



# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

Making the decision to follow Jesus is the most important decision a person can make. As a weekend volunteer, you may have an attender approach you about how to begin a relationship with Jesus. This decision is one that should be fully understood and celebrated. We want you to feel equipped to talk to an adult about how to follow Jesus. This guide is designed to help answer any questions about: 1) how to affirm a decision an attender has already made to follow Jesus and 2) how to lead someone to Christ for the first time.

## Your goals as a volunteer:

- Connect with attenders on a personal level
- Confirm or help them understand their decision by walking through the materials
- Share resources and possible next steps
- Collect their contact information (for follow-up)

## Materials:

- **Follow Jesus Booklet:** This booklet assists the new believer in understanding their decision and is a tool for walking someone through this decision for the first time.
- **Info Card:** This card is used to mark the date of each new believer's decision and get their contact information so that we can follow-up with them. EBC uses this information to record a person's decision in our database, celebrate their decision with them, and guide them in possible next steps.
- **New Testament Bible:** Our desire is for new believers to begin their new life in Christ with the guidance of God's Word. We provide New Testament Bibles as a starter Bible for anyone who notifies us of their decision.

## Resources:

- Pastor of Guest Services or any EBC staff member can assist you with questions.
- Prayer Team volunteers are equipped to have these conversations as well.
- **12-Week New Believers Guide**— This 12-week guide is a series of weekly emails sent for twelve weeks. Each email will include a short message regarding common questions that new Christians typically have, and it will provide you with tips and resources along the way. The attender can opt in when they fill out the Info Card or text in their decision. If they haven't already signed up, new believers will be informed of this resource in our follow-up process. It is also accessible to everyone online at [eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever](http://eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever).

## Three steps

1. **Confirm their decision**—As attenders approach you, this is the point in which you determine whether they've already decided to follow Jesus (maybe they prayed with Bob or Jason during the message) or if they want to learn how to begin a relationship with Jesus. You can do this by simply asking the question, "Did you pray the prayer with the pastor today?"



# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

- a. If they answer yes, follow the “new believer” steps below.
- b. If they answer no or have questions, follow the steps on page 5.

**The New Believer**—Give them a Follow Jesus booklet and let them know:

- 1. You are forgiven.
- 2. You are a new person in Christ.
- 3. You have eternal life.

- 2. **Growth**—Encourage them to grow in their faith by taking a next step (pg. 7-10)

## 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.

7

## 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 12-Week New Believers Guide

This guide is a series of weekly emails sent for 12 weeks which takes you through the basics of how to grow in your faith. Each email will include a short message regarding common questions that new Christians typically have. Visit [eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever](http://eaglebrookchurch.com/newbeliever) to sign up.

### 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 biblical truth that grow deeper in your faith, while connecting with other Christ followers.

8



# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

## 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

You will get to know God's heart better when you connect with him through prayer and reading the Bible. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God as you would a friend. Praise Him for who He is, confess the sin in your life, thank Him for all that He has done, and ask Him for help and guidance each day. If you don't have a Bible, let one of the staff members at your campus know! We'd love to help you get an easy-to-understand version as you start reading God's Word. Don't know where to start reading? Pick up a Bible reading plan in the lobby or subscribe to [eaglebrookblog.com](http://eaglebrookblog.com) to have daily scripture and a devotional sent to your email.

We also have a 31-day reading plan included in this booklet which focuses on the life of Jesus and our new life in him. You'll find it on the next page, and you can dive in right away or save it for a later date. Either way, we encourage you to start spending time with God daily by reading the Bible.

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**

9

10

3. **Prayer**—Ask them if you can pray for them and congratulate them again on this decision.
  - a. Pray with them: Dear God, we are thankful for \_\_\_\_\_'s decision today to follow you. I ask that you would bless and guide \_\_\_\_\_ as he/she begins their relationship with you. Thank you for your great love for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
  - b. Let them know that this day marks a new beginning. Encourage them to mark the date in their Follow Jesus booklet (pg. 7).



# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

## Resources:

The Bible says that all of heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10). In the same way, we are so excited about each person that chooses to follow Jesus! Many may not know how to start this new journey or what to do next. Complete an info card and give them a free New Testament Bible. Having their contact information allows us to follow up, celebrate with them, and guide them in their first steps.

**Congratulations on making a decision to follow Jesus!**

Yes, I decided to follow Jesus for the very first time.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Campus \_\_\_\_\_

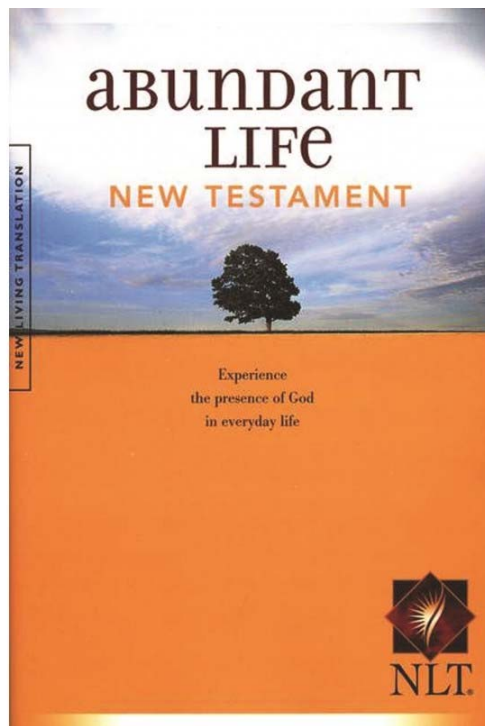
Would you like to participate in the 12-week new believers guide? (This is a series of emails, sent once a week for 12 weeks.)

Yes  No

Do you have a Bible?  Yes  No

Anything else you'd like us to know?

\*required





# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

Those who want to learn how to follow Christ or have questions:

1) **Listen** – Hear their story.

Use the booklet to help answer their questions. Page 1-5 answer commonly asked questions by non-believers. Be familiar with this content:

<p><b>The decision to accept Christ as your Savior is the most important one you'll ever make.</b></p> <p>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. <b>John 3:16</b></p> <p><b>Q: Why would God care about me?</b></p> <p>God loves you. He chose you. He has a plan for your life. He desires to personally know each one of us.</p> <p>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. <b>Ephesians 1:4-5</b></p> <p>"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." <b>Jeremiah 29:11</b></p> <p>1</p>	<p>For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <b>Romans 3:23</b></p> <p><b>Q: If God loves me so much, why does he feel so far away?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. <b>Romans 6:23</b></p> <p>2</p>
<p><b>Q: Can I get on God's good side by becoming a better person?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. <b>Ephesians 2:8-9</b></p> <p><b>Q: If my actions will never make me good enough for God, what will?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <b>Romans 5:8</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."</b></p> <p>John 14:6</p> <p>4</p>



# Decisions to Follow Jesus: Training Guide

- 2) **Prayer:** Ask if they are ready to accept God's free gift of salvation.
  - a. If no, give them a Follow Jesus booklet and let them know if they have any question they can ask anyone at any time.
  - b. If yes, pray with them. Pray out loud and have them repeat after you (pg. 6).

<p><b>Q: How do I begin a relationship with Jesus?</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <b>Romans 10:9</b></p> <p>Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. <b>Romans 10:13</b></p> <p><b>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:</b></p> <p>5</p>	<p>"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."</p> <p>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. <b>Romans 5:1</b></p> <p>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. <b>John 5:24</b></p> <p>This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! <b>2 Corinthians 5:17</b></p> <p>6</p>
---	--

- c. Celebrate with them! They have a new life in Christ! Go back to page 1 in this training guide and review the new believer section.