



# Who is God And What Does it Mean to Be A Christian

## *First 5 Steps*

Congratulations on the decision you've made to follow Jesus! You have made the greatest choice of your life, and as a church, we're really excited to walk alongside you as you begin your journey with Jesus!

The Bible comes in many different 'translations' or 'versions' - it all has the same meaning, though we find some versions are easier to read and understand over others. We will be using the New International Version of the Bible throughout these steps! Feel free to research different versions for yourself - you may find one you prefer to read!

There may be certain words, concepts, or symbolism you don't understand—that's completely okay and normal! Everyone's journey with Jesus is about growing in our understanding of the Bible. If you have questions or would like to connect with someone to help you navigate this, send an email to [church.firstalliance@gmail.com](mailto:church.firstalliance@gmail.com)

Knowing God and living in faith will be a lifelong journey, but it's a journey that's meant in community—stay connected.

*Enjoy connecting with God and growing in your love for Him through these steps!*

- 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**

# DAY ONE

## PRAYER: Talk to God Anywhere, Anytime

**Question:** What is prayer to you? Why pray? 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 NIV*

### 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. You don't need to impress God. It's not about trying to say the right words in the right way because He already knows what's on your heart, so just talk to Him as you are. No shame!

### Bible Verse

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. - 1 John 5:14*

### Reflection 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 praying to God.
- Keep a journal so when He answers throughout the day, you can write it down.

### Need Help Praying?

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of today. I know that you are there because I've experienced You. Show yourself a little more to me today, and give me eyes and ears to see and listen what you are doing in my life. Amen.

# DAY TWO

## BIBLE: Follow God's Teachings in Your Life

**Opening Question:** What is the Bible about? Does it apply to today?

### 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 NIV*

### 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

*... but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. - Psalm 1:2-3 NIV*

### Reflection 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 read the Bible.
- Take a verse that resonates with you and try to apply it throughout the day.

### Need Help Starting?

Start reading the book of John—the fourth book in the New Testament.

# DAY THREE

## CHURCH: Be in Community With Believers

**Opening Question:** Why church? Why hang 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 NIV*

### **Thoughts to Consider**

When you become a follower of Jesus, you join His family. 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. We are spiritual brothers and sisters! So it's natural that we should share life together.

Coming to church on Sundays is not the same as spending time with your faith family. Sundays are meant to strengthen you to face the hardships of life, but also to encourage you to live a life worth living! When you spend time with your faith community, you'll find people who have similar struggles, similar hardships, and a similar reliance on God's provision. We encourage you to join a community group and share your life with other members of our community.

### **Bible Verse**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together with glad and sincere hearts praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. - Acts 2:42-47 NIV*

### **Action Steps**

- Meet up with another believer this week for a meal and talk about life and faith.

### **Need Help Starting?**

Reach out to [church.firstalliance@gmail.com](mailto:church.firstalliance@gmail.com) and ask how to join a community group!

# DAY FOUR

## SERVICE: Love and Help Other People

**Opening Question:** Why can helping others be hard? What stops you from helping?

### 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 NIV*

### 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. This is hard because Jesus goes on to say that we need to love our enemies—and he meant it. He loved people all the way to the cross (check out Matthew 5:43-48). How well we love is a measure of our faith.

### 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 NIV*

### Reflection/Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God measures our faith by our actions towards others?
- What does 'loving an enemy' look like practically in your life?

### 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.

### Need Help Starting?

Serving is easier with friends! Contact us for opportunities to serve!

# DAY FIVE

## 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 NIV*

### 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. Don't be afraid! All you have to do is simply tell other people about what God is doing and has done in your life!

You don't need a degree, or anything fancy to share about Jesus. Your job isn't to convince anyone, just share. The last commandment Jesus gave was to tell people the good news of God's love and salvation. You're not alone in this. You got this!

### 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

- What fears or doubts do you have about talking to others about Jesus?
- How can you overcome those?

### 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.

### Need Help Starting?

Sometimes, it can be easier to practice with a friend. Reach out to a member of your faith family and ask them for some help! You'll get to encourage each other as you go!

# You Made It!

Congratulations on completing this devotional series. It won't be easy to take all those steps at the same time, but it will be a lifetime of growing in your faith. Remember, you have a church family cheering you on! Make sure to follow stay connected.

## ***WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?***

### **1. Attend church.**

Regularly coming to church will help you maintain your relationship with God, as well as connect you with other believers who can encourage you on your journey with Him.

*"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 NLT*

### **2. Join a community group.**

As a church, community groups are our way of meeting together in a small group each week to grow deeper in our love for God, and in friendships with each other. Through groups, you will have people who can help discover God's unique purposes for your life, and journey with you as you navigate your daily challenges.

*"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." - Acts 2:42 NLT*

### **3. Experience 'DiscoverFAC'.**

DiscoverFAC is our way as a church of helping you to discover more about how you can fit within our church home. DiscoverFAC is followed up by DiscoverServing which will help identify your own spiritual giftings and how you can go on to make a difference around you.

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." - Ephesians 2:10 NL*

**We rejoice with the Heavens that you are in our faith family! No matter what, keep moving forward in your faith journey.**