselves. Notice how people introduce themselves for the first time. "Good morning. My name is Dr. Simms. I'm a pediatrician." "Hi, I'm Allen. I teach 7th grade history." "Hello everyone. My name is Mike. I'm an alcoholic." Our identity defines us.

Prior to Christ, our identity was defined by what we did. Romans 3:23 tells us, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" It doesn't matter if we've sinned a little or a lot—everyone has sinned and was defined as a sinner.

When you turned from your sin by placing faith in Christ, you were given a new identity. You are no longer defined by your sin; you are defined by Christ's righteousness. Paul said, "*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...*" (Galatians 2:20). Christ lives in you!

William Culbertson described this exchange (Christ saving you and giving you His identity) through the lens of Romans 6:6-8.

"Who died on the cross? Of course, our blessed Lord died on the cross; but who else died there? 'Knowing this, that our old

self was crucified *with him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died *with Christ*, we believe that we shall also live *with Him*.”

As a Christian, your new identity is found in Christ. When He died on the cross, you died on the cross (Romans 6:6–8). When He rose from the dead, you rose from the dead (Colossians 2:12). You are in Christ, and Christ is in you. He is your identity!

This does not mean that you are equal with Christ. It simply means that your old life has passed away, and your new life is found in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The list below describes your new identity from God’s perspective.

### **Who are you?**

- **The salt of the earth** (Matthew 5:13)
- **The light of the world** (Matthew 5:14)
- **A child of God, part of His family** (John 1:12; Romans 8:14–16; Galatians 3:26, 4:6; 1 John 3:1–2)
- **Part of the true vine** (John 15:1, 5)
- **Christ’s friend** (John 15:15)
- **Chosen and appointed by Christ to bear fruit** (John 15:16)
- **A personal witness of Christ** (Acts 1:8)
- **A slave of righteousness** (Romans 6:18)
- **Enslaved to God** (Romans 6:22)
- **A joint-heir with Christ** (Romans 8:17)
- **A temple of God** (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)
- **Joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him** (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- **A member of Christ’s body** (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30)
- **A new creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **Reconciled to God, a minister of reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 5:18–19)
- **A son of God and one in Christ** (Galatians 3:26–28)
- **An heir of God** (Galatians 4:6–7)

- **A saint** (Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)
- **God’s workmanship** (Ephesians 2:10)
- **A fellow citizen in His family** (Ephesians 2:19)
- **A prisoner of Christ** (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1)
- **Righteous and holy** (Ephesians 4:24)
- **A citizen of heaven and seated in heaven now** (Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:6)
- **Hidden with Christ in God** (Colossians 3:3)
- **An expression of the life of Christ (Colossians 3:4)**
- **Chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved** (Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)
- **A son of light and not of darkness** (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- **A holy brother, partaker of a heavenly calling** (Hebrews 3:1)
- **A partaker of Christ** (Hebrews 3:14)
- **A living stone** (1 Peter 2:5)
- **A chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation** (1 Peter 2:9–10)
- **An alien and stranger to this world** (1 Peter 2:11)
- **An enemy of the devil** (1 Peter 5:8)
- **Born of God and the evil one can’t touch you** (1 John 5:18)
- **A sheep of His pasture** (Psalm 23; 100)

**A major part of Christian living is beginning to see yourself from God’s perspective. Take time to highlight the verses that mean the most to you.**



## DAY 2

### What is eternal life?

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have been given the free gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). That's great news. Unfortunately, so many Christians are confused about eternal life. Let's take a few moments to define eternal life from God's perspective.

Jesus spoke regularly about eternal life. He said...

*"Whoever believes in Him will have **eternal life**."* (John 3:15)

*"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have **eternal life**..."*  
(John 6:40)

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have **eternal life**."* (John 3:16)

*"...the water that I will give him will become...a well of water springing up to **eternal life**."* (John 4:14)

Everywhere Jesus went, He spoke of eternal life. He brought it up in messages, prayed it back to the Father, and taught it to His disciples. Based on Scripture, we know that those who believe in

Christ will have eternal life. But what is eternal life? It's not until John 17 that Jesus actually defines it.

*"This is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**"* (John 17:3)

Eternal life is to know God. The reason Christ set aside the glory of heaven and came to earth is that we may know God. Many Christians have falsely assumed that eternal life is going to heaven when you die. Heaven is great. But going to heaven is a benefit of knowing God; *it's not the main gift.*

God's primary gift is Himself. We were created for relationship with God, sin separated that relationship, and Jesus died and rose again to reconcile the relationship. Eternal life is to know God relationally.

If eternal life is to know God, how do we get to know Him?

- God must reveal Himself.
- We must believe what He has revealed.
- We must spend time with the revealed One.

How has God revealed Himself? He has revealed Himself through...

- Creation (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20)
- Conscience (Romans 2:14-15)
- Christ (John 1:1, 5:18, 8:58, 14:9; Hebrews 1:1-2)
- The Canon of Scripture (John 20:31; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

Why is it important to believe what God has revealed? Faith is central to the gospel message. As we saw through the Scriptures on the previous page, eternal life is given to those who *believe* in Christ. That means a person believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and offers eternal life. Who Christ is and what Christ did on the cross is the core of the gospel message. It must be believed by faith.

Finally, we must spend time with the revealed One. The only way to get to know someone is to spend time with that person. You

can learn about someone from a book, but you get to know that person by spending time together. As you're with someone, you pick up their mannerisms, likes and dislikes, temperament, attitude, outlook, heart, the way they think, and how they respond. You get to know a person by spending time with that person.

Let's put those pieces together. God's gift is eternal life. Eternal life is to know God. We get to know God because He has revealed Himself, by believing what He has revealed, and by spending time with Him.

**Look up John 15:1-8 in your Bible. How many times does Christ tell us to abide? To abide means to stay with Him, remain in Him, be at home in Him. Based on what you've read, how does abiding in Christ help you to know God?**

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**God has revealed Himself in Scripture. Part of knowing God is to believe what He has revealed. Look up Colossians 1:15-19. What does God reveal about Himself? Write down several major characteristics. Do you believe it?**

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**As you spend time with God and believe what He has revealed, you get to know Him. As you get to know Him, you experience eternal life.**



## DAY 3

### What is the goal of the Christian life?

If God's gift to humanity is eternal life (to know Him), then our ultimate goal should be to embrace that gift. In some ways, this section is an extension of yesterday's lesson. Now that we understand the essence of eternal life, we can accurately see the goal of the Christian life.

What is the goal of the Christian life? Clyde Cranford taught that the goal is twofold:

#### **The ultimate goal is to know God.**

We embrace the gift of eternal life by getting to know God. It brings us back to our purpose in creation. We were created for relationship with God.

That takes us to our second goal. How do you really get to know someone?

#### **The daily goal is to spend time with God.**

As we saw yesterday, the only way we get to know someone is by spending time with that person. You can learn about a person through a book, but you can only get to know that person by

spending time together. Let's pull this idea out just a little more. Think for a moment about dating. The primary purpose of dating is to get to know someone to see if you're compatible. While dating, you go where they go, do what they do, and try to understand their heart, character, dreams, and plans. By spending time together, you discover their personality, mannerisms, etc. Over time, you get to know the person.

Take that same approach to knowing God. How can you spend time with God? Some common ways are provided for you. Many of these are referred to as "the disciplines" of the Christian faith.

- **Reading the Bible is a way to spend time with God and get to know Him.**

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself. In the Bible, God reveals His character, His heart, His desires, and His plans. The more you study the Bible, the better you know and understand God.

- **Talking with God in prayer is a way to spend time with God and get to know Him.**

Prayer is not just telling God everything you need; prayer is also listening as God speaks to you. It takes time to discern God's voice in prayer. However, the more you're with Him, the more you will recognize His voice.

- **Worshiping God is a way to spend time with God and get to know Him.**

Worship is not just singing. We worship God with our lives, our decisions, our actions, and our pursuits. Worship can be as simple as focused reflection on God, offering thanks for what He's done, or obeying His promptings.

- **Listening to biblically-based preaching and teaching is a way to spend time with God and get to know Him.**

Second Timothy 2:15 says we are to "*study to show ourselves approved to God.*" No one figures God out on their own. Christianity requires collaboration with other believers. As you listen to biblically-based preaching and teaching, it points to

Christ, elevates Christ, encourages faith in Christ, and shares the teachings of Christ. All of this will help you know Him more.

- **Time in nature is a way to spend time with God and get to know Him.**

Romans 1 tells us that God’s invisible attributes, nature, and character are clearly seen by what has been made. The Psalmist declares that the heavens are filled with the glory of God. While God’s specific revelation of Himself is found in the Bible, God’s general revelation can be seen in creation.

Regardless of which approach you choose, the goal is to spend time with Him where the focus is on Him.

Let’s recap. The ultimate goal is to know God. The goal is not just to know about God. The goal is not to become a biblical scholar. The goal is to know Him. It is possible for a person to spend his or her entire life learning about God and doing spiritual things, but never really get to know Him.

The daily goal is to spend time with Him. We need to find ways to be with God and get to know Him. Review the list of ways provided in this lesson. The first goal orients your life; the second goal orients your day.

If a Christian keeps these two goals at the forefront of his or her mind, they will make great strides in understanding and living the Christ-life.

**Based on the ways to spend time with God found in this lesson, list several things you can start today.**

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**If the goal is to know the God of the Bible, who can help you achieve that goal? List several specific people or types of people. Contact some on your list.**

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## DAY 4

### What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?

*“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18–20)*

There are two questions that need to be addressed from this passage:

- What is a disciple?
- How are disciples made?

From a first-century Jewish perspective, a disciple is someone who spends time with their rabbi (listening, watching, and imitating him) so that they can become like him and eventually pass on his teachings to others.

In the New Testament, Jesus is called “Rabbi” thirteen times. He is our Rabbi; we are His disciples. As disciples, we are to spend time with Christ (listening to Him, watching Him, and imitating Him) so that we can become like Him and eventually pass on His teachings to others.

As you spend time with Christ, He will lead you into four specific areas. He will lead you to love God, unite with believers, serve the world, and entrust the gospel. The entire Christian life flows out of this pursuit of Christ.

#### **To love God is to:**

- Enjoy personal relationship with God
- Get to know Him through His Word
- Communicate with God through prayer
- Spend time with God
- Worship Him with our lives
- Live according to the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37–38)

#### **To unite with believers is to:**

- Enjoy and develop strong relationships with other believers
- Unite our lives together in mission, prayer, service, vision, love, Bible study, etc.
- Understand that Christianity is experienced in community with other believers
- Love and serve each other

#### **To serve the world is to:**

- Show people love through our actions, not just our words
- Be good stewards of our world and its resources
- Follow Christ’s example of serving others
- Invest our lives in people, families, communities, and nations

#### **To entrust the gospel is to:**

- Share the gospel of the kingdom
- Entrust the teachings of Christ to others (“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”)
- Invite others to join in God’s kingdom activity

If you removed all church buildings, budgets, and programs, being a disciple is about pursuing Christ. As we pursue Christ, He leads us to **love** God, **unite** with believers, **serve** the world, and **entrust** the gospel.

Everyone's journey with God is going to look a little different, but the disciple's orientation is the same. Christ will lead us to love, unite, serve, and entrust.

Now that you see the process, it can also serve like a spiritual compass. If you want to make sure that the course of your life is moving towards maturity in Christ, place these truths over your life and ask God to reveal what's missing. Loving God must always remain our "spiritual north." The other three points on our spiritual compass work well when we are focused on loving God.

When you place this spiritual compass over your life, you may see the need for some course corrections. You may find that you're not spending time with God. You may realize that you're not uniting with other believers or serving the world or sharing your faith. Once you realize what's missing, ask God to live that part through you.



**Based on the four areas mentioned, what areas are currently missing in your life? Who can you talk to about getting involved?**

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**We are called to be disciples and to make disciples. Who can you learn from (list their names) and who can you share with (list their names)?**

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## DAY 5

### How do I study the Bible?

The following statement is found inside the front cover of Gideon Bibles. The author is unknown, but the summary is profound and relevant. The book being referenced is the Bible.

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct me, food to sustain me, and comfort to cheer me. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, my good is its design, and the glory of God is its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given me in life, will be opened in judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

This description of the Bible is powerful and true. However, we want to provide a very simple definition of the Bible.

### The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to humanity.

Studying the Bible is essential to our maturity as disciples. All doctrinal beliefs and personal convictions must be evaluated by the truths of the Bible. The following questions are answered through the study of Scripture.

- How do I know what is true?
- How do I know what God expects?
- How do I know God?
- How do I know if my beliefs are true?
- How do I know how to lead my family?
- How do I learn how to walk as a disciple?

All of these types of questions are answered as we study the Bible. Second Timothy 3:15-17 says, *"...the sacred writings which are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

There are several key ideas to keep in mind while studying the Bible.

#### 1) Scripture is God's Word.

*"All Scripture is inspired by God..."* (2 Timothy 3:16a)

The Bible is inspired in content, inerrant in manuscripts, infallible in doctrine.

- Inspired: God breathed out (through the writers of Scripture)
- Inerrant: the absence of error
- Infallible: the impossibility of error

#### 2) The Holy Spirit enables understanding.

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."* (John 16:13)

As a Christian, the Holy Spirit is not just with you, but in you.  
(John 14:17)

**Start reading the Bible today. If you don't know where to start,  
begin in the Gospel of John.**

### **3) Scripture interprets Scripture.**

*"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."* (2 Peter 1:20-21)

If you don't understand a text, allow Scripture to answer the questions.

### **4) Context unlocks meaning.**

To properly interpret a text, we need to know:

- Author: who wrote the book
- Audience: to whom was the book written
- Setting: what was happening with the audience and the writer
- Purpose: why was the book written
- Genre: the style of writing (historical narrative, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, apocalyptic, epistle, etc.)

Most of this information is found in the front of each book in a study Bible.

### **5) There is one interpretation and many applications.**

The interpretation will be specific to the original context. Once we know what the original writer intended for the original audience, we can begin to apply the truths to our lives.

### **6) The goal is to know Him.**

The ultimate goal for studying the Bible is not knowledge; the ultimate goal for studying the Bible is to know God.

Studying the Bible takes time and consistency. You will not understand everything at once. Write down your questions, pray for understanding, and allow God the time to answer you.



## DAY 6

### Why should I attend church?

You've probably heard someone say, "I love God, but I don't have to go to church to prove it." They're right! Jesus does not say, "And this is how you know that you love Me—if you attend church every Sunday."

If going to church is not required to show our love for God, what is the point of church?

The answer may surprise you. **Part of your growth in Christ only happens when being in community with other believers.** It is the equivalent of trying to become a great football player alone. There is only so much you can learn on your own; after a while you need to be on a team to really understand the sport and hone your skills.

Christianity is a team sport. We can definitely learn truths alone. However, these truths are fleshed out in community with other believers. As you learned on Day 4, part of being a disciple is uniting with other believers. If you want to be all God created you to be, it happens in biblical community.

Weekly worship services contribute to our growth in multiple ways.

#### 1) It's a place to connect with other believers.

*"And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart..."* (Acts 2:44–46)

#### 2) It's a place to worship God.

*"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty expanse!"* (Psalm 150:1)

#### 3) It's a place to hear Scripture taught.

*"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching..."* (Acts 2:42)

#### 4) It's a place to serve others.

*"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

#### 5) It's a place to find encouragement.

*"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (Hebrews 10:25, NLT)

#### 6) It's a place to be challenged.

*"Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."* (Proverbs 27:17)

In Ephesians 4, Paul shared how each person in the body of Christ is important and needed. *"As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love"* (Ephesians 4:16, NLT).

Each Christian has something to contribute to the church. When we are willing to get involved, serve, and work together, *“the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”*

When speaking to believers in Corinth, Paul told them that they are dependent upon each other. *“The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part”* (1 Corinthians 12:25, MSG). It’s not only nice to be with other believers; it’s necessary. We need each other.

**Part of our growth in Christ only happens when being in community with other believers.**

How do you find a church or group of believers that’s right for you?

- Pray for discernment and leading.
- Look for a church that faithfully teaches God’s Word.
- Find a church that is serious about making disciples (i.e., love God, unite with believers, serve the world, entrust the gospel).
- Ask questions about their vision, mission, beliefs, ministries, leadership, etc.
- Get involved.
- If it fits, stay. If it doesn’t fit, find a church that does.

**Do you have a church that you attend? Does it meet the criteria we just mentioned? If not, what is missing?**

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**If you do not have a church that you attend, write down several churches that you are willing to research and visit. Also, write down the names of Christians you know who might be willing to help you in your search.**

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## DAY 7

# What should I do to grow as a Christian?

There are multiple disciplines that will help you to grow as a Christian. It's important to understand the disciplines and why we do them.

If we just engage in the activity without knowing the purpose, it leads to religion instead of relationship.

What are my first steps?

### 1. Get baptized.

Baptism is an act of identification and obedience. In baptism, we identify with Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 3:13-17). When we are baptized, we obey Christ's teaching in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Scriptural baptism is after salvation and by immersion. Baptism does not save anyone; baptism is a public profession of faith by those who are saved.

### 2) Spend time with God daily.

We addressed the importance of time with God on Days 2, 3, and 4. The goal of life is to know God; the daily goal is to

spend time with God. There are many ways of spending time with God. However, the two basic ways are prayer and Bible study.

#### • Prayer

Prayer is sharing with God what's on your heart and listening as God shares with you what's on His. Think of prayer as a conversation between two friends. If only one is talking, that's a monologue. When both are talking, it's a conversation.

It takes time to develop a listening ear for God's voice. God's voice in prayer will never contradict God's voice in Scripture. God will often answer our prayers, questions, and comments through Scripture. Prayer and Bible study go hand in hand.

#### • Study and Memorize Scripture

We've already covered the basics on how to study the Bible, but why do we study the Bible? We study Scripture to know God, His heart, His directions, His way, etc. The Bible is alive (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is God's word, and He uses it to speak directly to His people.

Where do you begin? Here are several suggestions.

- Read the Gospel of John, one chapter a day. Ask two questions: Who is Jesus? What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? Write down the answers with references.
- Read the book of Proverbs, one chapter a day for 31 days.
- Read the New Testament, Matthew–Revelation. If you read three chapters a day, it will take you around three months to finish the whole New Testament.
- Read the entire Bible, Genesis–Revelation. There are numerous plans for reading the Bible in a year. You can download a plan or buy a One Year Bible. The One Year Bible takes you through the Bible in a year by giving you some passages from the Old

Testament, New Testament, Proverbs, and Psalms each day.

When you find key verses that mean a lot to you, take the time to commit them to memory. God will often bring up Scripture we've memorized when addressing us in prayer.

### 3) **Unite with a local church.**

We discussed the importance of the local church on day 6. In order to grow as a follower of Christ, you need to be in community with other believers. Some common ways are as follows:

- Participate in corporate worship.  
Corporate worship is about recognizing and verbalizing our love for God. We recognize who He is and what He has done through Scripture. We verbalize our love through singing, praying, teaching, and conversation.
- Join a small group.  
Small groups help you develop friendships and give you an opportunity to ask questions. Small groups will accelerate your growth in Christ.
- Give to God's work.  
Giving is an act of worship and trust. The Bible tells us that God owns everything, and He entrusts a portion to us. God tells us to give a tithe (10%) back to Him. When a Christian gives a tithe back to God, it is an act of obedience and trust. They obey God's commands, and they trust that God can do more with the 90% that remains than if they were to keep 100% for themselves.
- Get involved.  
Talk with a pastor, discover your spiritual gift(s), find a place of service, get to know the people—get involved! When Christians are willing to get involved, they will find

opportunities to connect. If you wait for others to invite you, you may be waiting a long time. Take the initiative.

In all of these steps, remember the goal. The goal is not to perform religious duties out of obligation; the goal is to know God. Let your Bible study, prayer, and church involvement lead you into intimacy with God.

### **Additional Notes:**



## CONCLUSION

In the past seven days, we've covered the basics of your new life in Christ. That statement does not imply that we've covered all of Christianity. We've not even scratched the surface of theology, the Christ-life, our position and possessions in Christ, etc. However, we have addressed:

- Your identity in Christ
- Eternal life
- The goal(s) of the Christian life
- What it means to be a disciple of Christ
- How to study the Bible
- The importance of the local church
- Steps for growth in Christ

**These lessons have been taught in a week, but they need to be applied over a lifetime.**

The more you study Scripture, attend corporate worship, and unite with believers, the more God will fill in the details and depth.

Try to remember that the Christian life is not a sprint; it's a marathon. Learn the fundamentals well, and you will grow in maturity over time. The further you go, the more you will see the importance of the following truth:

**Everything God desires to do in and through your life, He will accomplish out of the overflow of your relationship with Christ.  
Everything! Not just some things—ALL things.**

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