

**YOU  
SAID**  
*yes*



*welcome!*

If you haven't already, please scan  
the code below to let us know you  
said yes to following Jesus.



**GOD SENT HIS SON  
INTO THE WORLD  
NOT TO JUDGE THE  
WORLD, BUT TO  
SAVE THE WORLD  
THROUGH *him*.**

*John 3:17*

# Hey friend!

We just want to say this clearly—you said yes to Jesus and that is a big deal.

The Bible tells us heaven celebrates when someone turns toward God, and so do we. We're genuinely grateful you're here and we're honored you've taken this step.

If you're like most people, you might already be asking a few questions: What does this mean now? What changes? What do I do next? Those are good questions, and you're not alone in them. That's why we put this little book in your hands.

Over the next 21 days, you'll find simple daily readings to help build a steady foundation as you follow Jesus. Each day includes scripture, a short reflection, a prayer, and one practical next step. Nothing complicated. Just clear guidance for a real life with God.

And don't feel pressure to rush. This is organized into 21 days, but you can move at a pace that helps you grow. Three weeks. Two months. Re-reading a few pages when you need them. The goal isn't to finish fast. **The goal is to keep moving forward.**

Following Jesus isn't about having all the answers overnight. It's about learning to walk with Him, one step at a time. Some days will feel strong. Other days may feel messy. But God is faithful in all of it. You're not expected to be perfect. **You're invited to make progress.**

As your church family, we're here for you. If you ever have questions, need prayer, or want help knowing what your next step is, please reach out. We would love to walk this journey with you.

We're celebrating what God is beginning in your life.

Let's take the next step together.

With you,

**Your Pastors at Journey Church**

# HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE

John 3:16 may sound familiar, but do you know how to find it in your Bible?

At the front of your Bible you will find a table of contents listing the books of the Bible. Use it to find the book you are looking for.

Inside each book, the large numbers are chapters and the smaller numbers in the text are verses.

So when you see John 3:16, it means:



That means the 16th verse in the 3rd chapter of the book of John.

The more you read your Bible, the easier it becomes. Just start opening it and reading. God will meet you there.

We've included a Bible in the New Living Translation (NLT), which is the version we most commonly use in our weekend messages at Journey Church. The NLT is written in clear, modern English and focuses on communicating the meaning of the original Bible texts in a way that is easy to understand and apply to everyday life.

If you prefer a digital Bible, we recommend downloading the YouVersion Bible App so you can read Scripture anytime on your phone or device.



Scan here to  
download the  
BibleApp  
[youversion.com](http://youversion.com)

# WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

---

## *Week 1: Starting to Follow Jesus*

Saying Yes to Jesus	3
Who is God?	5
Your New Identity	7
Grace Over Works	9
Assurance of Salvation	11
Reading the Bible	13
Prayer	15

## *Week 2: Living Like Jesus Lived*

Worship	19
Baptism	21
Resisting Temptation	23
Walking with the Wise	25
Serving Others	27
You Were Never Meant to do Faith Alone	29
Generosity	31

## *Week 3: Stepping Into Your Calling*

Forgiveness	35
The Power of Your Testimony	37
What is Evangelism?	39
Walking by the Spirit	41
Obedience in the Small Things	43
Endurance Through Trials	45
What's Next?	47
Next Steps	49
SOAP/SOAP Starter Plan	51

**GOD SAVED YOU  
BY HIS *grace*  
WHEN YOU BELIEVED.  
AND YOU CAN'T  
TAKE CREDIT FOR  
THIS; IT IS A *gift*  
FROM GOD.**

*Ephesians 2:8*



**WEEK**  
*one*

Starting to Follow Jesus

# DAY 01

## Saying Yes to Jesus

You said yes to Jesus—and we're really proud of you.

You might hear people describe this moment in different ways: committing your life to Jesus, becoming a Christian, getting saved, choosing to follow Him. But what does that actually mean? What changes? What stays the same? And why does it matter?

That's what this book is here to help you discover.

At its core, following Jesus means becoming more like Him. But who is Jesus? And why would we want our lives to look like His?

To answer that, we go back to the very beginning.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we see that God creates the world and calls it good. He creates people in His image and invites them to enjoy, steward, and cultivate what He made. But humanity chooses its own way instead of trusting God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin damages our relationship with God, breaks trust between people, and distorts the world we were meant to care for.

For centuries, that separation remains.

Then Jesus enters the story.

God's Son comes to earth as a baby. He lives among us. He shows us what it looks like to love God fully and love others sacrificially. And ultimately, He gives His life on a cross and rises again, closing the gap sin created between us and God.

Why would He do that?

Jesus answers that question in one of the most well-known passages in Scripture:

“ ”

*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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

*John 3:16-17*

That's love.

When you say yes to Jesus, you are saying yes to that love. Yes to forgiveness. Yes to new life. Yes to becoming part of God's family forever.

And that changes everything.

**PRAYER**

*God, I trust that Jesus is Your Son who came to save me. I don't understand everything yet, but I want to follow Him and live His way. Thank You for loving me and inviting me into Your family. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Take time today to write out your commitment to following Jesus. There may be seasons when faith feels difficult. This written reminder can anchor you in the moments you need Him most.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 02

## Who Is God?

Is God the Father?  
Is He Jesus the Son?  
Is He the Holy Spirit?  
Is He all three?

Yes.

When you choose to follow Jesus, you are stepping into relationship with the one true God—who reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is three in one. This is what Christians call the Trinity.

It can feel hard to fully understand, but we see this truth woven throughout the Bible.

The first verses of Scripture show us that God has always existed beyond what we can see:

“ ”

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*

*Genesis 1:1-2*

God the Father creates. The Spirit is present and active.

Then in the book of John, we learn that Jesus was there too. John calls Him “the Word” and explains who He is:

“ ”

*In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was God.*

*John 1:1*

“ ”

*So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.*

*John 1:14*

Jesus is not simply a wise teacher. He is fully God. And through Him, we are invited into relationship with the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Following Jesus means believing you are a child of God the Father, saved by the Son, and empowered daily by the Holy Spirit.

Here's the big takeaway:

There is one God. He reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Spirit. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us direct access to Him forever.

You are not walking this journey alone. The Spirit of God lives with you and in you.

## PRAYER

*God, help me know You as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Father, You are my Provider. Jesus, You are my Savior. Holy Spirit, You are my Guide. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Look up the following verses in your Bible:

- 1 John 4:8
- Deuteronomy 7:8
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Malachi 3:6
- Isaiah 40:28

As you read, write down what each verse teaches you about who God is. Let what you discover shape the way you see Him this week.

# DAY 03

## Your New Identity

“”

*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*

When you said yes to Jesus, a new story began. It is a story filled with hope, purpose, and new life.

But you may have already noticed something: life does not suddenly become perfect. Bills still show up. Relationships can still hurt. Fear, doubt, and temptation do not disappear overnight.

It is easy to focus on what you should do as a new believer. Read your Bible. Attend church. Join a small group. Serve. Give. All of those practices matter. But before you focus on what you *do*, you must understand who you *are*.

Your identity in Christ comes first.

You are not trying to become someone new. In Jesus, you already are someone new. You are forgiven. You are secure. You are deeply loved. You are God's child.

The Bible reminds us that those who are born of God belong to Him, are given understanding through Him, and are protected by Him (1 John 5:18–20). You are justified and secure, even while you are still growing.

Growth is part of the journey. Transformation takes time. But your identity is not up for debate.

When you begin to believe who you are in Christ, everything changes. Your worth is no longer tied to success or failure. Disappointment does not shake your foundation. Shame does not get the final word. You can live from a place of security instead of striving.

Living in your new identity means rejecting old patterns and releasing guilt. It means confessing sin honestly and trusting God to continue shaping you. The Holy Spirit is at work in you, forming you to look more like Jesus each day.

This is the life God intends for you. Grace-filled. Purposeful. Free.

#### PRAYER

*Lord, thank You that I belong to You. Help me understand who I am in Christ and live from that truth each day. Give me courage to release shame, confess my sins honestly, and walk in the freedom You have given me. Continue transforming my heart. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Take a sheet of paper and write down the things you feel ashamed of—past sins, guilt, regrets. Then bring them before God in prayer. When you are finished, crumple the paper and throw it away as a reminder: in Christ, those things are forgiven and no longer define you.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 04

## Grace Over Works

If you stop and think about it, we live in a culture that measures everything by work and performance. Job reviews, grades, productivity, checklists, accomplishments, you name it. There is always something evaluating us, and the question lingering behind it all is, “Am I doing enough?” So when Jesus steps in and shows us that salvation isn’t what we do, but what He has already done, everything in our faith journey suddenly feels upside down. While success tells us to do more and do better, Jesus invites us into something new: grace.

“”

*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*

Salvation isn’t something we earn. It’s a gift reminding us of the love of God, who redeems us in his love given to us. Our role: receiving the grace we have been given.

Saying yes to Jesus is one of the most countercultural things we can do. Everything in the world tells us to hustle, to perform, to prove ourselves. When we choose Him, our hearts shift. We move from a posture of “I have to earn this” to a posture of “I get to receive this.” That’s grace—and it changes everything.

We know the debt we owed could never be repaid by our effort. But Jesus never asked us to repay it—He covered it. So our whole life becomes a response to that grace. Not pressure. Not perfection. A response of gratitude. A “thank You, Jesus” woven into how we live, serve, and love people around us.



**PRAYER**

*Jesus, thank You for Your grace that meets me right where I am. Help me rest in what You've already done, instead of trying to earn what's already been given. Teach me to live out of gratitude, not pressure, and to extend that same grace to others. Amen.*

# Next Steps

So today, take a moment to pause and thank God for His grace. You don't have to prove yourself to Him—He already chose you. Let Ephesians 2:8–9 be your reminder that salvation isn't something you achieve; it's something you receive. When you feel the urge to perform or earn, remind yourself of the joy in receiving God's grace.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 05

## Assurance of Salvation

There is deep peace that comes from knowing your salvation is secure.

Many new believers quietly wonder, What if I mess up? What if I sin again? The enemy of your soul loves to plant doubt in tender faith. He whispers that one failure could undo what God has done.

But the truth of the gospel is stronger than that whisper.

Salvation is not fragile. It is rooted in the finished work of Jesus.

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, He did not pay for only a few sins. He paid for all of them—past, present, and future. Forgiveness was not partial. It was complete.

“ ”

*Jesus said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

*John 19:30*

“It is finished” means the debt was fully paid. Nothing can be added to what Christ accomplished, and nothing can take it away. His grace does not expire. His mercy does not run out.

You will still have moments of weakness. You will still grow. But your mistakes do not cancel your salvation. God’s love is not based on your performance. Scripture tells us that when you believe, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit—a promise that you belong to God.

Sin may affect closeness in relationship, but it never removes belonging. When you stumble, God does not push you away. He invites you to confess, receive grace, and keep walking.

And if you ever wonder whether His love could fail, remember this:

“ ”

*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8:38–39*

Your security rests in Him. And His hands are strong.

#### PRAYER

*Father, thank You that my salvation is secure in Jesus. Thank You that Your love does not change and Your forgiveness covers every sin. Help me walk in confidence instead of fear. When I stumble, remind me that Your grace is greater. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Read Romans 8:31–39 today. Write down the phrases that remind you of God’s unchanging love. Keep them somewhere you can return to when doubt tries to speak.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 06

## Reading the Bible

Early believers approached Scripture with a posture known as *Lectio Divina*, which means “divine reading.” They understood that the Bible was not meant to be read merely for information or entertainment. Instead, they believed Scripture was the living Word of God, something to be approached slowly, prayerfully, and with a listening heart.

Hebrews describes the power of God’s Word this way:

“”

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

*Hebrews 4:12*

In other words, we don’t just read the Bible. The Bible reads us.

Through practices like *Lectio Divina*, these early followers of Jesus would meditate on a passage, pray through it, and listen for the voice of God speaking through His Word. They came to Scripture not simply to learn something new, but to allow the Spirit of God to search them, shape them, and transform them through the living Word.

Jesus approached Scripture this way as well. When asked about the greatest commandment, He replied:

“”

*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind... A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself.*

*Matthew 22:37-39*

Jesus showed that all of Scripture ultimately leads us toward loving God and loving people.

So when you read the Bible, slow down. Approach it with a prayerful heart. Ask God to speak through His Word and allow His truth to shape your life.

God still speaks through Scripture today.

And He will meet you there.

## PRAYER

*Father, guide me as I read Your Word. Open my eyes to understand it and soften my heart to live it. Teach me to love You and others more through what I learn. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Starting your Bible reading journey can feel overwhelming. A simple tool can make it easier.

At Journey, we use the SOAP method to move from simply reading Scripture to truly learning from it. Our SOAP Bible reading plan guides you through about two chapters a day and is designed to help you build a consistent daily habit. If you're just getting started, we also offer a SOAP Starter Plan to help you begin.

We also have SOAP journals and bookmarks available to use alongside your Bible. The Journey reading plan is ready for you every day of the year and is simple to follow.



Scan here to see  
our SOAP plan  
[jrnychurch.com/soap](http://jrnychurch.com/soap)

You may also find it helpful to use a devotional plan. The Bible App offers free, easy-to-access devotionals you can begin anytime.



Scan here to  
download the  
BibleApp  
[youversion.com](http://youversion.com)

# DAY 07

## Prayer

Jesus spent a lot of time praying.

Before big decisions, in stressful moments, and during quiet seasons, Jesus chose to pray. That might seem surprising. If He is God, why would He need prayer?

While on earth, Jesus was fully God and fully human. In His humanity, He modeled dependence on the Father. Prayer gave Him direction, strength, and closeness with God. And it can do the same for you.

Before choosing the twelve disciples, Scripture says:

“”

*One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles...*

*Luke 6:12-13*

Prayer was not Jesus' last resort. It was His first response.

Prayer is not about impressive words. Jesus warned against praying just to be seen by others. He showed that prayer is personal.

It is a conversation with God.

It's thanking Him for what He's done.

It's asking for help.

It's admitting when you've fallen short.

It's sitting quietly and listening.

Jesus prayed publicly. He prayed privately. He invited others to pray with Him. Prayer was woven into His daily life.

You don't need perfect language. You don't need long

speeches. Just start talking honestly with God.

Take a few minutes today to pause. Tell Him what you're thankful for. Share what's weighing on you. Ask for wisdom. Then be still.

Over time, you will notice your heart growing stronger and more connected to Him.

Prayer builds relationship.

## Next Steps

If you're unsure how to start, try using the PRAY model today:

- **Praise:** Begin by praising God for who He is.
- **Recognize His Gifts:** Thank Him for specific blessings in your life.
- **Ask for Forgiveness:** Honestly confess your sins and receive His grace.
- **Your Requests:** Share your needs, concerns, and hopes with Him.

Set aside five quiet minutes today and walk through these four steps. Keep it simple. Speak honestly. Then pause and sit quietly, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your heart.

Remember what Jesus said:

“ ”

*Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!*  
*Matthew 6:8*

You don't need perfect words. Just come as you are.

---

---

---

---

**THOSE WHO SAY  
THEY LIVE IN GOD  
SHOULD LIVE  
THEIR LIVES AS  
*Jesus* DID.**

*1 John 2:6*



**WEEK**  
*two*

Living Like Jesus Lived

# DAY 08

## Worship

When you gather with other followers of Jesus, read Scripture, and pray together, something powerful happens: worship.

When many people hear the word “worship,” they think of music. Singing is certainly one way we worship. In fact, on the night before His crucifixion, Jesus sang with His disciples during the Passover meal.

It was likely from the Psalms, songs filled with praise like this:

“”

*Who can be compared with the Lord our God, who is enthroned on high? He stoops to look down on heaven and on earth. He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, even the princes of his own people!*

*Psalm 113:5-8*

Worship is responding to who God is and what He has done.

It is recognizing His greatness and His goodness. He is holy and powerful, yet close and compassionate. He sees the hurting. He lifts the needy. He saves.

Singing together reminds us of these truths. It shapes our hearts. It helps us remember that God is worthy of our praise.

But worship is bigger than music.

Worship is expressed whenever you honor God with your life. When you thank Him for His forgiveness. When you notice the beauty of creation. When you serve someone in love. When you choose obedience.

Worship is a posture of the heart that says, “God, You are worthy.”

As you grow in your faith, corporate worship will strengthen you. Singing alongside other believers reminds you that you are part of something bigger than yourself.

But worship also happens in quiet, everyday moments.

It is a response.

And it transforms your heart.

**PRAYER**

*Father, You are worthy of my praise. Thank You for Your goodness and compassion. Teach me to worship You not only with my voice, but with my whole life. Shape my heart to respond to You with gratitude and devotion. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Take a few minutes today to express worship in a simple way. Thank God out loud for three specific things He has done in your life.

Then, this weekend, join other believers in worship at church. Sing boldly. Let the words remind you who God is.

Worship isn't about performance.

It's about response.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 09

## Baptism

Baptism is one of the first steps Jesus invites His followers to take.

It is a public declaration that says, “I have decided to follow Jesus.” When someone is baptized, they are gently lowered into water and raised back up again. This simple act carries powerful meaning.

Going under the water is a symbol of Jesus’ death and burial. Being raised out of the water is a picture of new life. It represents the forgiveness of sin and the new beginning we have through Him.

Jesus Himself was baptized:

“ ”

*After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.’*

*Matthew 3:16-17*

In this moment, we see the Father speaking, the Son being baptized, and the Spirit descending. Baptism reflects the work of the Trinity and reminds us that we now belong to God.

Later, before returning to heaven, Jesus told His followers:

“ ”

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Matthew 28:19*

Baptism does not save you. Jesus already accomplished that. Instead, baptism is an outward expression of the inward transformation that has already taken place.

It is a celebration.

It is obedience.

It is a moment that marks your new life in Christ.

If you have said yes to Jesus but have not yet been baptized, this is a step worth taking.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for saving me through Jesus. Give me courage to take the next step of obedience. Help me live publicly and boldly for You. Amen.*

## Next Steps

If you have not been baptized since saying yes to Jesus, this is your next step in obedience.

Baptism is a celebration of your new life and a public declaration of your faith. If you are ready, sign up using the link below. We would love to celebrate with you!



Scan here for  
baptism  
registrations  
[jrnychurch.com/baptism](http://jrnychurch.com/baptism)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 10

## Resisting Temptation

Have you ever wanted something, even though you knew it wasn't good for you?

Temptation is not new. Even Jesus experienced it.

After being baptized, Jesus spent forty days alone in the wilderness without food. In that vulnerable moment, the devil tempted Him with shortcuts—power without the cross, provision without trust, glory without sacrifice.

But Jesus refused.

Temptation itself is not sin. Giving in to it is what leads us away from God's best. Temptation often offers us a shortcut to something we desire—control, comfort, approval, relief. It promises something easy now, but it can cost us deeply later.

So how did Jesus resist?

He knew Scripture.  
He knew His identity.  
He knew His purpose.

When temptation came, He responded with truth. He refused to trade long-term obedience for short-term satisfaction.

The same help is available to you.

“ ”

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*  
*1 Corinthians 10:13*

Notice that temptation is “common.” You are not strange for struggling. You are not weak for being tempted.

And God is faithful.

He provides a way out. Sometimes that way out is walking away. Sometimes it is calling a friend. Sometimes it is remembering who you are in Christ.

Temptation does not define you.

Your identity does.

The more you build habits of prayer, Scripture, and community, the stronger you become.

You are not fighting alone.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You that You are faithful. When I face temptation, help me remember who I am in Christ. Show me the way out and give me strength to choose obedience. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Prepare before temptation comes.

Write down one area where you struggle most. Then identify one “way out” you can choose next time—a phone call, a prayer, walking away, or reaching out for help.

If you need deeper support, consider joining a Care Group. You don’t have to fight alone.



Scan here to learn more about our Care Groups  
[jrnychurch.com/care](http://jrnychurch.com/care)

---

---

---

---

# DAY 11

## Walking with the Wise

“ ”

*Walk with the wise and become wise;  
associate with fools and get in trouble.*  
Proverbs 13:20

Following Jesus is personal, but it was never meant to be private.

God created us to grow in community. While Scripture, prayer, and worship strengthen your faith, one of the most powerful ways to grow is by walking closely with someone who is spiritually mature.

The Bible says:

“ ”

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*  
Proverbs 27:17

A godly mentor is not someone who is perfect. They are someone who is pursuing Jesus wholeheartedly. Their life shows evidence of growth, humility, and obedience. They have walked through challenges and remained faithful. They can encourage you when you feel weak and gently correct you when you begin to drift.

One beautiful example of this kind of relationship is Naomi and Ruth. After experiencing deep loss, Naomi remained faithful to God. Ruth chose to follow her:

“ ”

*But Ruth replied, 'Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.'*  
Ruth 1:16

Through Naomi's guidance, Ruth's faith deepened, and God used her life in ways she never imagined.



We grow faster when someone is walking beside us.

The right mentor will not replace your relationship with God. Instead, they will point you back to Him again and again.

And one day, as you grow, you may become that steady voice for someone else.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for creating me for community. Lead me to people who will strengthen my faith and help me grow in wisdom. Make me humble and teachable, and shape me into someone who reflects You. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Pray and ask God to bring a spiritually mature person into your life.

Then take a simple step of initiative. Invite someone you respect to meet for coffee, prayer, or Bible study. Growth often begins with one courageous conversation.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 12

## Serving Others

“”

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.*  
*Matthew 20:28*

Jesus is our ultimate example of service.

The King of kings did not come demanding honor or comfort. He came to serve. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, sat with the broken, and washed His disciples' feet. And ultimately, He gave His life to rescue ours.

Serving isn't something extra for especially committed Christians. It is a natural response to following Jesus.

When you say yes to Him, you step into His mission. You begin to reflect His heart. You become His hands and feet in the world.

Serving doesn't always look dramatic. Sometimes it means arriving early or staying late. Sometimes it means listening when someone is hurting. Sometimes it means doing small things that no one else notices.

But God notices.

Every act of love reflects Him.

Serving also connects us to community. When we serve alongside other believers, relationships deepen. The church becomes more than a place you attend. It becomes a family you build with.

And remember this: we do not serve to earn God's approval.

We serve because we are already saved.

His grace fills us so we can pour out love to others.

The more we focus on meeting the needs around us, the more our hearts begin to look like His.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, shape my heart to serve like You. Help me notice the needs around me and respond with compassion. Use me as Your hands and feet. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Ask God to show you one practical way you can serve this week — at church, at home, or in your community.

If you're ready to discover your gifts and get more involved, consider joining Growth Track. It's a simple way to learn your purpose and find where you can serve best.



Scan here to sign up  
for Growth Track  
[jrnychurch.com/growth-track](http://jrnychurch.com/growth-track)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 13

## You Were Never Meant to Do Faith Alone

Everyone wants to belong.

From the beginning, God designed us to live connected—to Him and to one another. Yet many of us know what it feels like to not quite fit anywhere.

One of God's greatest gifts is the church family.

When Jesus called people to follow Him, He didn't send them off alone. He gathered them into community. They shared meals, prayed together, and walked side by side. The early church continued that same pattern:

“”

*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. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.*

*Acts 2:42, 44*

Faith grows in relationship.

We need people who will pray for us, challenge us, celebrate with us, and remind us who we are in Christ when we forget. In a world that values independence, Jesus invites us into healthy dependence—on Him and on one another.

Think about it: even within the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—we see perfect unity and relationship. If God Himself values connection, how much more do we need it?

Church is not just a place you attend. It is a family you belong to.

The people you meet at church won't be perfect. But they will show up. They will walk with you through joy and

hardship. And through them, you will experience the love of God in real, tangible ways.

You were never meant to follow Jesus alone.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for welcoming me into Your family. Lead me to the right people who will strengthen my faith. Help me show up for others the way You show up for me. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Take one intentional step toward community this week. Introduce yourself to someone new. Join a small group or a serve team. Stay after service and start a conversation.

If you're ready to connect more deeply, consider signing up for a small group below.



Scan here to  
find a group  
[jrnychurch.com/groups](http://jrnychurch.com/groups)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 14

## Generosity

As John the Baptist prepared people for Jesus' arrival, he challenged them to live with radical generosity.

“”

*If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.*  
*Luke 3:11*

Generosity makes room in our hearts for God.

At its core, generosity means sharing what you have to help someone else. It includes money, but it also includes your time, your attention, your skills, your encouragement, and your presence.

Everything we have ultimately belongs to God. We are stewards, not owners. When we hold tightly to our resources, our hearts shrink. But when we give, something shifts inside us.

Generosity reshapes us.

It reminds us that we trust God to provide. It loosens the grip of materialism. It trains us to see the needs around us.

Jesus modeled radical generosity. He gave His time to the overlooked. He gave compassion to the broken. And ultimately, He gave His life.

We don't give to earn God's love. We give because we have already received it.

Throughout Scripture, God calls His people to trust Him with the first portion of what they earn. Tithing—giving the first ten percent to the local church—is an act of obedience and worship. It declares that God is first in our lives and that we trust Him as our Provider.

And above the tithe, at Journey Church we give generously to Kingdom Builders. Through obedience and generosity, the church is able to serve families, reach communities, and share the message of Christ across the world. When we give, we participate in what God is doing beyond ourselves.

Generosity is not about equal amounts.

It is about a willing heart.

And when you begin to live generously, you reflect the heart of Jesus.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for generously giving Your Son for me. Teach me to hold what I have with open hands. Help me trust You as my Provider and honor You with what You've entrusted to me. Show me where I can be generous this week. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Ask yourself three simple questions:

What do I truly need?

What has God placed in my hands?

Who around me has a need I can help meet?

Then choose one practical way to be generous this week—and follow through.



Scan here  
to give  
[jrnychurch.com/give](http://jrnychurch.com/give)

---

---

---

---

I BEG YOU TO LEAD  
A LIFE WORTHY OF  
YOUR *calling*,  
FOR YOU HAVE  
BEEN CALLED  
BY *God*.

*Ephesians 4:1*



**WEEK**  
*three*

Stepping Into Your Calling

# DAY 15

## Forgiveness

Forgiveness matters deeply to God.

Throughout Scripture, we see Him offering mercy and second chances. As followers of Jesus, we know what it feels like to be forgiven. We didn't earn it. We received it because God loves us.

Even in His final moments, Jesus modeled forgiveness. As He hung on the cross, He prayed:

“”

*Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.*  
*Luke 23:34*

In unimaginable pain, Jesus chose mercy.

Later, Peter asked Jesus how many times he needed to forgive someone who kept messing up:

“”

*No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!*  
*Matthew 18:22*

Jesus wasn't giving Peter a number to count to. He was teaching that forgiveness is not limited.

Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending something didn't hurt. It doesn't mean excusing sin. And it doesn't mean removing healthy boundaries.

Forgiveness means releasing your right to get even.

It's choosing not to let anger, bitterness, or resentment control your heart.

Sometimes forgiveness happens in a single prayer. Other times, it's a process you return to again and again. But each time you choose to forgive, you step into freedom.

We are forgiven people.

So we forgive.

And as we do, our hearts begin to look more like His.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank You for forgiving me again and again. Show me where I am holding onto hurt, and give me the strength to release it to You. Teach me to forgive the way You forgive. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Write down the name of one person you need to forgive.

Bring that person to God in prayer. Be honest about your hurt. Then choose to release them to Him.

If needed, consider what healthy boundaries may be part of that forgiveness.

Forgiveness may not change them.

But it will free you.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 16

## The Power of Your Testimony

“ ”

*And they have defeated him by the blood  
of the Lamb and by their testimony.  
Revelation 12:11*

When you said yes to Jesus, your story changed.

Salvation is not the end of your journey. It is the beginning. And one of the most powerful tools God gives you is your testimony—your story of how He met you, rescued you, and continues to transform you.

Your testimony does not have to be dramatic to be powerful.

Maybe Jesus saved you from addiction.  
Maybe He met you in grief.  
Maybe He forgave you quietly and steadily over time.

Every story matters.

When you share what Jesus has done in your life, you point others to Him. You show that He is real, faithful, and good. Your story may be the bridge that helps someone else take their first step toward faith.

Sharing your testimony also strengthens you. When you speak about God's faithfulness, you remember it. When you tell others how He provided, comforted, or guided you, your faith deepens.

You don't need all the answers.  
You simply share what Jesus has done for you.

Your story is not about your perfection.  
It's about His grace.

And God can use your experience—even your hardest seasons—to bring hope to someone else.

**PRAYER**

*Jesus, thank You for making me new. Thank You for how You have worked in my life. Give me courage to share my story with humility and boldness. Use my testimony to point others to You. Amen.*

## Next Steps

This week, practice sharing your story.

Use this simple three step outline:

1. Before I followed Jesus...
2. I realized I needed Him when...
3. Since I started following Him...

Write it down in a few sentences.

Then pray for one opportunity to share it.

Your story doesn't have to be long to be powerful.

Just be ready.

God gave you your story for a reason.

And someone may be waiting to hear it.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 17

## What is Evangelism?

When people hear the word evangelism, they often picture a megaphone or a massive event. But at its core, evangelism is much simpler.

It's sharing the hope you've found in Jesus.

Before returning to heaven, Jesus told His followers:

“”

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the  
Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Matthew 28:19*

The word “go” in this context means “as you go”—as you go to work, to school, into your neighborhood, into everyday conversations. Following Jesus doesn't remove you from the world. It sends you into it with love.

Evangelism is not about being loud.  
It's not about having every answer.  
It's not about winning arguments.

It's about loving people enough to tell them where you found life.

You are not responsible for saving anyone.  
That is God's work.

You are responsible for being available.

And sometimes, obedience stretches beyond your normal routine.

Jesus calls us to reach not only the people near us, but also the nations. That may mean praying faithfully. It may mean giving generously. It may mean going on a short-term mission team. For some, it may mean a lifetime of missionary service.

Kingdom Builders exists to help us live that calling—to pray, give, go, and send others so the Gospel reaches beyond our city and into the world.

When you stay connected to Jesus, the fruit of your life will include a growing desire to see others know Him.

And He will show you your part to play.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, open my eyes to the people around me and the nations beyond me. Make me willing to go wherever You lead—across the street or across the world. Use my life for Your purposes. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Pray and ask God:  
Who are you calling me to reach?

Then take one step—share your story, invite someone to church, explore joining a short-term Kingdom Builders team, or begin praying about how God may use you in missions.

The Gospel moves forward when ordinary people say yes.

Scan below to learn more about praying, giving, or going through Kingdom Builders.



Scan here to learn more about Kingdom Builders  
[jrnychurch.com/kingdom-builders](http://jrnychurch.com/kingdom-builders)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 18

## Walking by the Spirit

Some Christian phrases can feel confusing. For example, “walking by the Spirit.”

What does “walking by the spirit” actually mean?

When you said yes to Jesus, you didn’t just decide to follow Him. You received the Holy Spirit. God—not just near you, but in you.

Jesus promised this:

“”

*But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

*John 14:26*

The Holy Spirit is your Helper, Teacher, and Guide. He comforts you when you’re hurting. He convicts you when something is off. He gives you strength when obedience feels hard.

Paul writes:

“”

*The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.*

*Romans 8:11*

That means the same power that raised Christ is active in your everyday life.

Walking by the Spirit is not mystical or dramatic. It’s daily dependence.

It’s inviting God into your decisions.

It’s listening when you sense conviction.

It’s choosing love when your flesh wants anger.



It's pausing to pray instead of reacting quickly.

As you continue to follow Jesus, the Spirit begins shaping your character from the inside out:

“ ”

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

These qualities aren't forced. They grow as you stay connected to Him.

You are not walking alone.

God walks with you in joyful moments, difficult valleys, and ordinary routines.

Walking by the Spirit simply means staying aware of His presence — and choosing to follow His lead.

**PRAYER**

*Holy Spirit, thank You for living in me. Help me stay sensitive to Your voice. Guide my thoughts, my words, and my decisions today. Teach me to walk closely with You. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Set one reminder on your phone today labeled: “Walk by the Spirit.”

When it goes off, pause for sixty seconds. Thank God for being with you. Ask Him to guide your next decision.

He is closer than you think.

---

---

---

---

# DAY 19

## Obedience in the Small Things

When you think about following Jesus, it's easy to imagine big, dramatic moments—sharing your faith boldly or making life-changing decisions.

But most obedience happens quietly.

“ ”

*If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.*

*Luke 16:10*

Obedience usually starts small.

Before David faced Goliath, he faithfully cared for sheep. Before the disciples preached to crowds, they followed Jesus in ordinary, daily moments. The small steps prepared them for the bigger ones.

Obedience in the small things might look like:

Forgiving when you'd rather stay bitter.  
Opening your Bible when you feel tired.  
Choosing integrity when no one is watching.  
Turning away from a habit that no longer honors God.

These moments may not feel impressive, but they shape your heart.

God isn't looking for perfection.  
He's looking for trust.

Every quiet “yes” builds spiritual strength. The more you obey in private, the more prepared you'll be to obey in public.

We're often tempted to wait for a bigger calling. But big callings are built on small, consistent acts of faithfulness.

The same God who told Moses to lead a nation first told him to remove his sandals.

The same Jesus who told Peter to shepherd others first said, "Follow me."

If what God is asking of you today feels small, don't overlook it.

Obedience is never wasted.

God uses small "yeses" to shape a faithful life.

**PRAYER**

*Father, help me trust You in the small things. Give me courage to obey even when no one sees. Teach me to say "yes" to You in everyday moments. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Ask God to show you one small step of obedience today.

Write it down.  
Then act on it.

Faith grows one small "yes" at a time.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 20

## Endurance Through Trials

“ ”

*When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.*  
Isaiah 43:2

When you said yes to Jesus, Heaven celebrated. A new story began.

But salvation does not mean a storm-free life.

The bills may still come. Relationships may still require work. Anxiety does not always disappear overnight. Following Jesus does not remove trouble—it changes who you walk through it with.

The presence of trials is not the absence of God.

Before Jesus, you faced every battle alone. Now, you have a Savior who walks with you. You have the Holy Spirit strengthening you from within. You have a Father who sees every tear.

Jesus said it plainly:

“ ”

*Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*  
John 16:33

Notice He didn't say *if* you have trouble. He said you *will*.

But He also said He has overcome.

Endurance is not pretending life is easy. It is trusting that Jesus is greater than what you're facing.

Like a seed in the soil, pressure often produces unseen growth. Roots develop long before fruit appears. Trials may feel like burial—but in God's hands, they are planting.

You are not fighting for victory.  
You are living from victory.

Jesus has already won.

So when doubts whisper, remember this:

You are not alone in the struggle.  
God is working in the struggle.  
Your faith is growing through the struggle.

Keep walking. Keep trusting.

The same Jesus who saved you will sustain you.

**PRAYER**

*Jesus, thank You for walking with me through every trial. Strengthen my faith when I feel weak. Help me trust You even when I cannot see what You are doing. Remind me that You have already overcome. Amen.*

## Next Steps

Choose one scripture about God's faithfulness and write it somewhere you can see this week.

When pressure comes, speak that truth aloud.

Endurance grows when God's truth fills your heart and mind.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# DAY 21

## What's Next?

You're almost finished reading this book.

But your story is just beginning.

Paul once wrote these words to early followers of Jesus:

“ ”

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*  
*Philippians 1:6*

God started something in you.

And He is not finished.

The believers Paul wrote to were not perfect. They were learning. Growing. Taking steps. Just like you. And Paul encouraged them with this prayer:

“ ”

*I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.*  
*Philippians 1:9*

That is our prayer for you.

You said yes to Jesus. Now keep saying yes—in small moments, in hard seasons, in ordinary days.

Seek progress, not perfection. When you stumble, return to Him. When life feels unclear, trust that He is still leading. The God who saved you will not abandon you. He is faithful.

What happens next?

Keep showing up.  
Keep reading scripture.  
Keep praying.  
Keep gathering with other believers.  
Keep serving.  
Keep growing.  
Keep worshiping.

Your journey with Jesus will be unique, but you don't walk it alone. The church is here to support you, celebrate you, and help you take your next step.

This weekend, tell your pastor or a leader that you completed this journey. We would love to celebrate what God is doing in your life and help you discover what's next.

The story God is writing in you is not small.

And it's not over.

**PRAYER**

*Father, thank you for beginning this work in me. Give me endurance to keep following You in every season. Help me continue saying yes — again and again. I trust that you will complete what you started. Amen.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# NEXT STEPS

The most important thing you can do now is keep taking daily steps toward Jesus. Growth doesn't happen in one giant leap. It happens through consistent, ordinary obedience.

There isn't a single path for every believer, but there are common next steps that help your faith grow strong:

- Share your decision with a friend or family member
- Get baptized
- Find a mentor
- Join a small group
- Start serving
- Seek counseling or care if you need support
- Invite someone to church
- Begin giving faithfully
- Follow the specific step the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take

Prayerfully read through this list.

Ask God, What's my next step?

Then talk with a pastor or trusted leader about it. We would love to walk with you.

**Your journey with Jesus is just getting started—and the best is still ahead.**



BUT *God* SHOWED  
HIS GREAT LOVE  
FOR US BY SENDING  
*Christ* TO DIE FOR  
US WHILE WE WERE  
STILL SINNERS.

*Romans 5:8*

## Keep Growing in God's Word

One of the most important habits you can build as a follower of Jesus is reading the Bible daily.

God speaks through His Word. As you read Scripture, you begin to understand His character, recognize His voice, and see how His truth applies to your everyday life. But if you're new to reading the Bible, it can feel overwhelming. Where do you start? What do you read? How do you understand what it means?

That's why we use a simple method at Journey called **SOAP**.

SOAP is an easy way to move from simply reading the Bible to actually hearing from God and applying His Word to your life. SOAP stands for *Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer*—a simple way to journal your thoughts and reflect on God's word.

- **Scripture:** Read a chapter slowly and choose a verse that stands out. Write it down.
- **Observation:** Reflect on what God might be saying. Paraphrase the verse in your own words.
- **Application:** Consider how it applies to your life today and note your thoughts.
- **Prayer:** Ask God for guidance in applying the Scripture and listen for His response.

It's simple. It's practical. And it helps you build a consistent rhythm with Scripture.

### ***Journey SOAP Plan***

A daily Bible reading plan that guides you through about two chapters each day.



Scan here to learn  
more about SOAP  
[jrnychurch.com/soap](http://jrnychurch.com/soap)

# NEW TO SOAP? START HERE!

## 7 DAY STARTER PLAN

### **DAY 1** - John 1/2/3

Key verse:

“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

### **DAY 2** - Romans 8

Key verse:

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.”

### **DAY 3** - Psalm 23

Key verse:

“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close behind me.”

### **DAY 4** - Matthew 5/7

Key verse:

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

### **DAY 5** - Matthew 27/28

Key verse:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always even to the end of the age.”

### **DAY 6** - James 4/5

Key verse:

“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you.”

### **DAY 7** - Acts 1/2

Key verse:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



**JOURNEY**CHURCH