



# Follow Jesus

# The decision to accept Christ as your Savior is the most important one you'll ever make.

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

**John 3:16**

## Q: Why would God care about me?

God loves you. He chose you. He has a plan for your life. He desires to personally know each one of us.

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

**Jeremiah 29:11**

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

**Romans 3:23**

## Q: If God loves me so much, why does he feel so far away?

All of us were created with a desire to be loved, valued, and accepted—this desire was meant to be filled by a relationship with God, who offers us unconditional love and forgiveness. But sin—the things we do and think that fall short of God's will—separates us from a loving relationship with him and creates an impassable gap between us. Our sinful natures cause us to turn our backs on God and seek love and approval from the world. We choose to selfishly go our own way and pursue temporary highs and pleasures, ignoring God's ways. Sin has a way of killing our relationships, our joy, and our closeness with God. The penalty for sin is spiritual death.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 6:23**

## **Q: Can I get on God's good side by becoming a better person?**

We try to reconcile with God by being good people or by following religious rules, but no human effort can make us good enough to fix our separation from God. Still, God deeply loves us and desires for us to cross this gap and be in relationship with him.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

## **Q: If my actions will never make me good enough for God, what will?**

Because God loves us so much, he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to bridge that gap between us and God. There is no other way for us to get to God other than through a relationship with Jesus.

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

**Romans 5:8**

Jesus was fully God and fully human, yet he had no sin. We deserved death for our sins, but 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.

**Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."**

**John 14:6**

## Q: How do I begin a relationship with Jesus?

Forgiveness of our sins is a free gift from God when we accept Jesus as the one who saved us. Because Jesus took the punishment for us, we can have a fresh start, a clean slate, and a new life. We can't earn forgiveness and we don't deserve this gift of grace and forgiveness, but he chooses to give it to us freely.

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

**Romans 10:9**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**Romans 10:13**

**If you want to begin a relationship with Jesus right now, you can talk to him as you would a friend. Here's an example:**

"Dear God,  
I confess that I am a sinner and I can't reach you on my own. I believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins and then rose from the dead. I accept your free gift of forgiveness and salvation, and I invite you to be the leader of my life. I'm turning away from doing things my own way. Please help me live my life according to your way. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness and for giving me the gift of a new life in you. Amen."

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

**Romans 5:1**

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

**John 5:24**

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**

# Congratulations!

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—now lives in you. You have a new relationship with God and a new future. All of Heaven is rejoicing—and we are too! Welcome to God's family!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

**Romans 8:15-17**

There is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.

**Luke 15:10**

We would love to celebrate with you and give you some resources to help you get started in your relationship with Jesus! Talk to a staff member at your campus or visit [eaglebrookchurch.com/followjesus](http://eaglebrookchurch.com/followjesus) to let us know of your decision.

## Q: What's next?

Deciding to follow Jesus is more than just a one-time prayer. It's a lifelong journey of getting to know God and growing deeper in your faith. If your heart and spirit have changed, your outward actions, ambitions, and priorities will follow.

## Here are some great next steps you can take:

### Sign-up for the New Believers Guide

Each email in this guide will include a short message regarding common questions that new Christians typically have. Sign up at [eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever](http://eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever)

### Come to church regularly on the weekend

God's truth is meant to be lived out in our lives. By regularly coming to church, you are exposing yourself to applicable biblical truth, growing deeper in your faith while connecting with other Christ followers.

## Get baptized

Celebrate your new life in Christ by publicly declaring your faith through baptism. We hold services twice a year—in the summer and winter. Visit [eaglebrookchurch.com/baptism](http://eaglebrookchurch.com/baptism) to learn more and to register for an upcoming service.

## Spend time with God daily

One of the best ways to grow in your faith is by spending time in prayer and reading the Bible. Your prayers can be simple—thank God for who he is, talk to him about the sin in your life, and ask him for help and guidance.

As you start reading the Bible, a great place to begin is the book of John in the New Testament—you'll learn more about who Jesus is, what he did, and how much he loves you. You can also find Bible reading plans that cover everything from anxiety to prayer on the Eagle Brook App. And we have a 31-day reading plan included in this booklet that focuses on the life of Jesus and our new life in him.

If you don't have a Bible, let a staff member at your campus know. They can help you find a version that will be a good fit for you.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

**John 15:5**

## Share your story

Tell your friends and family about your decision to follow Jesus. Share your story about the difference He's making in your life. By doing so, you are demonstrating your new life in Christ by showing your love and concern for others. Maybe a door will open for you to invite them to church!

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

**Matthew 4:19**

# 31-Day Bible Reading Plan

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

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

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