



GRACE

BIBLE CHURCH

HELPING PEOPLE FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS

The First 5 Steps to Grow as a New Christian

If you've recently made the decision to believe in Jesus as your Savior and commit to following Him, you're starting a brand-new life! You have a relationship with the Creator of the universe. You have His Spirit living inside of you and guiding you through life. It's an exciting time full of hope and joy!

But it's also a difficult time. Your old harmful habits will come back and pull you away from God. The world won't understand your transformation and will make it difficult for you to live out your faith. And it may be confusing as you're trying to learn what to believe and what to do.

Knowing God and living in faith will be a lifelong journey, and you'll grow more each day. This devotional series will help you by giving you the very first foundational steps to growing as a new Christian.

We'll be covering these topics:

1. Prayer - Talk to God Anywhere, Anytime
2. Bible - Follow God's Teachings in Your Life
3. Church - Be in Community with Believers
4. Service - Love and Help Other People
5. Evangelism - Share About Jesus

We're excited for your new life and will be praying for you as you grow in your faith. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us on social media ([facebook.com/gracebiblepa](https://www.facebook.com/gracebiblepa)) or shoot us an email at gbc@gracebiblepa.com.

1 - PRAYER: Talk to God Anywhere, Anytime

Opening Question: What is prayer to you? What does it look like?

Bible Verse

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. - Ephesians 6:18

Thoughts to Consider

Prayer is simply talking to God. As a follower of Jesus, you have direct access to His attention. God tells us to bring anything and everything to Him in prayer, no matter how big or small.

There are a lot of different ways to pray, but God looks for sincerity. It's not about trying to say the right words in the right way. He already knows what's on your heart, so just talk to Him as you are.

Bible Verse

When you pray, do not keep talking on and on. That is what ungodly people do. They think they will be heard because they talk a lot. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask him. - Matthew 6:7-8

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- What are some things in your life that you can talk to God about?
- What is challenging about prayer for you?

Action Steps

- Set a time each day to spend a few minutes talking to God.
- Make a list of things you want to ask God for, and record when He answers you.

Further Reading:

- [Do My Prayers Really Reach Heaven? | A Prayer for Everyday](#)

2 - BIBLE: Follow God's Teachings in Your Life

Opening Question: What is the Bible about? Is it useful for everyday life?

Bible Verse

God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right. By using Scripture, the servant of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Thoughts to Consider

The Bible is God's message to us. In the Bible, He communicates through history, commandments, poetry, stories, and letters. They all teach us about who God is, what our relationship with Him should look like, and how to live a life of faith.

Though the Bible won't tell you what to do in every situation of your life, it provides values and principles that are applicable to every area of your life. The more we read the Bible, the more we understand God's heart and start becoming more like Jesus. It becomes easier to make decisions in a life that follow God's will and results with healthy growth in our lives.

Bible Verse

Lord, I really love your law! All day long I spend time thinking about it. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, because your commands are always in my heart. I know more than all my teachers do, because I spend time thinking about your covenant laws. - Psalm 119:97-99

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- What are some things in your life that you can talk to God about?
- What is challenging about prayer for you?

Action Steps

- Set a time each day to spend to read the Bible.
- Take a verse that really resonates with you and try to apply it throughout the day.

Further Reading

- [How Relevant is the Bible?](#) | [What the Bible Says About God and You](#)

3 - CHURCH: Be in Community with Believers

Opening Question: What is the benefit of being around other Christians?

Bible Verse

Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching. - Hebrews 10:24-25

Thoughts to Consider

When you become a follower of Jesus, you join His family. All believers are spiritual brothers and sisters, and have a connection that runs deeper than blood. We have all been saved by Jesus, we all worship the same God, we are all on equal ground, and we have all committed to live by the same values.

So it's natural that we should be sharing life together. Because of our new faith, we will live differently than the rest of the world, and that can be difficult. But meeting together with other Christians will help us grow in our faith and overcome life's challenges together.

Bible Verse:

The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. - Acts 2:42

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- What are some things in your life that you can talk to God about?
- What is challenging about prayer for you?

Action Steps

- Meet up with another believer this week for a meal and talk about life and faith.
- Find a local church community that you can be part of and serve at.

Further Reading

- [This is What You Need From Church](#) | [Can You Have Church At Home?](#)

4 - SERVICE: Love and Help Other People

Opening Question: How should we be treating other people?

Bible Verse

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. - Philippians 2:3-4

Thoughts to Consider

The common value system for this world is to look out for yourself and try to get ahead. But when we choose to follow Jesus, He calls us to do the complete opposite. We're supposed to love other people and serve other people. That means everyone, including people you don't like.

Jesus said that loving others was the second most important commandment. It's so important that it's directly tied to your faith. God says that if you really have faith in Jesus, it will show in how you help other people. If you aren't serving others, then it puts into question whether you actually have faith at all.

Bible Verse

Suppose a brother or a sister has no clothes or food. Suppose one of you says to them, "Go. I hope everything turns out fine for you. Keep warm. Eat well." And suppose you do nothing about what they really need. Then what good have you done? It is the same with faith. If it doesn't cause us to do something, it's dead. - James 2:15-17

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God measures our faith by our actions towards others?
- Are there people that you are not kind towards, that you need to start loving?

Action Steps

- Be kind and loving towards someone that you normally would not care for.
- Find someone who has a need and try to help them with it.

Further Reading

- [Love Your Neighbor](#) | [Serving From a Place of Security](#)

5 - EVANGELISM: Share About Jesus

Opening Question: How comfortable are you with talking to people about your faith?

Bible Verse

But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect. - 1 Peter 3:15

Thoughts to Consider

When we are excited about something, we naturally share it with others. Whether it is a book or movie we enjoy, an experience we've had, or a great friend we want to introduce to others. It is the same when we encounter God. You may hear the word "evangelism" and become intimidated by the pressure to explain the Gospel in the right way. But it's simply telling other people about what God has done in your life.

However, sharing about Jesus is also a command. In fact, it was the last command He gave before going back into heaven, so it's an important one. We are to tell people the good news of God's love and salvation.

Bible Verse:

So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end. - Matthew 28:19-20

Reflection/Discussion Questions

- Do your actions and your life show people that you are a Christian?
- What fears or doubts do you have about talking to others about Jesus?

Action Steps

- Practice telling your story of how you came to faith and why you believe.
- Think of people in your life who do not have a relationship with God, and share your faith with them.

Further Reading

- [Keep Your Faith Quiet?](#) | [The Lost in This World](#)