

First Steps

**A 30-Day Journey in
Faith for New Christians**



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Welcome to "First Steps: A 30-Day Journey in Faith," a devotional guide designed especially for those new to the Christian faith. As you begin this exciting journey of spiritual discovery and growth, we invite you to explore the foundational truths of Christianity that have transformed millions of lives around the world. Each day of this devotional is crafted to offer you insights into who Jesus is, the profound truths of the Bible, and how to live a life full of faith and purpose.

Whether you're taking your first steps towards understanding Christianity or refreshing your knowledge of essential Christian beliefs, this guide is here to provide you with a clear, gentle introduction to your faith journey. Through scripture, reflection, and prayer, you will not only learn about the pillars of Christianity but also how they apply to your everyday life.

We hope that each day's reading brings you closer to understanding the incredible love and grace of God, and inspires you to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Let's embark on this path together with open hearts and minds, ready to be transformed and uplifted by God's eternal truth.

Heavenly Father, as I embark on this journey of faith, open my heart to receive Your wisdom and truth. Help me to grow closer to You and to understand the depth of Your love and grace. May this time strengthen my faith and inspire me to live in Your light. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jesus as Savior - Understanding Salvation

Romans 10:9 - If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Salvation is the cornerstone of our faith, the glorious beginning of a lifelong journey with God. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are offered forgiveness for our sins and the promise of eternal life. This gift of salvation is freely given, requiring only our faith and acceptance. As you reflect on this profound truth, consider the limitless love God has shown by paving the way for your redemption and new life in Christ.

What does it mean to be saved?

Jesus as Lord - The Lordship of Christ

Philippians 2:10-11 - That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Acknowledging Jesus as Lord is to recognize His authority over our lives. It means making a daily decision to follow His teachings and submit to His guidance in all things. This commitment shapes how we think, act, and interact with others, aligning our lives with God's will. As you contemplate Jesus as Lord, consider the areas of your life where His lordship could bring transformation.

How does recognizing Jesus as Lord change your daily life?

The Humanity and Divinity of Jesus

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ was born fully God and fully man, a divine mystery that underscores His unique role as our mediator. His humanity allowed Him to experience our struggles and temptations. He was without sin making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His divinity assures us of His power over death and His authority to forgive sins. Embrace this truth as a source of comfort and strength in your faith journey.

Why is it important that Jesus is both God and man?

Jesus as the Son of God

Matthew 16:16 - Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Recognizing Jesus as the Son of God is crucial to understanding His divine authority and His relationship with the Father. This identity confirms His role in God's plan for humanity's redemption. As you ponder this profound identity, consider how it strengthens your faith and trust in His promises.

How does Jesus' identity as the Son of God influence your understanding of His teachings?

The Teachings of Jesus

Matthew 7:24 - Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus' teachings are the bedrock of Christian ethics and life. His words challenge us to love, forgive, and live righteously. By applying His teachings, we build our lives on a foundation that withstands the trials of this world. Reflect on His parables and commands today, as they are vital for guiding us in the path of life.

Which of Jesus' teachings challenges you the most, and why?

The Miracles of Jesus

John 2:11 - What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Jesus' miracles are signs of His divine power and authority. Each miracle, from healing the sick to calming storms, was a demonstration of God's kingdom breaking into the human realm. These acts of power invite us to a deeper faith in Jesus, recognizing Him as the Lord over all creation.

How do Jesus' miracles impact your understanding of His divine power?

Reflection and Weekly Review

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Take today to reflect on all that you've learned this week about Jesus. How has your understanding of Him deepened? Review your thoughts, prayers, and any insights you've gained. Use this day to catch up on any reading and to prepare your heart for the week ahead.

What have you learned about Jesus this week that has changed your perspective or deepened your faith?

Introduction to the Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible is not just a book, but a divine revelation from God, intended to guide us in truth and righteousness. It is essential for teaching us about God's character, His plans for humanity, and how we are to live as followers of Christ. As you begin to explore the Bible, approach it as the living word of God, active and able to speak into your life today.

Why is it important for the Bible to be a central part of your daily life?

Studying the Gospels - The Life of Christ

Luke 24:27 - And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—provide us with direct insights into the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They are foundational for understanding who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. As you read the Gospels, look for how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and how His teachings can be applied to your life.

How does reading about Jesus' actions and teachings in the Gospels influence your view of Him?

The Role of Prayer in Christian Life

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray continually.

Prayer is our direct line of communication with God, a fundamental practice that fosters a deeper relationship with Him. It is through prayer that we express our dependence on God, seek His guidance, and invite Him to work in our lives. Embrace prayer not just as a duty, but as a privilege to connect with your Creator.

What changes in your life when you make prayer a priority?

How to Pray - Model of the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 - This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...'

Jesus provided the Lord's Prayer as a model to guide us in our prayer life. It encompasses praise, submission to God's will, supplication for our needs, forgiveness, and seeking deliverance from evil. This prayer frames our minds and hearts in the context of God's sovereignty and our relationship with Him and others.

How does the Lord's Prayer help you understand the priorities you should have in your own prayers?

Memorizing & Meditating on Scripture

Psalm 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Memorizing Scripture is a powerful tool for spiritual growth. It strengthens your faith, provides wisdom, and arms you against temptation. By meditating on these verses, you allow the Holy Spirit to internalize God's truths in your heart, transforming your mind and actions.

Why is it beneficial to have Scripture memorized, and how can it change your spiritual walk?

Using the Psalms as Prayer

Psalm 42:1 - As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

The Psalms offer a rich resource for prayer. They express a range of human emotions from joy, gratitude, and peace to sorrow, frustration, and fear. Using the Psalms as your prayer guide can help you articulate your feelings in prayer and learn how to rely on God in all circumstances.

How do the Psalms help you express your emotions and needs to God?

Reflection and Weekly Review

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Take today to reflect on all that you've learned this week. How has your understanding of prayer, the Bible, and Jesus' life impacted your daily walk with God? Review your notes, revisit the key scriptures, and assess any changes you want to make in your approach to these foundational elements.

What have you learned this week that has deepened your connection with God, and how will you implement this in your life?

What is Sin and Why Does it Matter?

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Sin is any action, thought, or attitude that goes against God's law and character. It separates us from God, affects our relationships with others, and disrupts our personal peace. Understanding the nature of sin is crucial for appreciating the need for salvation and the immense value of Jesus' sacrifice.

How does understanding sin change your view of God's grace?

Repentance and Forgiveness

Acts 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Repentance is not just about feeling sorry for our sins; it involves a conscious decision to turn away from sin and turn back to God. Forgiveness from God is immediate and complete when we repent, restoring our relationship with Him and refreshing our spirits.

What role does repentance play in your spiritual growth?

The Role of Faith and Works

James 2:17 - In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith and works are two sides of the same coin in the Christian life. Faith leads us to believe in God and His promises, while works are a natural outflow of that faith, demonstrating our commitment to follow Jesus. Both are essential for a vibrant, active Christian life.

How do your actions reflect the depth of your faith?

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The Fruit of the Spirit are qualities that become evident in our lives as we walk in the Spirit. They are the hallmarks of a life transformed by Christ and serve as a testimony to our faith.

Which fruit of the Spirit do you find most challenging to exhibit, and why? Which is the easiest to exhibit in your opinion, and why?

Christian Ethics - Living Out Your Faith

Colossians 3:12-14 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Christian ethics are based on the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, guiding us in how to live in a way that is pleasing to God. These principles are not just about avoiding wrongdoing but actively doing good and showing the character of Christ in our daily interactions.

How do Christian ethics influence your decisions and interactions with others?

Overcoming Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Temptation is a common experience, but as believers, we are not left defenseless. God provides the strength and the means to resist and overcome temptation through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and the support of the Christian community.

How has relying on God helped you overcome a temptation in the past?

Reflection and Weekly Review

Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Use today to reflect on the past week's learnings about sin, repentance, faith, works, and Christian living. Review your actions, thoughts, and growth. Evaluate how these elements are shaping your relationship with God and others.

What did you learn this week that deepened your understanding of living a Christian life?

Understanding the Church

Ephesians 4:15-16 - Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The Church is not just a building or a weekly gathering; it is a community of believers united in Christ. It serves as a spiritual family where we grow together, support one another, and work collectively to fulfill God's purposes on earth. Embrace your role in this vibrant body and discover how interconnectedness in Christ strengthens each member.

How can being actively involved in a church community enhance your spiritual growth?

The Purpose and Power of Communion

1 Corinthians 11:26 - For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is a sacrament that commemorates Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. It is a time of reflection, thanksgiving, and reaffirmation of our faith. As you partake in communion, remember the significant sacrifice Christ made and renew your commitment to live for Him.

Why is communion an important practice in your spiritual life?

The Significance of Baptism

Romans 6:4 - We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Baptism publicly declares our decision to turn away from sin and commit fully to a life following Jesus. Consider the transformative symbolism of baptism and its role in marking the start of your new life in Christ.

How does your baptism shape your identity as a Christian?

The Great Commission - Evangelism

Matthew 28:19-20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

The Great Commission is not just a call to a select few but a mandate for all Christians. We are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others, making disciples and teaching them to follow His ways. Embrace this calling with courage, knowing that Jesus is with you in this mission.

What steps can you take to become more active in evangelism?

Fellowship and Community

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Christian fellowship is more than socializing; it is about connecting with other believers in meaningful ways that encourage spiritual growth and mutual support. Invest in relationships within your church or spiritual community to experience the full richness of shared faith.

How does fellowship with other believers support your spiritual journey?

Serving Others in Love

Galatians 5:13 - You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Service is a practical expression of our love for God and our love for others. It reflects the heart of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve. Look for ways to serve within your community and beyond, demonstrating the love of Christ through your actions.

What motivates you to serve others, and how does serving impact your faith?

Reflection and Weekly Review

2 Peter 1:5-7 - For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

As another week closes, take this day to reflect on the teachings about the church, its sacraments, and your role in the mission of Christ. Consider how you can continue to grow in these areas and what changes you might need to make in your approach.

How has your understanding of your role within the church and its mission deepened this week?

How to Continue Growing in Your Faith

Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey, continuously shaped by prayer, scripture study, fellowship, and service. It's important to establish habits that nurture your relationship with God. Stay committed to learning and growing in faith, trusting that God will guide and refine you every step of the way.

What new spiritual discipline do you plan to integrate into your daily routine to foster your growth in faith?

Commitment to Ongoing Discipleship

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Your journey in faith doesn't end here; it's just the beginning. As you move forward, remember that discipleship involves learning from Jesus and helping others along their spiritual paths as well. Embrace the role of being both a disciple and a discipler, illuminating the way for others as you walk in obedience and faith.

How can you begin to take active steps in discipling others within your community?
