



**I SAID**  
*yes!*



# CONGRATULATIONS!

The decision to say YES to Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make.

You probably have a lot of questions, and we hope that this booklet will begin to answer them, plus provide a few resources to help you learn more on your own.

We want to share with you the message of God's love and hope for you based on God's Word, the Bible. We are praying for you as you begin to explore your faith.

YES!  
YES!

# EVERY PERSON HAS A STORY, YOUR STORY MATTERS!

You have had experiences, both good and bad, that have brought you to where you are today.

This journey you have been on may even have had some “religious” experiences that are part of your story. What is amazing is that God loves you no matter who you are, where you have been, or what you have done. When you look at what Jesus’ said in **John 10: 10**, you’ll learn that He wants you to discover what it really means to live.

Sadly, many people have thought that the way to experience full life is through using religious activity to make up for the wrong things we have done in our lives. The bad news is that no amount of good can overcome how our sin separates us from God

## **THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO REMEDY THE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH GOD...**

The good news of the Gospel is not about achieving. It’s about believing and receiving what has been done for you.

*For everyone  
has sinned;  
we all  
fall short  
of God’s  
glorious  
standard.*

**Romans  
3:23 NLT**

A good way to understand this is to look at **Romans 6:23**. It talks about how we all share a common experience that leaves us in desperate need of a Savior.

There are three words that are really important: **wages**, **sin** and **death**.

If you look at the word **wage**, what do you think of? Most of us think of a paycheck. We get a paycheck that we believe we deserve. This verse says that we have a paycheck coming for something: **sin**.

Sin literally means missing the mark. Every day, every one of us miss the mark when it comes to comparing our lives to a perfect God. That sin separates us from God and that leads to something that is tragic: **death**.

Death is not just a physical reality. There is a spiritual “death” to which this verse is referring. It is spiritual separation from God. Our deepest desire is to experience a right relationship with God, but we cannot close the gap between us and God on our own...

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

**Romans  
6:23 NLT**

**MANKIND**

**WAGES**

**SIN**

**DEATH**

**GOD**

# THE GOOD NEWS IS WHAT GOD DID...

In **Romans 5:8**, the Bible said that when we were still broken and separated from God because of our sin, that God reached out in love through Jesus.

Jesus came and lived a perfect life so that He could offer His life as a sacrifice for our sin. Someone had to pay the penalty for our sin, and if Jesus would not have died on our behalf, we would have been separated from God forever. But Jesus **DID** die for us, and we have the opportunity to find forgiveness for our sin and the ability to experience life both now and for eternity because of that sacrifice.

God simply asks that we make a conscious decision of our **WILL** to say YES to trusting Jesus alone for salvation. It is through believing and receiving what Jesus did, not our religious activity that we can be made right with God.

# SOMETHING TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN US AND HIM...



The second half of **Romans 6:23** helps us understand this more clearly. Let's look at these three words: **gift**, **God**, and **eternal life**.

Whether or not we realize it, we have tried to close the gap of separation on our own. How? Being a good person, giving money away, and even church attendance are some of the ways we have tried. God is not impressed with our efforts because we will never compare to His perfection. So, His response was to offer us a free **gift**.

This gift comes from His heart. **God** knew that we would always fall short and would always be separated from Him. So, He gave us a gift that we could not earn on our own.

This gift of God is the **eternal life** that we have available to us because of Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and then sacrificed Himself in our place to pay the penalty for our sin debt. He died so that we could live.

*For the wages of sin  
is death, but the gift  
of God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

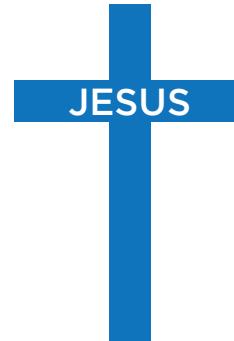
**Romans 6:23 NLT**

**MANKIND**

WAGES

SIN

DEATH



**GOD**

GIFT OF GOD

ETERNAL

LIFE

## YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO SAY YES TO JESUS BY ACCEPTING GOD'S GIFT

Forgiveness of our sins is a gift of God. It comes when we accept what Jesus did for us. His death and resurrection for our sins provides forgiveness and enables us to have a right relationship with God.

A gift isn't a gift until it has been accepted. We must individually accept that Jesus Christ saves us from our sins to receive eternal life.

*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. **Romans 10:9-10 NLT***

## HERE ARE FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

1. Do I know that God loves me and has a plan for my life?
2. Do I know that I have sinned and that my sin is a barrier to my relationship with God?
3. Do I believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for my sin and is the only way to find forgiveness for my sins?
4. Have I accepted Jesus as my Savior by believing in Him, by saying YES to Him?

If you want to begin a relationship with God through Jesus Christ right now, you can, by talking to him through prayer.

*"God, I confess that I am a sinner, and I believe that Jesus died to pay for my sins and then rose from the dead for me. Today, I say YES to following you by accepting you into my life. I turn from my way of doing things, to your way, and give you control of my life. I accept you and you alone as the only way to have my sins forgiven and the only way to have a right relationship with you. Thank you for saving me and giving me new life in you. Amen."*

# YOU SAID YES TO JESUS...WHAT'S NEXT?

Saying YES to Jesus is exciting and in other ways overwhelming. Our commitment to you is that we will walk along side of you as you start growing in this new relationship. Here are two connections that we believe are critical for you to grow...

1

**GET BAPTIZED** - Allow others to connect with your story through baptism. Baptism is a public way we can share with others the change Jesus has made on the inside. At Grace River Church, baptism is a celebration! We think it's the best picture of what life-change looks like. To register, go to [graceriver.cc/baptism](https://graceriver.cc/baptism).



2

**JOIN A SERVE TEAM** - The Bible tells us that the church is not a building or a place, but the people – and we believe that is true at Grace River. We are a part of a loving community that values one another, our unique abilities, and has a passion for helping others. We have each been given spiritual gifts to serve each other in many ways, which will make our world an even better place.



Here at Grace River, we offer several areas to serve and get involved. As one person, you can make a difference, but together we can make tremendous strides.

**For more information, go to [graceriver.cc/serve](https://graceriver.cc/serve).**



# HERE'S A PLAN FOR READING YOUR BIBLE:

1

**Get a Bible translation that is easy to read and understand.** The New Living Translation (NLT) is a great choice especially if you are new in your faith. If you need a Bible, we would love to get one for you!

2

**Consider reading through the Bible Reading Plan on Page 11.** It is a great way to help you take the first steps in growing your faith. Read through the chapter suggested for that day and focus on one thing that captures your attention.

3

**Download the YouVersion Bible app**

- Click the “Plans” tab on the bottom of your phone
- Click “Find Plans” at the top of your phone
- Find a plan that best suits your needs

***YouVersion Originals** have Bible Reading Plans for whatever it is that you are going through or that you want to know more about. We highly suggest these!*

4

**Also** when using the Bible App, consider the S.O.A.P. Method

## S.O.A.P. METHOD

### How to read your Bible

**S** **Scripture:** Write out a verse or passage of Scripture that speaks to your heart.

**O** **Observation:** What stood out to you about this passage? Were there any commands or instructions? What is the author saying?

**A** **Application:** How can you apply this verse to your life today? How can you live in light of this truth?

**P** **Pray:** Respond to this passage in prayer. Ask God to help you apply this Scripture to your life and spend some time listening to what God is telling you.

# 31 DAYS 31 DAYS 31 DAYS 31 DAYS

## 31 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1</b>	Luke 1	Preparing for Jesus' arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 17</b>	Luke 24	Jesus' appearance after resurrection
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2</b>	Luke 2	The story of Jesus' birth	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 18</b>	Romans 3	Paul's theology in a nutshell
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3</b>	Mark 1	The beginning of Jesus ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 19</b>	Romans 5	Peace with God
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4</b>	Mark 9	A day in the life of Jesus	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 20</b>	Romans 7	Struggles with sin
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5</b>	Matthew 5	The Sermon on the Mount	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 21</b>	Romans 8	Life in the Holy Spirit
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6</b>	Matthew 6	The Sermon on the Mount (p. 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 22</b>	Romans 12	Life in the world
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 7</b>	Luke 15	Parables of Jesus	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 23</b>	Ephesians 2	Our life in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 8</b>	John 3	A conversation with Jesus	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 24</b>	Ephesians 4	Unity in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 9</b>	John 10	The Good Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 25</b>	Ephesians 5	Living in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 10</b>	John 14	Jesus' final instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 26</b>	Phillipians 2	Being Christ-like
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 11</b>	John 15	Jesus' final instructions (p. 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 27</b>	Phillipians 3	Maturing in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 12</b>	John 16	The work of the Holy Spirit	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 28</b>	Phillipians 4	Trusting Christ through trials
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 13</b>	John 17	Jesus' prayer for His disciples	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 29</b>	Galatians 5	Life in the Holy Spirit
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 14</b>	Matthew 26	Jesus' betrayal and arrest	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 30</b>	Colossians 3	Life in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 15</b>	Matthew 27	Jesus' execution on a cross	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 31</b>	Timothy 2	Being strong in Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 16</b>	John 20	Resurrection			



# GRACE RIVER

C H U R C H

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