



# GENESIS

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Next Step Guide

Discipleship is all  
about taking  
your next step  
with Jesus.

Everyone has a  
next step  
and every  
step matters.

# KNOW GOD

God's heart for your life is to know him. I don't mean to know about God in your head, but to know God in your heart and with your life.

You will never find fulfillment and lasting joy apart from knowing Him. You cannot begin to know what step to take next in your life without Him. Knowing God is the key to life.

God LOVES you and is FOR you.

You are not an accident or a cheap imitation. You were created with a purpose and that purpose is to have a relationship with God.

Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead so that you could have your sins forgiven, be welcomed into God's family, and know God forever.

**Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God...  
(1 Timothy 6:21 TLB)**

**I have come that you may have life and life to the fullest. (John 10:10)**

# KNOW GOD

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**HELPFUL REMINDER:** One of the best ways to KNOW GOD is through SUNDAY GATHERINGS.

What is ONE DECISION you can make that will help you learn more about what it means to KNOW GOD?

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Who is ONE PERSON you can have lunch with who may help you learn more about what it means to KNOW GOD?

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What is ONE BOOK you can read to learn more about what it means to KNOW GOD?

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What is ONE HABIT you can practice that will help you KNOW GOD?

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# RESOURCES

## **PASSAGES TO MEMORIZE**

Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God. (1 Timothy 6:21)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; (Colossians 1:15)

## **BOOKS TO READ**

"Knowing God" by J.I. Packer

"The Power of Knowing God" by Tony Evans

"A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us" by Larry Osborne

# LOVE PEOPLE

Real life change happens in the context of relationships.

In relationships with people we can be known and know others in life changing ways.

Love is the mark of true discipleship and maturity. Jesus himself told us that the world would know that we are his disciples by the love we have one for another.

Love isn't a sloppy sentiment, but rather a strong commitment to living like Jesus , fighting for relationship, and sharing our lives with those around us.

## **1 THESSALONIANS 2:8**

**We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.**

# LOVE PEOPLE

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**HELPFUL REMINDER :** One of the best ways you can LOVE PEOPLE is through joining a SMALL GROUP.

What is ONE DECISION you can make that will help you learn more about what it means to LOVE PEOPLE?

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Who is ONE PERSON you can have lunch with who can help you learn more about what it means to LOVE PEOPLE?

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What is ONE BOOK you can read to learn more about what it means to LOVE PEOPLE?

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What is ONE HABIT you can practice that will help you LOVE PEOPLE?

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# Resources

## **PASSAGES TO MEMORIZE**

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."  
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

## **BOOKS TO READ**

"No Greater Love" by A.W. Tozer

"Love Does" by Bob Goff

"Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Uncommon Ground" by Timothy Keller



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We can't make a difference in everyone's life, but we can make a difference in someone's life. There is someone, somewhere, waiting for you to show love.

To follow Jesus through embracing the life of a servant. After all, Jesus didn't show His love through lectures; He showed His love by serving. It's not a right to serve, it's a joy to serve.

A servant puts character over comfort. A servant puts service over status. A servant puts "we" over "me." Be willing to do whatever needs doing without resisting, complaining, or giving it a second thought.

Be the one who does what others aren't willing to do. Go and make a difference!

**"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor in serving the Lord." (Romans 12:1)**

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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**HELPFUL REMINDER :** One of the best ways you can MAKE A DIFFERENCE is through joining a SERVE TEAM.

What is ONE DECISION you can make that will help you learn more about what it means to MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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Who is ONE PERSON you can have lunch with who can help you learn more about what it means to MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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What is ONE BOOK you can read to learn more about what it means to MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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What is ONE HABIT you can practice that will help you MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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# RESOURCES

## PASSAGES TO MEMORIZE

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor in serving the Lord." (Romans 12:1)

"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)

## BOOKS TO READ

"BLESS: 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World" by Dave Ferguson

"Improving Your Serve" by Charles R. Swindoll

"The Greatness Principle: Finding Significance and Joy by Serving Others" by Nelson Searcy

# GROW DEEPER

A deep relationship with God never happens by default. It happens through engaging in life giving soul care practices.

Practices like coming home to God in prayer, engaging in God's word, unleashing generosity, realigning through repentance and embracing sabbath keeping to name a few.

Growing deeper with God is not an event, it's a journey.

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)**

# GROW DEEPER

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**HELPFUL REMINDER :** One of the best ways you can GROW DEEPER is through SOUL CARE HABITS.

What is ONE DECISION you can make that will help you learn more about what it means to GROW DEEPER?

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Who is ONE PERSON you can have lunch with who can help you learn more about what it means to GROW DEEPER?

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What is ONE BOOK you can read to learn more about what it means to GROW DEEPER?

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What is ONE HABIT you can practice that will help you GROW DEEPER?

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# RESOURCES

## **PASSAGES TO MEMORIZE**

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well." (3 JOHN 1:2)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind." (Luke 10:27)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

## **BOOKS TO READ**

"Soul Keeping" by John Ortberg

"Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" by Peter Scazzero

"Deeply Formed Life" by Rich Villodas

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## This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or note-taking. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



# ONE WORD

What if instead of spending large amounts of time developing a long list of changes, we slowed down to get away with God, and discover one word to take into a new year? One word that most captures who God is inviting you to become. One word that serves as a lens through which you see and embrace God's work and grace this year. One word for one year!

In order to discover your one word, here is a simple process we hope you will find helpful.

## PREPARE YOUR HEART

The first step is to prepare your heart by taking time to clear the clutter, eliminate the noise, and create space to take a good look inward. You will want to find a quiet place with no distractions or interruptions. Once you have identified your space, take time to do the following ...

### - REFLECT

The goal is to align your heart before God. Look back on the previous year and express gratitude to God for various experiences and adventures that shaped your life. Also, create room to confess to God anything that you know doesn't align with His desires for your life. Be ruthlessly honest. Befriend silence. Breathe. Align your heart. Go slow. As Dallas Willard said, "Hurriedness is the enemy of the soul."

# ONE WORD

As you slow down to reflect consider the following questions to serve as a guide in the process of your preparing your heart for a new year.

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD AT WORK LAST YEAR?

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WHAT EXPERIENCES SHAPED YOUR LIFE LAST YEAR?

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WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE OUT OF ALIGNMENT WITH GOD?

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# ONE WORD

After taking time to slow down in silence, solitude, and reflection, you are ready to move forward in the second step of the process .

## Discover Your Word

The second step is to discover your word through engaging in prayer, reading God's Word, and looking ahead to a new year. The goal is not to get a good word, but to get a God word. Don't rush the process. You may have a million words running through your mind, but ask God to place one word on your heart.

### - PRAYERFULLY ENGAGE IN GOD'S WORD

Prayerfully engage in God's Word. I suggest having a Bible reading plan that will help you stay focused and encouraged throughout the year. As you are reading, underline and highlight anything that stands out to you. We want our one word for the year to be rooted in God's character and God's Word. God speaks to us in several ways, but the most consistent way is through His Word.

# ONE WORD

As you slow down to pray and engage in God's Word ask the following questions to serve as a guide in the process of discovering your one word.

WHO DO I SENSE GOD IS LEADING ME TO BECOME THIS YEAR?

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WHERE ARE AREAS I NEED TO GROW?

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WHAT WORDS COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF THIS NEW YEAR?

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# ONE WORD

At this point in the process you have a list of words. Take a moment to write down a few of them. Spend some more time in prayer and select a word!

## Choose Your Word

My top 3 words are as follows:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

The word I sense most is "my one word" for the year is as follows:

My one word is: \_\_\_\_\_

The passage that is connected to this word in God's Word is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If I had to describe in one sentence why this word is my word it would be: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# ONE WORD

You are almost finished! The next step is to take a few days to process your word through some helpful filters .

## Helpful Filters

### - FILTER IT THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Does your word align with God's Word? The answer at this point should be, "yes." Yet, it's important to take time to consider this question even further. If we want to know God's heart for our life it is revealed to us in His Son, and in His Word. Ask yourself, "Does this word align with God's heart for me life?"

### - FILTER IT THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE

Ask people who you know are doing life with God to give you honest feedback. Listen to what they have to say to you. Allow it to be a source of encouragement and clarity.

# ONE WORD

You have discovered your one word! It's exciting to enter into a new year with a new word!

## **Learn, Grow, Share**

Now that you have your word, take a few moments to consider how you can make sure your word is in sight and in mind. Maybe put it on the dashboard of your car, save it to your desktop or consider another place that you will see it throughout the year.

Making a plan to learn and grow around your word by reading books, interviewing others or having unique experiences. When you know your word, you know how to grow intentionally this year!

Last but not least, look for ways to share your word. God blesses us to be a blessing to others. If God gives you a word it is not just for you! It is also important to invite trusted people into your life to partner with you through prayer around your word.

# ONE WORD

Take time to make a plan as you go forward into this new year. Make it simple, clear, and intentional.

THREE BOOKS I WILL READ THIS YEAR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY WORD?

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_

THREE PEOPLE I WILL INTERVIEW TO GROW IN MY WORD?

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_

THREE PEOPLE I WILL ASK TO PRAY FOR ME THIS YEAR AROUND MY WORD?

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_



