



LEADER GUIDE



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*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing,
so that by the power
of the Holy Spirit you
may abound in hope.
Romans 15:13*



LEADER GUIDE

Hi Leaders!

Welcome to your Let's Get Started Leader Guide. Our prayer for this class is to help those who are seeking, new believers, or those returning to take their next step in their faith journey.

Let's Get Started is designed to open conversations each week on some of the most foundational building blocks of faith in Jesus. Our desire is for the meetings each week to be very conversational, where anyone can ask questions. Because of that, we'll do our best to help equip you in this guide, but you can always reach out to your campus pastor or director if you need any assistance.

The sections just for leaders will be throughout this guidebook in black squares, or a black page similar to this one. In these sections, you'll see things to share with the group, questions you may get, and more. The rest of the book will be what the learners are seeing each week.

We're praying for you as you start this journey!

Now, let's get started...



LEADER NOTES: INTRO WEEK

We're kicking off our group with an Introduction Week. We'll meet each other, do a Course Overview section, and work on a Spiritual Story activity. We're asking you to share your Spiritual Story this week, which will also help encourage others to share throughout the weeks.

You'll want to create a group roster with everyone's name and contact information. Focus on building relationships with and between your group and getting to know their stories.

Encourage your group to begin processing any questions they may have about who God is and what it means to be in a relationship with Him. This group is designed to meet people where they're at and help them take their next (or first) step of faith!

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to "Let's Get Started", a 9-week course with video teaching and discussion, designed to give you an encouraging space to talk about who God is and what having a relationship with Jesus really means. It's designed to be a safe space where no question is off the table and anyone is welcome!

LEADER NOTE:

Please introduce yourselves & then have group members introduce themselves.

Opening Question: What led you to be a part of this group?

This course is a place to explore faith and experience community. The success of this group depends on your participation. The group is designed to be conversational, not a lecture. Over the next 8 weeks, we will have 8 specific conversations:

- A Conversation About God
- A Conversation About Us
- A Conversation About Eternity
- A Conversation About Salvation
- A Conversation About the Bible
- A Conversation About Prayer
- A Conversation About Community
- A Conversation About My Next Step

Each week includes a 10-12 minute teaching video followed by 45-60 minutes of a guided discussion. We will close each week in a time of prayer.



INTRODUCTION

Let's Get Started!

LEADER NOTE:

We would love for each group participant to share their spiritual story one week (5 minutes or less). To help you with this, we have an activity we are going to do right now. Complete the "My Spiritual Story" Activity in your Learner Guide.

MY SPIRITUAL STORY:

1. What were your spiritual beliefs growing up?
2. Who or what has influenced your spiritual beliefs the most?



MY SPIRITUAL STORY CONTINUED:

1. How have your spiritual beliefs changed? What caused these changes?
2. Describe where you are at in your spiritual journey right now.
3. One day, you will attend your own funeral. What do you hope others will say about you, including your spiritual journey?

LEADER NOTE:

To encourage you to share your story in one of the upcoming weeks, we want to share our stories with you.

Share your Spiritual Story (5 minutes per leader)

Q: What questions do you all have about this group?

Next week, we will begin with "A Conversation About God". We will talk about what God is like and the difference between being religious vs. having a relationship with God. *Let's close in prayer.*

NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 1

A CONVERSATION ABOUT GOD

As we begin our conversation weeks, we want to give you some questions that may come up during your group time.

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: How can God be three persons at one time?

A: That's a great question. God is Father, Son, and Spirit. This is one of the great mysteries of the faith. We know that it's true because the Bible makes it clear over and over again, but we can't fully understand how it works. One of the greatest proofs of the reality of God is that there's much about Him we can't understand. Isaiah 55:8 tells us that "His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways."

Q: How can I trust God if I don't fully understand Him?

A: There are lots of things in life that we trust but don't completely understand. To trust God is to have faith in God. Faith is defined as "trust or confidence in something or someone." When you sit in a chair for the first time you are showing faith that the chair will hold you. Until you sit, you really don't know if the chair will stay together. We trust God based on His history, character, and promises. Over time, as you grow closer to God, trusting Him will become more natural.

Q: I don't have a good relationship with my father, so how am I am supposed to trust God as a father?

A: Sometimes, our experience with our biological father doesn't match up well with the standard that God sets, and that can be really difficult. God models the role of "father" as it should be, not the other way around. God is the father who loves fully and unconditionally. He will never leave, and He will always forgive. He builds up, equips, frees, and empowers. God sets the standard for fatherhood. The critical thing to remember is that God was the first Father, and He always fills that role perfectly.



LEADER NOTES:



***He is before all things, and in
Him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17***



SESSION 1

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
GOD

Watch Session 1 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 1

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
GOD



LEADER NOTE:

The material covered in this group can potentially lead to lengthy or off topic discussions. Try to acknowledge their question and guide the discussion back to the topic when those instances arise. Offer to talk outside of the group to continue any helpful conversations that didn't fit within this week's group.

Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed about God? If so, how?

What does it mean to know God?

Name some attributes of God.

How does your view of God change how you live?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 2

A CONVERSATION ABOUT US

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: Does God still love us when we mess up?

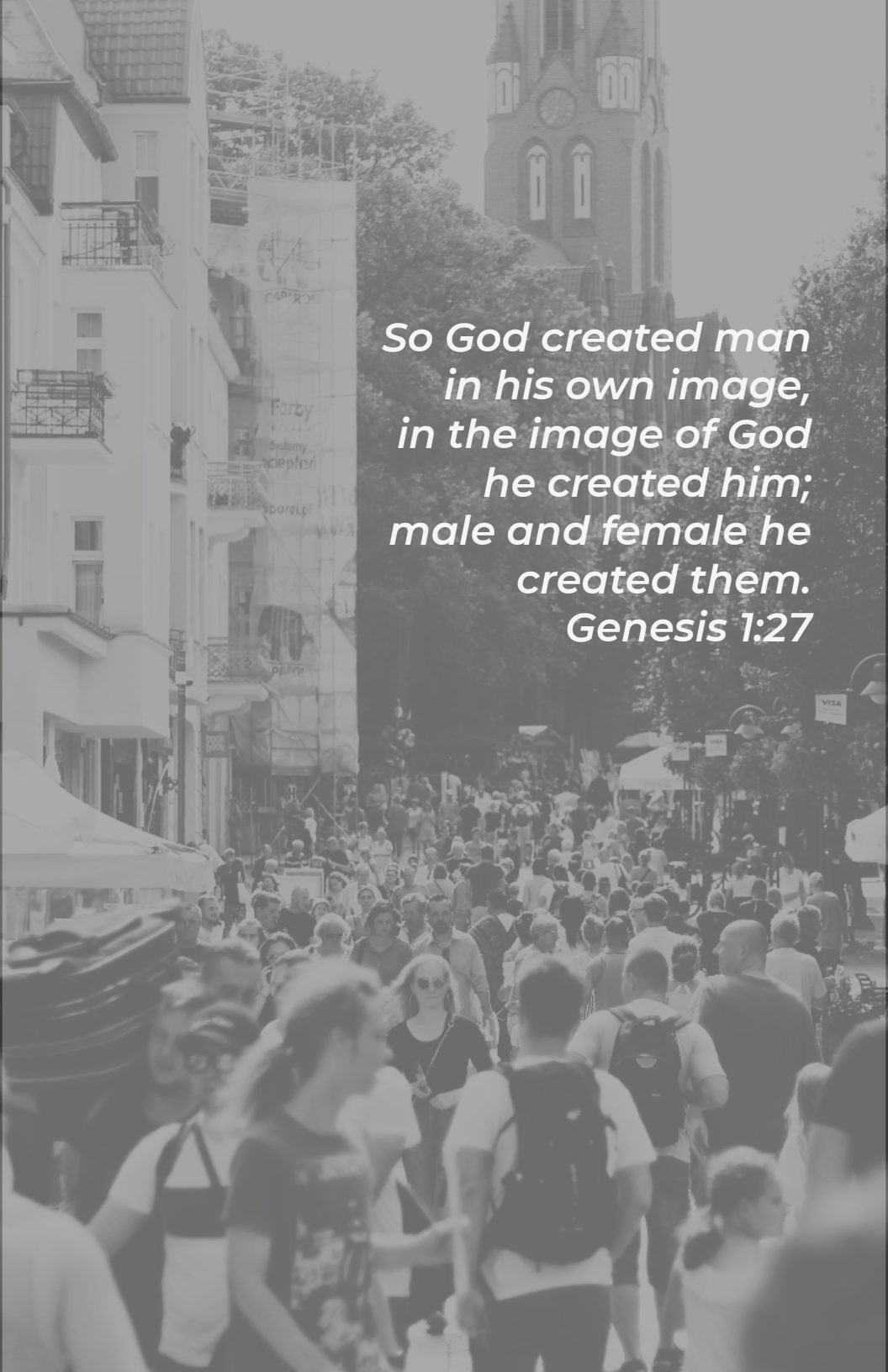
A: Yes! Romans 5:8 says that “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Think about that for a moment. God loves us so much that even while we were doing wrong, He sent His only Son to die on a cross so that we could be forgiven and free. That’s how much He still loves us when we mess up. His love is unconditional!

Q: I want to do right, but I keep sinning. Is being a “good Christian” supposed to be this hard?

A: None of us are perfect. Jesus lived the only perfect life that the world has ever seen. We should always strive to be like Jesus, but it’s a process, and sometimes we will fall short. Every Christian struggles and is faced with temptation and difficulty, but there are practical steps we can take to help us. Find an accountability partner, make spending time in the Word a habit, and pray regularly. As you grow, you’ll find your walk with the Lord feels more and more natural as you move forward on your journey of faith. Keep going!



LEADER NOTES:

A black and white photograph of a crowded city street. In the background, a tall, ornate church tower with a clock face and arched windows rises above the trees. The street is filled with people walking, some carrying backpacks. On the left, there are multi-story buildings with balconies and scaffolding. A sign for 'Farby' is visible on one of the buildings. A 'VISA' sign is also visible on the right side of the street. The overall scene is a busy urban environment.

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

SESSION 2

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
US

Watch Session 2 Video

Video Notes:



Who are we? What is our purpose? These are all questions you may have heard or even asked yourself. This week we've been having a conversation about who we are as humans.

Today we learned about three truths:

1. All people are created by God.
2. All people are broken by sin.
3. All people can be restored.

When God created everything, he created humans. He made us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). We have intrinsic value given by God. He created each of us, and gave us the ability to make our own choices.

The first humans God created, Adam and Eve, started in a perfect relationship with God, but they ended up choosing to walk outside God's plan for them by doing the one thing He asked them not to do (Genesis 3). Because of this, sin entered the world and we were separated from God.

But it doesn't end there! We all have the opportunity to be restored back to God, He made a way for us to be right with Him.





SESSION 2

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
US

Have you ever questioned your purpose? How does it feel to know your value and worth are given by God?

What does it mean to sin?

How have your desires destroyed your life? How has sin (both your own and others) ruined your life?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 3

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ETERNITY

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: Is there suffering in Heaven?

A: No. Heaven is the place of perfect happiness; it holds no fear, sorrow, or pain.

Q: Is Jesus the only way to Heaven?


A: In John 14:6, Jesus says that "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus is the only way to Heaven. He lived, died, and rose again so that everyone could have a path to freedom and salvation through Him.

Q: Is Hell real?

A: There is a Heaven and a Hell. The Scriptures don't leave any gray area here. The important thing to remember about Hell is that God doesn't send anyone there. In fact, He sent His only Son to live a sinless life and die on a cross to make sure that no one had to go to Hell. Hell is a place where people can pay their own debt if they want to, but nobody has to. Jesus has paid it. It's done. All that's required of us is to turn and accept His sacrifice on our behalf.



LEADER NOTES:



*He has made everything
beautiful in its time. He
has also set eternity in the
human heart; yet no one
can fathom what God has
done from beginning to
end. Ecclesiastes 3:11*



SESSION 3

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
ETERNITY

Watch Session 3 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 3

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
ETERNITY

Something within us longs for more than this world offers. We were created to have a relationship with God and spend eternity with Him.

Matthew 25:46 gives us the description of 2 places: one of eternal punishment called Hell and the other of eternal life called Heaven. Each person has a decision to make and whether they choose to follow Jesus determines where they will spend eternity.

Heaven is an incredible place that God has prepared for everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus. Our human minds cannot begin to understand what it will be like, but we know there will be no more sickness, pain, or death (Revelation 21:4).

Hell is an eternal place of torment, separated from the presence of God. Scripture tells us that the payment of sin is death. That death is eternal separation from God. But God is so loving, He sent his son Jesus to this earth and He died on the cross to set us free and whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Hell doesn't have to be our destiny, because Jesus has already done everything necessary for us to receive eternal life in heaven. He offers it to anyone who believes.



Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed about Heaven and Hell? If so, how?

How does an awareness of eternal life, shift your focus or perspective in everyday life?

How can the hope that a believer has for heaven, help you walk through difficult situations in this life?

In what ways does a biblical understanding of Heaven and Hell compel you to live, act, and think differently?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 4

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SALVATION

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: What can I do to earn God's love and approval?

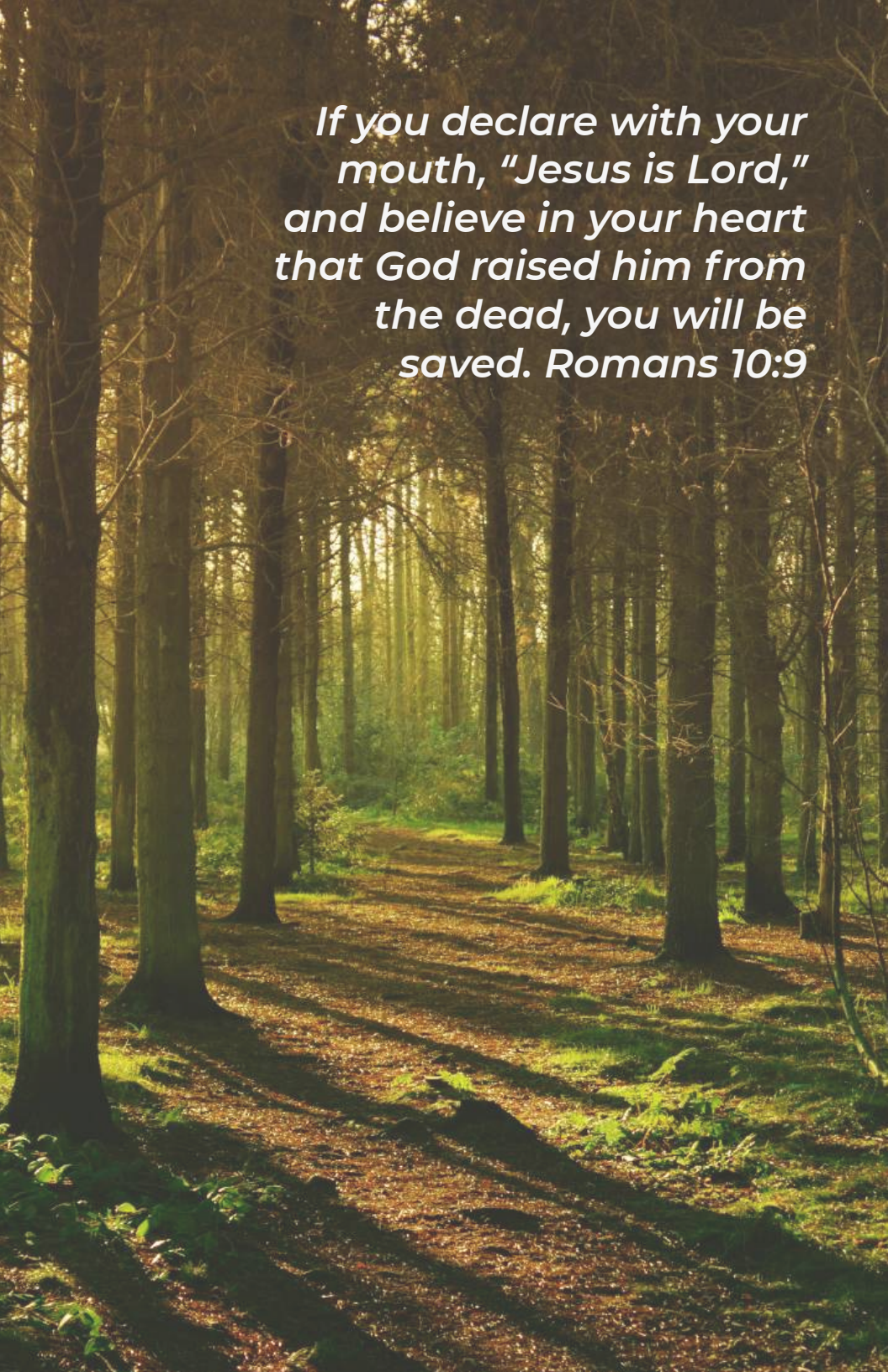
A: Nothing. You don't have to earn it and you wouldn't be able to even if you tried. Fortunately, you can just receive it. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." You don't have to do anything except put your faith in Jesus to receive God's love and approval.

Q: Why does God love us so much?

A: He chooses to - He freely loves us. More than a feeling, love is a choice. The Word tells us in 1 John 4:8 that God is love, so He is really the embodiment of that choice in action. It's even more beautiful when we understand that God isn't forced to love us because of a feeling. He chooses to love us, unconditionally and always, out of His own free will.



LEADER NOTES:

A photograph of a forest path. The path is covered in fallen brown leaves and is flanked by tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating long shadows and a warm, golden glow. The text is overlaid in the upper right quadrant.

*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. Romans 10:9*

SESSION 4

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
SALVATION

Watch Session 4 Video

Video Notes:



In the past weeks, we've been having conversations about God, humanity, and eternity. We've talked about sin and that the payment for sin is death. But we also know that God did not leave us without hope, He loves us and wants a relationship with us. We do this through salvation. Salvation is a gift from God, received through faith, not by our efforts.

Salvation means being saved from sin and its consequences. It's about being rescued from a life separated from God and being given the gift of eternal life with Him. Our best efforts will never, no matter how noble, be able to bridge the gap between our sinful nature and God's holiness. This is only possible because of Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross, taking the payment of all our sins upon Himself. Three days later, He rose again!

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has paved the way out of the darkness of sin. When we trust in Him and follow His guidance, we move from being lost to being found, from darkness to light, and from death to eternal life.





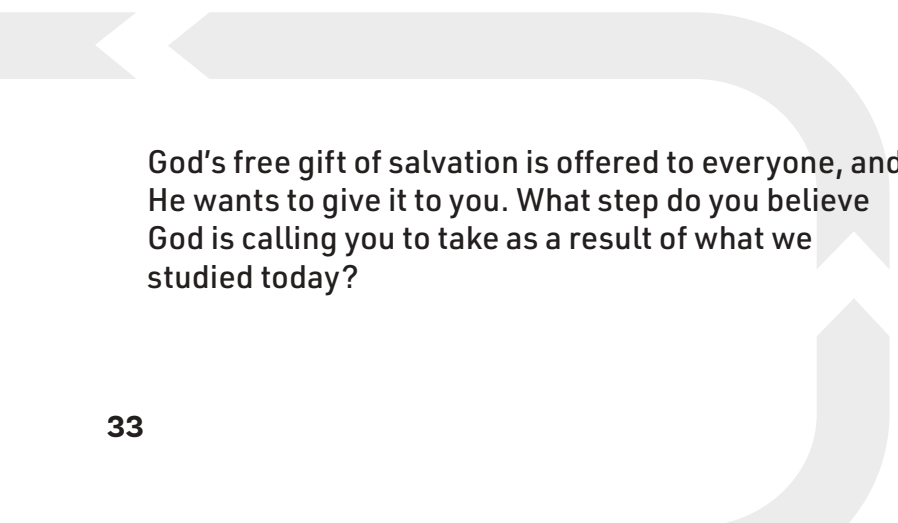
SESSION 4

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
SALVATION

Was what you learned in this session different than what you previously believed or been taught about how to reach God?

Have you even found yourself trying to “work” your way to heaven?

How does it feel to know that Jesus’ death paid for the entirety of your sins (past, present, future)?



God’s free gift of salvation is offered to everyone, and He wants to give it to you. What step do you believe God is calling you to take as a result of what we studied today?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE BIBLE

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: What is the Bible?

A: The Bible is the living Word of God, and is our guidebook to life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says it best, "The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

Q: How do I get more from my Bible?

A: There are three great steps to take towards getting the most out of your Bible. First, accept its authority by receiving God's Word with an open heart and respond to His Word with obedience. Second, absorb its truths by hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word. Third, apply its principles. James 1:22 tells us plainly, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Q: Why are there different versions/translations of the Bible?

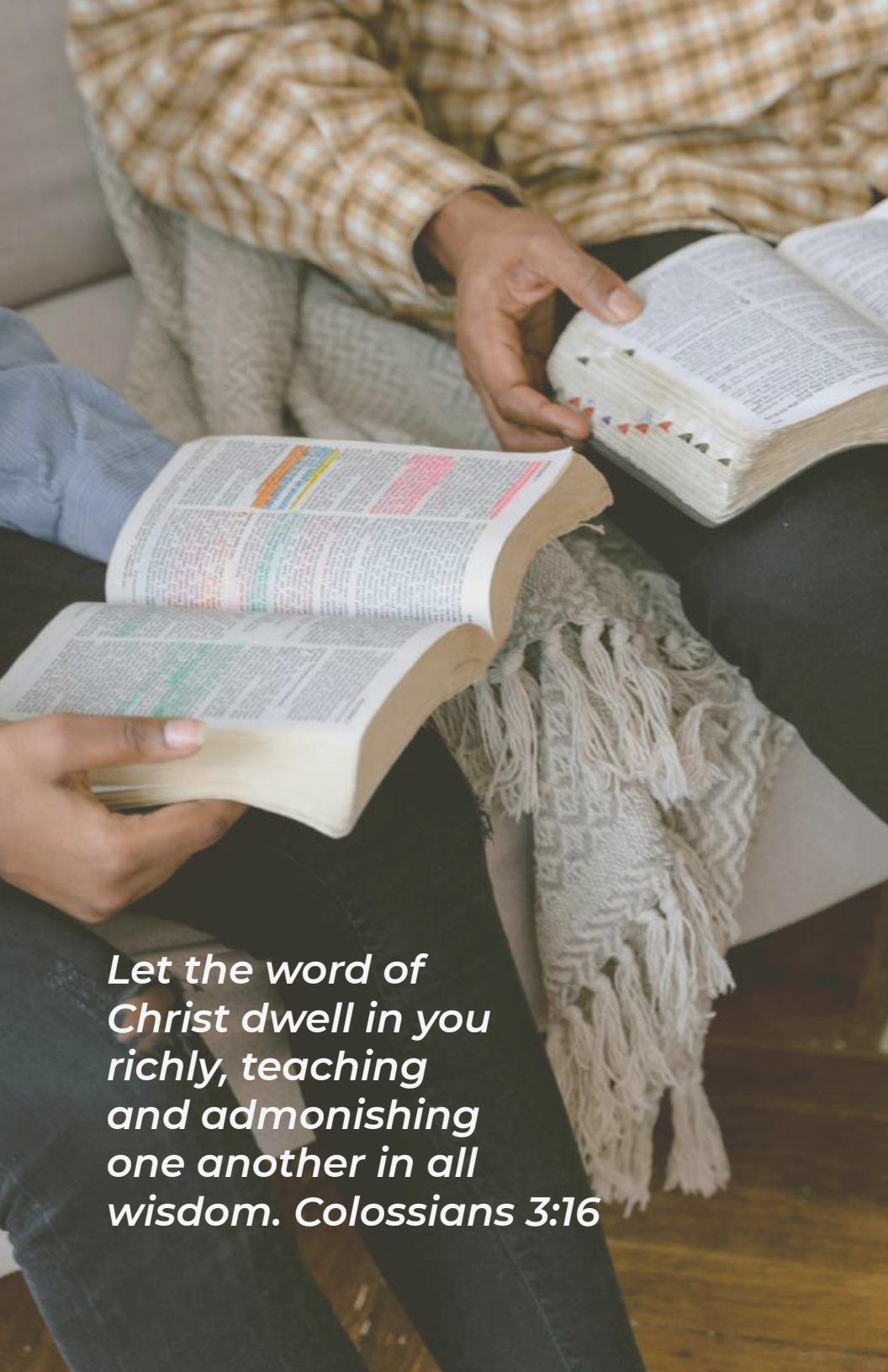
A: The Bible was originally written in ancient Greek and Hebrew. Different translations exist because language is alive, constantly developing and changing. The truths in God's Word stay the same, but the words we use to communicate them effectively change along with the language. In the King James Version, you find a lot of "thees and thous." Those are fine, and accurate, but they aren't words we use anymore. The different versions of the bible are all just trying to communicate the exact same truths in ways that match up well with our modern language.

Q: What is the difference between the Old and New Testament?

The Old Testament is the foundation. The New Testament is the fulfilment. God made promises in the Old Testament and keeps His promises in the New Testament. The Old Testament is about God making the world. The New Testament is about God saving the world. God's people in the Old Testament were Israel. God's people in the New Testament are the Church.



LEADER NOTES:



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom. Colossians 3:16



SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE BIBLE

Watch Session 5 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE BIBLE

The word “Bible” comes from the Latin word “biblica,” which means books or library. The Bible is a collection of 66 books in a variety of genres (history, poetry, prophecy, and even personal letters).

The books of the Bible are organized into two main parts—the Old Testament, which covers human history prior to Jesus’s birth, and the New Testament, which tells the story of Jesus and the early church and looks ahead to eternity.

We talked in the video about the Bible revealing God’s will, God’s wisdom, and God’s ways. The Bible does tell us God’s will for his creation, for humanity, and for eternity. It give us a wealth of wisdom for the complexities of life. The Bible shows us again and again that God doesn’t always do things the ways we might think, but it does show us God’s ways are best!

In total, the entire Bible was written over 1,500 years by almost 40 different authors. And yet, it tells one unified story. The story of God’s plan to rescue people from sin and reunite us to Himself.



What is the Old Testament?

What is the New Testament?

What does the Bible reveal about God?



Where do you think you will start reading the Bible?

What might be a good plan for you to read the Bible regularly?

SESSION 5

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
THE BIBLE

What are some tips for understanding what we are reading in the Bible?

How does the Bible give us timeless wisdom for life?

How might reading the Bible make a difference in your daily life?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 6

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PRAYER

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: Why doesn't God answer all of our prayers?

A: He does! Sometimes we get stuck on the idea that "yes" is the only answer that counts. God may answer with "not right now," or "I have something better for you." Often, when we look back over time, we are able to see how God was moving and realize His plan was better, and although He removed an opportunity, or closed a door, it ended up leading us to more joy, freedom, and life.

Q: How often should we pray?

A: 1 Thessalonians 5 gives us an answer. It says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Essentially, pray anytime there's an opportunity – no matter where you are or what you're doing. Use every occasion, every season, and every possible moment to pray. It doesn't have to be formal. Make talking with God a part of your everyday habits.

Q: What is God's will?

It is the Father's will to see the lost saved and the saved become whole, healthy, and successful in all areas of life – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and financially. He wills that the whole then be equipped, and the equipped be sent out to spread the gospel to the nations.



LEADER NOTES:

*Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians
5:16-18*





SESSION 6

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
PRAYER

Watch Session 6 Video

Video Notes:

SESSION 6

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PRAYER

Prayer is talking with God. It is a two-way conversation. Both talking to God and listening to Him is present in prayer. It can be audible, silent, private, or public. God cares about every detail of your life. You can always talk to God.

Think of your closest relationships. If you never communicated with them, you wouldn't know them very well. The same goes with our relationship with God. We talk to God through prayer, and we primarily listen to God through His Word, the Bible. Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, and He showed us the importance of prayer by taking time Himself to pray.

If we want to grow in our relationship with God, we have to spend time with Him.



What is the main goal of prayer?

Why is prayer a two-way conversation?

In what ways does God speak to us today? Has God spoken to you recently?

How consistently do you pray?

What are some things that keep us from praying to Him consistently?



NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT COMMUNITY

Get your group thinking about how they can build healthy relationships with other like-minded believers.

Common Questions You May Get:

Q: How do I find community?

A: Join a group, serve on the Life Team!

Q: What do I tell people who knew the “old me”?

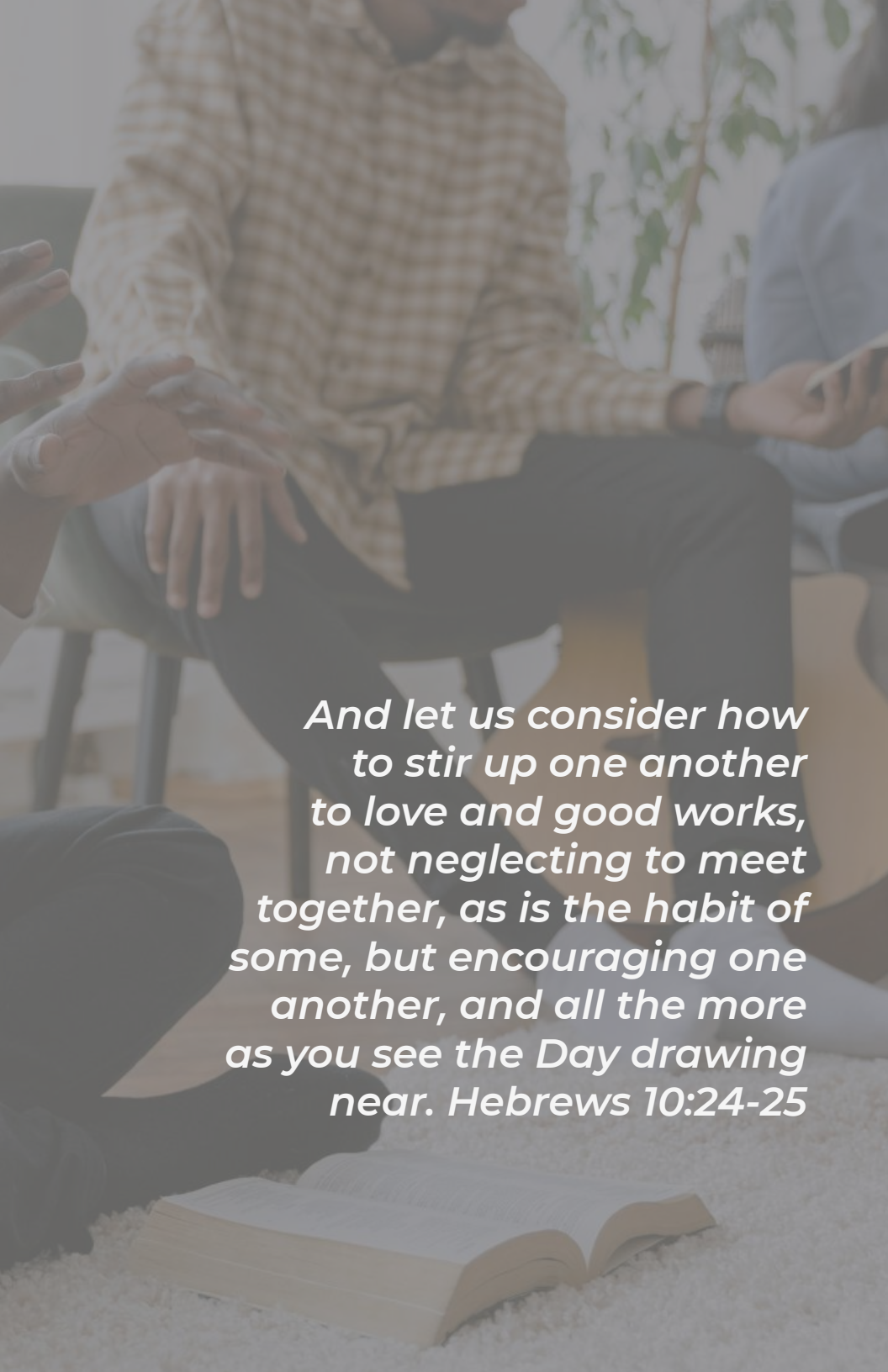
A: Just be honest. Your story of life change can have a tremendous impact on the people in your sphere of influence. You can tell them that God has changed you on the inside. Some people will understand, some won't. Remember 1 Corinthians 1:18, which says, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Q: Why do I need to forgive someone when they are the ones that wronged me?

In order to experience the fruit of our own forgiveness, we need to forgive others. Forgiving others allows us to overcome feelings of anger, bitterness, and revenge. Forgiveness can heal spiritual wounds and bring the peace and love that only God can give.



LEADER NOTES:



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

SESSION 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
COMMUNITY

Watch Session 7 Video

Video Notes:



We need one another! 58 times the Bible says “one another”. The Bible tells us to love one another, greet one another, care for one another, encourage one another, bear one another’s burdens, strengthen one another, serve one another, forgive one another, pray for one another.

Jesus, God in flesh – had community. He had community with 12 men he called his apostles. He had community with his inner circle of Peter, James, and John. He even had a form of community with the large crowds. If Jesus needed community, then you and I need community! We will never grow in isolation.

We gather together in community in large groups as the Church and in small groups with other people so we can do 3 things:

- 1. Grow Together**
- 2. Worship Together**
- 3. Encourage One Another**





SESSION 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
COMMUNITY

What stood out to you most from the video teaching?



Today's video talked about the analogy about the redwood trees. How does the redwood tree analogy relate to the concept of community?

Do you prefer to be by yourself or with a group of people? Why?

How have you experienced community in your life? How did it benefit you?

Can you share a specific instance where your community supported you during a challenging time?



Read Acts 2:42-47. What all did this community do and experience together?

NOTES:



LEADER NOTES: SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT NEXT STEPS

Hi Leaders!

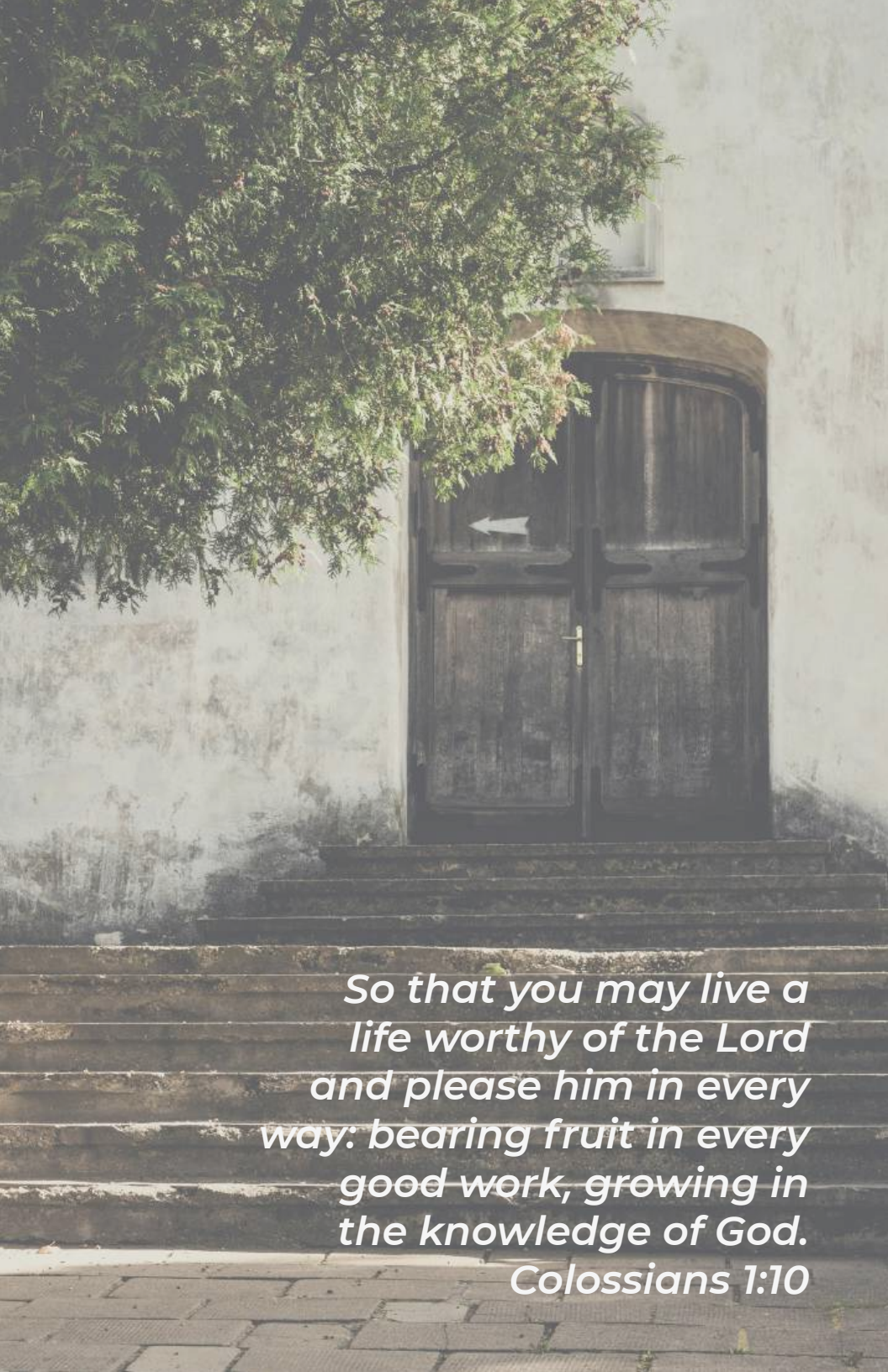
Welcome to the final session of Let's Get Started! This week is all about helping your group take their next step of faith. For some, it may be their first time placing their faith in God. Others may be interested in following in believer's baptism.

To help them along in taking their next step, we've created a QR code on the last page in their book where they can select their next step directly! Please build in some time at the end of the session to have everyone complete it during the group time. This will help everyone remember to complete it and allow you to answer any questions they have while filling it out. They will need to select their campus to begin the form.

Thank you for leading Let's Get Started!



LEADER NOTES:



*So that you may live a
life worthy of the Lord
and please him in every
way: bearing fruit in every
good work, growing in
the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:10*

SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
NEXT STEPS

Watch Session 8 Video

Video Notes:



SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT NEXT STEPS

Today we've been talking about next steps in our walk with God. Taking the next step mostly means incorporating spiritual disciplines in your life. We should live with Jesus as the center of our home life, work life, play life, community life, and private life. As you consider your next step for spiritual growth, ask yourself the question, "What one thing in my spiritual journey, if it improved, would make the most difference?" Perhaps it is studying the Bible consistently, praying daily, or joining a group.

Some next steps are one-time occasions such as the first time you place your faith in Jesus or baptism. If you have not taken these next steps, that is a great place to start. Having said this, most next steps are habits that enrich our spiritual lives. We call these spiritual disciplines. Examples include Bible study, meditation, prayer, fasting, giving, witnessing, slowing and sabbath, solitude, service, worship, celebration, confession, guidance, and even suffering.

God has given us spiritual disciplines to receive His grace and blessing. It is the inner work of transforming from the inside out as our heart, mind, and soul prioritize loving God above all else.



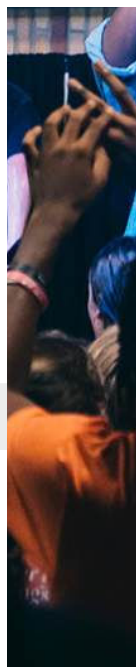
SESSION 8

A CONVERSATION ABOUT
NEXT STEPS

How would you respond to the question, "What one thing in my spiritual journey, if it improved, would make the biggest difference?" How could you start working on this today?

What challenges have you encountered while trying to take the next steps in your spiritual journey? How do you think you could overcome these challenges?

Knowing that the spiritual side of our lives should influence every portion of our lives, how do you or can you set daily intentions on God in all aspects of your life? What practices help or could help you maintain that focus?

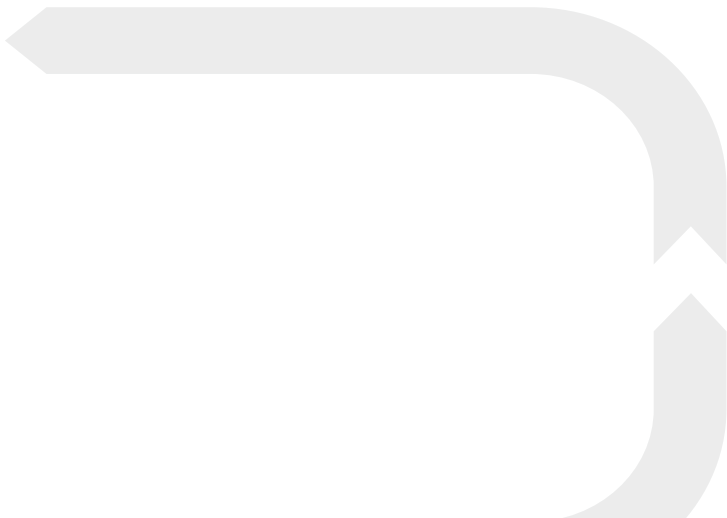


How do you balance loving God and others in your daily life? Can you share an example where the balance was particularly challenging or rewarding?

How do you currently engage God's word? What new methods or practices could you incorporate to deepen your understanding and knowledge?



What is one step that you believe God is calling you to take as a result of what we studied today?



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

Thank you for joining us in Let's Get Started! Before we end our time together, we want to help you take your next step in your walk with God. As we talked in today's session, this can look like many different things in your life, but here are a few ways you can get started today:

- **Following Jesus:** If you have never taken the very first step of placing your faith in Jesus, you can do that today!
- **Baptism:** Baptism is a public display of our commitment to follow Jesus Christ. At Liberty, we invite all new believers to be baptized.
- **Life Track:** Learn about our church, its history, and beliefs, meet our staff, and join the Liberty family.
- **Joining a Group:** Our groups meet regularly to study the Bible, encourage and pray for one another, and build lasting relationships.
- **Serving on the Life Team:** Jesus gave His life to serve others, and those who love him do the same! Our Life Team volunteers are the rockstars of Liberty!

Let's Get Started taking your next step. Scan the QR code below.

LEADER NOTE:

Please ask your group to complete this during your meeting time before leaving!



NOTES:

