

# FOLLOWING JESUS

WALKING WITH GOD

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## THE DECISION TO ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE YOU'LL EVER MAKE.

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### GOD LOVES YOU!

God chose you. He has a plan for your life. He desires to personally know you—inside and out.

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 3:16**

... We continually thank God for you, our good friends—so loved by God! God picked you out as His from the very start.

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:13**

### GOD VALUES YOU!

All of us were created with an emptiness inside that can only be filled by embracing the reality of how much God loves us. We long to have the assurance that even when we're not perfect, we will still be loved, valued, and accepted by God.

**God crowned you with glory, honor, dignity, and worth.**

**PSALM 8:5**

### GOD HAS MADE YOU NEW!

You may not feel any different, but when you enter into a relationship with God through Jesus, you become new on the inside. It's a spiritual awakening, and the experience is called being born again. It will take time for the rest of you to catch up, but don't worry! As you grow in your relationship with God, He will change your life.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new** person. The old life is gone; a **new** life has begun!

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

## **GOD BRIDGED THE GAP.**

Because of sin, a huge, impassable gap exists between us and God. The Bible states that sin is knowing what you should do and not doing it (James 4:17). We try to reconcile with God by being a good person or by following religious rules, but no human effort can make us good enough to fix our separation from God.

Because God loves us so much, His solution was to send His son, Jesus Christ, to bridge that gap between us.

God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.


**ROMANS 5:8**

There is no other way for us to know God other than through Jesus.

Jesus was fully God and fully human, yet He had no sin. Jesus willingly laid down His life and, three days later, rose from the dead. In His death and resurrection, His life paid the price for our sin once and for all.

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 2:8-9**



**I AM THE WAY,  
THE TRUTH  
AND THE LIFE.  
NO ONE CAN  
COME TO THE  
FATHER EXCEPT  
THROUGH  
ME.**

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**JOHN 14:6**

## GOD'S GRACE IS ENOUGH!

Forgiveness of our sins is a gift from God when we accept Jesus as the one who saved us. We can't earn it and we don't deserve it, but He chooses to give it to us freely.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

### EPHESIANS 2:8

A relationship with Jesus is like talking to a friend. If you haven't begun that relationship, don't wait another minute! Getting started is easy. Just say these words from your heart . . .



**“HEAVENLY FATHER,**

I COME TO YOU IN JESUS' NAME, AND I BELIEVE WITH ALL OF MY HEART THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD. HE DIED ON A CROSS TO BEAR MY SIN DEBT. I OPEN THE DOOR OF MY HEART AND THE DOOR OF MY LIFE, AND JESUS I INVITE YOU IN. I RECEIVE YOU NOW TO BE MY SAVIOR AND TO BE MY LORD. THANK YOU FOR COMING. I AM NOW A CHILD OF GOD. MY SIN IS WASHED AWAY. I AM HEAVEN BOUND. I CONFESS BOLDLY THAT JESUS IS THE LORD OF MY LIFE. AMEN.”

## WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

When you receive Christ, you are born into God's family and given the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit—which guides you and reveals God's truth—lives in you.

You have a new relationship with God, and a new future. All of Heaven is rejoicing—and we are too.

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes . . . For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**GALATIANS 3:26–28**

## NEXT STEPS

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

Deciding to follow Christ is more than just trying to live a better life. You need to make your faith your own. If your heart or spirit has changed, your outward actions, ambitions, and priorities will follow.

### TALK TO GOD

Prayer is a simple conversation between you and God. Thank Him for what's going on in your life. Confess your sin to Him and your desire to turn away from it. Ask God to guide you and to show you how to trust Him in your everyday life.

### GET TO KNOW GOD

You will know God's heart better when you connect with Him through prayer and reading the Bible. Download the YouVersion Bible app and get yourself a Bible. Choose an easy-to-read Bible translation like the New Living Translation (NLT). We've included a 31-Day Discovery Plan for reading the Bible that will help you to build your relationship with God and introduce you to foundational truths regarding your new life in Christ.

### TELL SOMEONE

Share your decision with friends and family.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**ROMANS 10:9**

## **ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY**

Connect with others as you learn more about God and His Word.

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**

## **GET WATER BAPTIZED**

Celebrate your new life in Christ by following the example of Jesus. He made his confession of faith public by being water baptized (read Matthew 3:13–17).

## **SERVE OTHERS**

Demonstrate your new life in Christ by serving others. This is the example Jesus gave us while He was on the earth, and it pleases Him when we do the same.

... For even Jesus came not to be served but to serve others...

**MATTHEW 20:28**

## **KEEP GROWING**

The Bible calls this discipleship. It happens as we stay connected to other believers through small groups and serving, and as we make God our priority in everyday life. Jesus said that when we seek Him above all else, He will give us everything that we need (Matt. 6:33).

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**JOHN 15:5**

## **SHARE YOUR STORY**

Tell others about your decision and the difference God is making in your everyday life. Your story will bring hope and encouragement to others.

And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

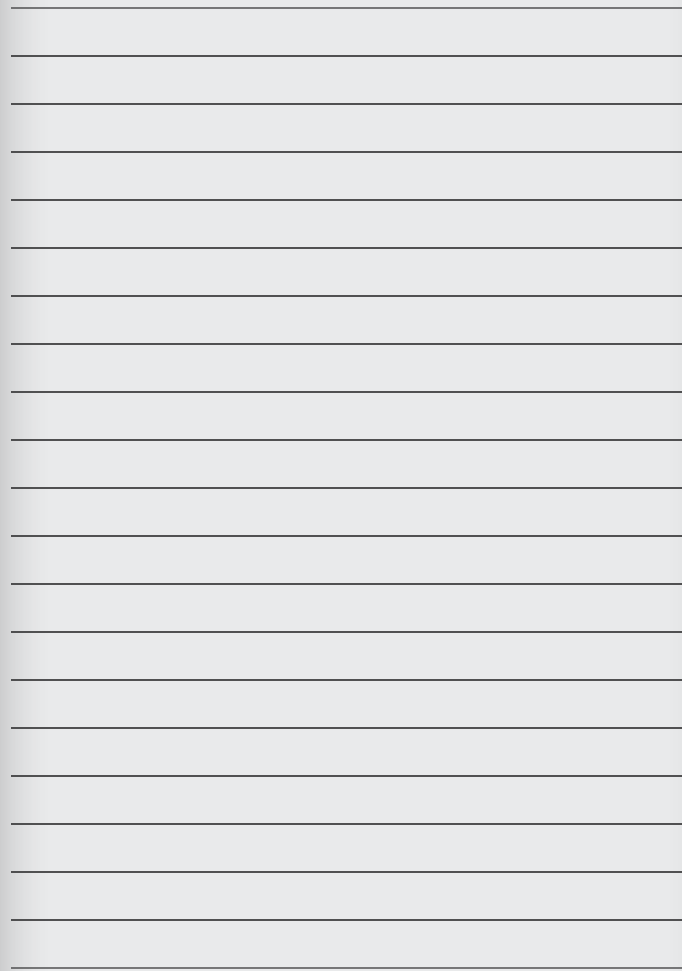
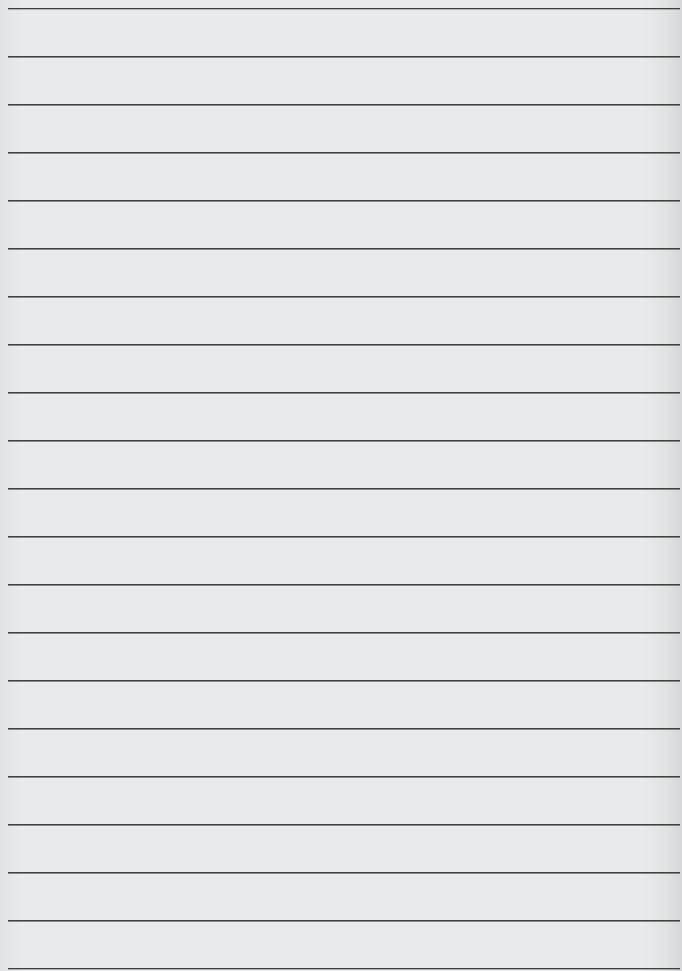
**1 PETER 3:15-16**

# READ YOUR BIBLE

## 31-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

<b>DAY 1</b>	LUKE 1	Preparing for Jesus' arrival
<b>DAY 2</b>	LUKE 2	The story of Jesus' birth
<b>DAY 3</b>	MARK 1	The beginning of Jesus' ministry
<b>DAY 4</b>	MARK 9	A day in the life of Jesus
<b>DAY 5</b>	MATTHEW 5	The Sermon on the Mount (part 1)
<b>DAY 6</b>	MATTHEW 6	The Sermon on the Mount (part 2)
<b>DAY 7</b>	LUKE 15	Parables of Jesus
<b>DAY 8</b>	JOHN 3	A conversation with Jesus
<b>DAY 9</b>	JOHN 10	The Good Shepherd
<b>DAY 10</b>	JOHN 14	Jesus' final instructions (part 1)
<b>DAY 11</b>	JOHN 15	Jesus' final instructions (part 2)
<b>DAY 12</b>	JOHN 16	The work of the Spirit
<b>DAY 13</b>	JOHN 17	Jesus' prayer for his disciples
<b>DAY 14</b>	MATTHEW 26	Jesus' betrayal and arrest
<b>DAY 15</b>	MATTHEW 27	Jesus' execution on a cross

<b>DAY 16</b>	JOHN 20	Resurrection
<b>DAY 17</b>	LUKE 24	Jesus' appearance after resurrection
<b>DAY 18</b>	ROMANS 3	Paul's theology in a nutshell
<b>DAY 19</b>	ROMANS 5	Peace with God
<b>DAY 20</b>	ROMANS 7	Struggles with sin
<b>DAY 21</b>	ROMANS 8	Life in the Spirit
<b>DAY 22</b>	ROMANS 12	Life in the world
<b>DAY 23</b>	EPHESIANS 2	Our life in Christ
<b>DAY 24</b>	EPHESIANS 4	Unity in Christ
<b>DAY 25</b>	EPHESIANS 5	Living in Christ
<b>DAY 26</b>	PHILIPPIANS 2	Being Christ-like
<b>DAY 27</b>	PHILIPPIANS 3	Maturing in Christ
<b>DAY 28</b>	PHILIPPIANS 4	Trusting Christ through trials
<b>DAY 29</b>	GALATIANS 5	Life in the Spirit
<b>DAY 30</b>	COLOSSIANS 3	Life in Christ
<b>DAY 31</b>	2 TIMOTHY 2	Being strong in Christ







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Questions?

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