



**BECOMING A FRIEND OF JESUS**

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# INTRODUCTION

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# FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

## PART ONE

# THE LOST SON

## A FATHER'S LOVE

Jesus told this story about the lost son to show how much He loves us and how He wants to accept us when we turn to Him.

**READ LUKE 15:11–24.**

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### THE SON GOES HIS OWN WAY

What kind of person was the younger son? (15:11-13)

What did the younger son do? What happened to him? (15:11-16)

### THE SON COMES TO HIS SENSES

Why did he decide to go back to his father's house? (15:16-17)

What "sin" did the son do against his father and heaven? (15:18)

What kind of reception did he expect to receive back at home? (15:19)

### ACCEPTED AGAIN AS SON!

What did the son do after realising his sin? (15:17-21)

Did the father accept the son? How do we know this? (15:20-24)

What do you think about the father?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a story of receiving God's acceptance and forgiveness? What do you think about this story? Is this story like real-life?

### APPLICATION

What can we learn about God from this story? Would you like to receive this kind of forgiveness?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Heavenly Father, I thank you that You love me and that you are always ready to forgive me and accept me as Your child. Your love is amazing!*

# BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

Just as there are physical laws, like gravity, that govern our universe, there are also basic principles that show us how we can relate to God.

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## **GOD LOVES YOU AND OFFERS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE**

God's Love – Read John 3:16- How has God shown his love to us?

God's Plan – Read John 10:10- What did Jesus come to give us?

## **WE ARE SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD**

Therefore we cannot know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We are Sinful - Read Romans 3:23- What do you think sin is?

We are Separated - Read Romans 6:23 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9- How and why are we separated from God? What other things do we try to use to fill this gap between us and God?

## **JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR OUR SIN.**

Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

Read Romans 5:8 - What did Jesus do for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 - What happened after Jesus died?

Read John 14:6 - How can we get to the Father in heaven?

We must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

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## **ASK A FRIEND**

When and why did you start to believe in Jesus?

What difference has He made to your life?

## **APPLICATION**

We must receive Christ - John 1:12. We receive Christ through Faith - Ephesians 2:8-9

When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth - John 3:1-8

We receive Christ by personal invitation - Revelation 3:20

## **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, I thank you that You love me and You died for me to pay the penalty for my sins. Please forgive my sins and come into my heart. Thank you, Jesus.*

## **MEMORY VERSE**

**JOHN 3:16 – FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**



# THE BIBLE

## OUR MANUAL FOR LIFE

The bible is God's word for us. God speaks to us through the bible, telling us the truth about life and how to live. God's word is living and powerful and it can help us everyday.

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### **WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

The bible is the word of God. It is full of living power! (Hebrews 4:12) The whole bible is inspired by God. It shows us what is true about our lives and it equips us to do good (2 Timothy 3:16).

### **HOW CAN THE BIBLE HELP YOU IN YOUR LIFE?**

2 Timothy 3:16, John 17:17, Romans 10:17, Psalms 119:9, Psalm 119:105

### **HOW DO WE READ THE BIBLE?**

The bible is a living and powerful book, so we can't just read verses in it the same way we would read a story. Make note from these verses about how we should read the bible.

Matthew 13:23, James 1:22-25

### **JOURNALING**

You will need your bible, a bible reading plan and a notebook.

Write the date

Write "Theme" next to the date, but leave it blank until later.

Note the bible text that you will read for that day.

Write some thoughts from the passage, noting a key thought.

Write a one line prayer from the key thought.

Go back and fill in the "Theme" using just a phrase

In a few weeks you will see patterns in what God is saying to you for your life.

### **ASK A FRIEND**

Why do you love reading the bible? Please share something from the bible that has changed your life recently. When do you read the bible?

### **APPLICATION**

When would be a good time for you to read the bible each day?

Let's journal as we read a passage from the bible together now – Matthew 13:18-23.

### **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, I am hungry to know You. Please speak to me today through Your word and help me to apply it to my life.*

# PRAYER

## CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Prayer is conversation with God. Just as communication is essential for any friendship, it is necessary for our relationship with God. He wants us to be in conversation with Him all the time.

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### JESUS' PRAYER

Read Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6:8-13.

What should we pray? Write down the verses that go with the heading, as well as examples.

To honour God

For God's kingdom and others

For yourself

### EFFECTIVE PRAYER

How should we pray? How can we make our prayer effective?

Read James 5:16b, Mark 11:22-24

### A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

When should we pray? Where should we pray?

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### ASK A FRIEND

When and where do you pray? What do you pray about? What is a good time and place for you to pray? Have you ever had an answer to prayer? What other questions do you have about prayer?

### APPLICATION

Lets Pray!

Think of one thing to thank and praise God for (e.g. for saving me).

One other person to pray for (e.g. your family member or friend).

One thing to ask God for (e.g. for healing).

One thing to commit to God (e.g. and exam coming up)

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou that You listen to my prayers and that You are able to answer my prayers. I commit my prayers to You.*

# SIN

## MISSING THE MARK

The original word for sin means to “miss the mark”, as in archery. It says in the bible that, “all of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory” (Romans 3:23). Sin refers to all the wrong things we have said, done or thought.

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### THE BATTLE OF SIN

Read Romans 7:18-21- Why do we sin?

What did Jesus say about sin?

What are some examples of sin?

### THE RESULTS OF SIN

Read Romans 6:23 and Galatians 6:7-8- In what ways does sin affect our lives? (think spiritual, relational, eternal, etc)

### VICTORY OVER SIN

How can we overcome sin in our lives?

Romans 8:1-2, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16, Romans 12:1-2

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony of overcoming sin? Do you have any other questions about sin?

### APPLICATION

As we pray, let’s ask God to search our hearts and reveal to us about our sin and the effects that it has on our lives. Remember that God forgives our sin and that He is powerful enough to heal us from the results of sin.

### HOMEWORK

Read Psalm 32- See how David dealt with sin and enjoyed God’s forgiveness.

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou that You died for me to pay the penalty of my sin. I thankyou for forgiving me. Please help me to live a life that is pure and pleasing to You.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**ROMANS 6:23 – FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT FROM GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.**



# WHY IS JESUS IMPORTANT IN MY LIFE?

## PART TWO

# ZACCHAEUS

A SEEKER IS FOUND!

Zacchaeus was a man who climbed a tree so that he could see Jesus. But Jesus was also looking for Zacchaeus – and that day his life was changed!

## READ LUKE 19:1–10

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### SEEKING JESUS

What kind of person do you think Zacchaeus was?  
Why do you think Zacchaeus was interested in Jesus?

### FOUND BY JESUS

How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus spoke to him?  
How was Zacchaeus lost?

### SAVED BY JESUS

How and why did Zacchaeus change when he met Jesus?  
Why do you think that Jesus said that Zacchaeus was now “saved”?

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### ASK A FRIEND

How did you meet Jesus? How did meeting Jesus change your life?

### APPLICATION

In what ways can we be “lost” in our lives? Have you ever felt lost? Would you like to meet Jesus?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thank you that You know me and You love me. Please help me to know and understand more about You. Please reveal Yourself to me.*

# WHO IS JESUS?

## GOD BECAME A MAN

Jesus is one of the most famous people who ever lived on earth. But He is not just a man, the amazing things that He did and the perfect life He lived show that He is God. The big question is – why did God come to earth and become a man?

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### 100% GOD

Read Matthew 1:18-25- What things were special about Jesus' birth?

Read Matthew 8:1-3 and 8:14-17- How did Jesus show that He is God?

Read Luke 22:66-71- Who did Jesus say He was?

Read Romans 1:2-4- What happened after Jesus died?

### 100% MAN

Read Philippians 2:5-7- What did Jesus give up to become human?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18- In what ways was Jesus like us?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16- How do we know that Jesus can understand our life? What was different about Him?

### WHY DID JESUS BECOME A MAN?

Read John 3:16- Why did God send Jesus into the world?

Read Romans 5:6-8- How did God show His love for us?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21- How did Jesus make salvation possible for us?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Why do you believe in Jesus? How do you know He is real? Do you have any other questions about Jesus?

### APPLICATION

If Jesus was here now, what would you say to Him? What would you ask Him?

Would you like to pray to receive Jesus' love and forgiveness?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I worship You and thank you for coming to earth to save me. Thank You for dying for my sins. Please forgive me and make my life totally new. Now I will live for You – I want to be like You.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**JOHN 3:16 – FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**



# LIFE'S FOUNDATIONS

## BUILDING ON THE ROCK

Jesus taught many things in the bible that can help us in our lives. In this story that Jesus told, we can learn how important it is to build our life on a strong foundation.

### **READ MATTHEW 7:24–27.**

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#### **BUILDING YOUR LIFE**

In the story, what do you think the house represents?

What is the difference between a wise person and a foolish person in this story?

#### **THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE**

Do you think that it's important to have strong foundations to build our lives on?

What kind of things do we build our lives on? e.g. relationships, education

#### **THE STORMS OF LIFE**

The rain and the wind represent troubles that come in our lives. What are some examples of the difficulties we face in life?

How could the storms of life crash our "house"?

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#### **ASK A FRIEND**

What are the foundations of your life? Have your foundations been strong through the storms of life?

#### **APPLICATION**

Do you think that the foundations of your life are strong?

What are the foundations of your life? What do you depend on?

#### **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, please help me to be wise as I make important decisions about my life. Please show me where my foundations are weak and please make them stronger as I trust in You.*

# HOPE FOR HEALING

## JESUS' LOVE AND POWER

Many times Jesus showed His love and power by healing people. Every person that reached out with faith to Jesus was healed. Today we will read about one woman with faith and the way that she received a miracle. We need to be ready to receive God's miraculous healing power today. Let's read the main text for this study in Mark 5:24-34.

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### REACH OUT IN FAITH

What was wrong with the woman? (v25)

Why do you think she believed that Jesus could heal her? (v26-27)

What decision and action did she take? (v27-28)

What does Jesus promise in Matthew 21:22?

### JESUS' LOVE

How did Jesus show His love to the woman in this story? (v29-34)

Read Matthew 14:14- Why did Jesus heal the people?

### JESUS' POWER

What happened when the woman touched Jesus coat? (v29)

Why did Jesus notice the woman? (v30)

Why was the woman healed? (v34)

Read John 11:38-44- How did Jesus show His power in this story?

Read John 14:12-14- How do we know that Jesus can still heal today?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony of being healed?

### APPLICATION

Does anyone have a need for healing? We can pray right now for Jesus to show His love and power by healing you.

Begin to meditate on and memorise verses that encourage your faith for healing. For example, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 21:22 and James 5:16.

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou that You love me and care about me. I believe that you have the power to heal me. I reach out to You in faith for complete healing.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**MATTHEW 21:22 – IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER.**

# GRACE

## GOD'S UNDESERVED KINDNESS TO US

Grace is undeserved kindness from someone powerful to someone weaker. We will learn about God's grace from a story where Jesus literally saved a woman from being killed. Through Jesus, God has shown us His grace and made it available to us.

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### JESUS' GRACE FOR THE WOMAN

Read John 8:3-5- According to the law, what punishment did the woman deserve?

Read John 8:6-9- How did Jesus save the woman?

Read John 8:10-11- Did Jesus accuse or punish the woman? What did He do?

### JESUS APPEALS FOR US

Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23- What are we guilty of? What do we deserve?

Read Romans 5:8- In what way and when did God show His great love for us?

Read Colossians 2:13-15- What did Jesus do with our sins?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16- What makes Jesus such a great mediator for us?

### WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE

Read Romans 3:22-26- How does God accept us?

Read Romans 8:1- What does Jesus victory mean for us?

Jesus said to the woman, "sin no more" (v11). How should we live after receiving Gods grace? (Matthew 3:8)

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share about how God has shown His grace to you? Do you have any other questions about grace?

### APPLICATION

In what ways are we like the woman in the story? How can we receive God's grace? How does God's grace change our lives?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou for Your grace. Thankyou for rescuing me from the punishment for my sins. I receive Your grace, forgiveness, life and freedom.*

# OVERCOMING REJECTION

## GOD ACCEPTS US

Most people will feel rejected at some time in their life. Being hurt by people close to us and being in broken relationships can make us feel unwanted and alone. The Good News is that God Heals our pain and that he accepts us and loves us unconditionally.

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### THE PAIN OF REJECTION

Read John 4:3-29 and answer these questions.

This woman came to the well by herself in the middle of the hot day because she was rejected in her society for being married many times.

Why was the woman surprised by Jesus? (4:7-9) In life, what can happen to make people feel rejected? What are some of the consequences of feeling rejected? What do people do in order to be accepted by others? How did Jesus show that He accepted the woman?

### JESUS WAS REJECTED

Read Isaiah 53:3 and 1 Peter 2:4- How do we know that Jesus can understand our feeling about rejection?

### HOW CAN WE OVERCOME REJECTION?

In the story in John 4, the woman's life was completely changed when she believed what Jesus said. Let's take these steps and apply these verses to our lives.

Accept God's unconditional love (Ephesians 1:4-6) Exchange your needs for God's "Living Water" (John 4:14-15) Rejoice – that you have become God's child (Galatians 4:6-7)

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### ASK A FRIEND

Have you ever felt rejected? How do you know that God accepts you?

### APPLICATION

As we pray, let's ask God to search our hearts and reveal too us about rejection and the effects that is has had on our lives. Remember that God accepts us and loves us unconditionally and that He can heal us from the pain of rejection.

### PRAYER MODEL

Lord Jesus, I thankyou that You love me and accept me. I give my feelings of rejection to You and ask You to heal me as I forgive those who have hurt me. Thankyou that You have made me Your child.

### MEMORY VERSE

**HEBREWS 13:5B – FOR GOD HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER FAIL YOU. I WILL NEVER FORSAKE YOU."**

# EASTER

## WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

For Christians, Easter is the most important time of the year. Easter is about remembering what happened to Jesus in His death and when He came alive again. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and then, He took victory over the power of sin so that we can be set free from sin's effect, which is death.

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### WHAT HAPPENED?

Read through each verse and make a note.

Matthew 26:1-4

26:55-56

26:59-65

27:1-2

27:11-14

27:22-26

27:33-40

27:45-55

### WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Jesus' death was part of God's plan to save all who will believe in Him. Prophecies in the Old Testament describe Jesus' death (e.g. Isaiah 53)

Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6- Why did Jesus give His life?

Read Romans 5:8- Why did God send Jesus to die?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21- In what way was Jesus made as a substitute for us?

### WHY DID JESUS COME BACK TO LIFE?

Read Matthew 28:1-10- What happened 3 days after Jesus was buried?

Read Acts 2:23-24- How did Jesus come back to life?

Read Colossians 2:13-15- What did Jesus achieve in His death and resurrection?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:14- Why can Christians be confident that they will live forever?

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### ASK A FRIEND

What does Easter mean to you? How did you respond to the Easter message? What other questions do you have about Easter?

### APPLICATION

Why is the message of Easter so important? What does the message of Easter so important?

What does the message of Easter mean for your life?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, please forgive me for the wrong things that I have done. Thankyou for dying so that I don't have to die. Please help me to have freedom from sin everyday.*

# CHRISTMAS

GOD IS WITH US!

Christmas is Jesus' birthday! Every year on December 25th people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth. We celebrate that God became a person and lived like us, so that He could save us. This is the great news about Christmas!

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## JESUS IS BORN!

Read Matthew 1:18-25- Why didn't Joseph break off his engagement to Mary?

Read Luke 1:34-38- How did Mary learn that she would have a baby?

Read Luke 1:34-38- In what ways was Jesus' birth supernatural?

Read Luke 2:5-7- Describe the circumstances of Jesus' birth.

Jesus birth was foretold in many ways. Read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6. What can we learn about Jesus' birth from these verses?

## GOD IS WITH US!

Read Matthew 1:23- Why is the name "Immanuel" important?

Read Matthew 1:21- What is the meaning of the name, "Jesus"?

Read John 3:16-17- Why did God send Jesus into the world?

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## ASK A FRIEND

What does Christmas mean to you? Do you have any other questions about Jesus and His birth? Christians also celebrate Easter. What do you know about Easter?

## APPLICATION

What can you do this Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birthday? What would you like to receive from God (through prayer) this Christmas?

## PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, Thankyou for becoming a man and living a perfect life. Thankyou for coming to save us from our sins! I love You, Jesus.*

## MEMORY VERSE

**MATTHEW 1:23 – "LOOK! THE VIRGIN WILL CONCEIVE A CHILD! SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND HE WILL BE CALLED IMMANUEL (MEANING GOD IS WITH US)."**



# STARTING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

## PART THREE



# SALVATION

## BEING SURE BY FAITH

Sometimes we can become discouraged and we begin to doubt our salvation because it is not something that we can see or always feel. We need to guard ourselves against discouragement by remembering and believing God's Word and what it about us.

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### **YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!**

Read 1 John 1:19- How can our sins be forgiven?

Read Romans 4:7-8- Why should we be joyful?

### **YOU HAVE ACCEPTED SALVATION BY FAITH – KEEP BELIEVING!**

Read Romans 10:9- How are we made right with God?

Read Hebrews 10:23- What should we do when we doubt?

### **YOU HAVE A NEW LIFE IN GOD!**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17- What things happen when you become a Christian?

Read Galatians 5:16-24 to answer the following questions:

Who should we be directed by in our new life? (v.16-18)

What kind of lifestyle leads us away from God's kingdom? (v.19-21)

What happens when our lives are controlled by the Holy Spirit? (v.22-23)

What happened to our sinful when we became a Christian? (v.24)

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### **ASK A FRIEND**

How do you know that you are saved? What do you do to guard your heart against doubt and discouragement?

### **APPLICATION**

Here are some ideas of what we can do to strengthen our faith

Worship: rejoice in God of your salvation. Pray: tell God how you feel and pray in faith

Scripture: read memorise and meditate on it, speak it over your life. Church and life groups: enjoy fellowship with other Christians, be encouraged. Water baptism: get baptised if you haven't already.

### **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou for saving me. I thankyou that my sins have been forgiven and that You have given me a new life!*

# HOLY SPIRIT

## OUR HELPER AND EMPOWERER

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to help and empower them. Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father and the Son, Jesus are God. We can relate to the Holy Spirit in a personal way. He has already helped you to understand about God.

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### THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US

How does the Holy spirit help us?

John 14:26, John 16:8, John 16:13

### THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US LIFE

In what ways does the Holy Spirit change our life?

John 3:5-8, Romans 8:2, Galatians 5:22-25

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will be in us (John 14:17). Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), this is the way that God shows that we are His (2 Corinthians 1:22).

### THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US

In what ways does the Holy Spirit empower us?

Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Read Acts 1:8- Why does the Holy Spirit empower us?

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### ASK A FRIEND

How has the Holy Spirit helped and empowered you? What other questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

### APPLICATION

How can the Holy Spirit help you in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Read what Jesus said to the disciples in John 20:22- How can we be receptive to the Holy Spirit in our lives?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Holy Spirit, I thank you that You are with me and in me that You comfort me and guide me in truth. Please fill me with Your power.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**ACTS 1:8 – BUT WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER AND WILL TELL PEOPLE ABOUT ME EVERYWHERE – IN JERUSALEM THROUGHOUT JUDEA, IN SAMARIA AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**

# WATER BAPTISM

## SHOWING YOUR FAITH

To baptise means to immerse in water. In the bible, many people were baptised to show that they had changed their life. Christians were baptised as a step of obedience to Christ, to show publicly that they believe in Jesus.

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### **BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE**

Read about Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13 - Why did Jesus ask to be baptised?

What happened when Jesus was baptised?

Read Acts 16:31-33- Who is baptism for?

### **THE MEANING OF BAPTISM**

Read Romans 6:4-8 - What happens when we are baptised? What does it show?

### **THE COMMAND TO BE BAPTISED**

Why should we be baptised?

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38, Luke 12:8

### **THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM**

Read Colossians 2:11-15- You can celebrate and rejoice that God has set you free from sin and that you have a new life and victory in Jesus.

How does your public show of faith bless God and bless you?

Matthew 10:32, Romans 16:19

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### **ASK A FRIEND**

Please share about your experience of baptism. Why, when and how did you get baptised?

What other questions do you have about water baptism? Ask other people who have been water baptised about their experience.

### **PRAYER MODEL**

Lord Jesus, please help me to understand the meaning of baptism and please help me to make a good decision about getting baptised.

# HOLY SPIRIT

## OUR HELPER AND EMPOWERER

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to help and empower them. Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father and the Son, Jesus are God. We can relate to the Holy Spirit in a personal way. He has already helped you to understand about God.

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### THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US

How does the Holy spirit help us?

John 14:26, John 16:8, John 16:13

### THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US LIFE

In what ways does the Holy Spirit change our life?

John 3:5-8, Romans 8:2, Galatians 5:22-25

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will be in us (John 14:17). Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), this is the way that God shows that we are His (2 Corinthians 1:22).

### THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US

In what ways does the Holy Spirit empower us?

Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Read Acts 1:8- Why does the Holy Spirit empower us?

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### ASK A FRIEND

How has the Holy Spirit helped and empowered you? What other questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?

### APPLICATION

How can the Holy Spirit help you in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Read what Jesus said to the disciples in John 20:22- How can we be receptive to the Holy Spirit in our lives?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Holy Spirit, I thank you that You are with me and in me that You comfort me and guide me in truth. Please fill me with Your power.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**ACTS 1:8 – BUT WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER AND WILL TELL PEOPLE ABOUT ME EVERYWHERE – IN JERUSALEM THROUGHOUT JUDEA, IN SAMARIA AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**

# JESUS' RESURRECTION

JESUS CAME BACK TO LIFE!

Great news! Jesus came back to life! This means that we can look forward to living eternally with Him. We can live in this same resurrection power and with a great sense of hope about our eternal future!

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## **JESUS' VICTORY OVER DEATH!**

Read Matthew 27:25-28:10.

How was Jesus' body guarded? (27:57-66) What happened Sunday morning? (28:1-10)

Read Acts 10:39-42- What did Jesus do after He was killed?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6- How many people saw Jesus alive again?

## **OUR RESPONSE**

Read John 11:25-26- How can we be saved and receive eternal life?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15- How should receiving new life change the way we live?

Read Colossians 3:1- How should receiving new life change the way we think?

## **OUR HOPE**

What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us? Romans 4:25 Romans 6:7-10

Read Hebrews 11:35- How does Jesus' resurrection help us when we are having a difficult time? How we can have great hope in our future? 1 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Peter 1:3

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## **ASK A FRIEND**

Do you believe in the resurrection? Do you have any other questions about Jesus' resurrection?

## **APPLICATION**

What verse from this study has inspired you? How can you let it change your life?

Read John 6:39-40- Who does God want to save? How can you be part of fulfilling God's will?

## **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, You are wonderful and powerful! I believe in Your resurrection and I will live for You. I receive Your resurrection power and look forward to eternity with You.*

# REACHING THE LOST

## GOD'S PRIORITY!

Lost people are God's highest priority. It is God's desire that every person in found and has a relationship with Him. Jesus came to earth to save the lost(including us) and He wants us to partner with Him in this great purpose.

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### LOST SHEEP AND LOST PEOPLE

Read 1 Peter 2:25- In what way are we lost?

Read Mark 6:34- How were the people lost?

God's heart for lost people

Read Luke 15:1-7 and 20-32- How does this show that lost people are important to God?

Read Luke 19:9-10- Why did Jesus come to earth?

Read Luke 5:31-32- For what type of people did Jesus come?

### OUR HEARTS FOR LOST PEOPLE

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23- Why did Paul try to relate to others?

Read Romans 9:1-3- What was Paul willing to give up so that others would be saved?

Read Romans 10:14- What is our part in reaching the lost?

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### ASK A FRIEND

How were you found? What did God do to find you? How did people help you to become a Christian?

### APPLICATION

Let's ask God to change our hearts so that we understand His priority for lost people. Let's ask God to help us to think of 3 people who are lost, so that we can pray for them daily. Your prayers are effective and God will start to help you to reach out to your friends.

### MY PRAYER OF 3

Make a habit of praying everyday for the 3 people that God has put on your heart. Do one new thing this week to reach out to lost people.

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou that You loved me enough to find me and save me. Lord, please make my priority the same as yours, and please use me in Your plan to reach out to many people.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 – THIS IS GOOD AND PLEASURES GOD OUR SAVIOR, FOR HE WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED AND TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.**

# REPENTANCE

## TURNING BACK TO GOD

Repentance means to turn back towards God. It involves a decision and an action, to change direction from going your own way to going God's way.

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### THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

Read Acts 3:19- In what way is repentance part of being saved?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10- How is repentance different to just feeling sad?

### STEPS OF REPENTANCE

Read about the lost son in Luke 15:11-24- Make a summary of what happened.

### 3 STEPS OF REPENTANCE

Feel deeply sorry for sinning against God- 2 Corinthians 7:10

Confess your sins- 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16

Declare and enjoy Christ's victory over sin and its effects in your life- Colossians 2:14-15

### THE FRUIT OF REPENTANCE

Read about Zacchaeus in Luke 19:5-9- What did he do to show he had changed?

Read Matthew 3:8- What can we do to show that we have repented?

Read Romans 12:1-2- How can we make repentance part of your daily life?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony of repentance?

### APPLICATION

Is there something you can do to change and to show that you have changed? Ask God to guide you in this

### HOMEWORK

Read Psalm 51 where David repents from his sin.

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me. I have decided to turn away from sin and live the way that You want me to. I commit my life to You.*

# LIFE GROUPS

## GROWING TOGETHER

Life groups help us to grow in God as individuals, as well as being a building block to grow the whole church. A life group is a group of people who meet regularly to study God's word and apply it to their lives. The life group is led by a mature Christian who has been chosen to lead it.

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### WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

Read about the early church in Acts 5:42:

When did they meet? Where did they meet? What was their core message?

Read Matthew 18:20- In what situation does Jesus promise His presence?

### WHAT HAPPENS IN A LIFE GROUP?

Apply God's word to our lives - James 1:22-25 Learn from our leader - Hebrews 13:7

Encourage and get to know each other - Ephesians 4:16 and Romans 1:11-12

Pray for each other - James 5:16

### LIFE GROUPS ARE FOR GROWTH

Personal Growth: Read Ephesians 4:15 and Colossians 1:10 - How does cell group help you to grow in God?

Training Towards Leadership: Read Matthew 9:37-38 and 1 Corinthians 11:1 - Why should we and how can we grow towards leadership?

Evangelism and Multiplication: Read 2 Timothy 2:2- How do cell groups help to grow the church?

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### ASK A FRIEND

How has being part of a cell group helped you life?

### APPLICATION

We should come each week hungry to learn from God's word, we should be ready to receive encouragement and challenges and then to apply them to our lives. Be ready to participate and contribute as our leader leads the group. In what other ways can we apply God's word from this study to our lives?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thank you that when we meet in a cell group that You are hear with us. Lord I commit myself to grow in this group. Please help me to apply Your word to my life and prepare me to encourage others with Your word.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**COLOSSIANS 1:10 – THEN THE WAY YOU LIVE WILL ALWAYS HONOUR AND PLEASE THE LORD, AND YOU WILL CONTINUALLY DO GOOD, KIND THINGS FOR OTHERS. ALL THE WHILE, YOU WILL LEARN TO KNOW GOD BETTER AND BETTER.**



# IN CHRIST

## YOUR NEW IDENTITY

In Matthew 4:1-11 we can read about how the devil challenged Jesus' identity. Every time the devil tried Jesus Used God's word to defend the truth about His identity. Our identity will be challenged in the same way and like Jesus, we must know and use the word of God to defend the truth of our identity in Him.

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### I AM ACCEPTED

Discuss – Why is the issue of acceptance so important?

Read these verses that make “I” statements:

John 1:12, John 15:15, Romans 5:1, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 1:5, Colossians 1:14, Colossians 2:10

### I AM SECURE

Discuss – How can insecurity affect our lives?

Read the verses and make “I” statements:

Romans 8:1-2, Romans 8:28, Romans 8:31, Romans 8:35, Philippians 1:6, Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 4:16, 1 John 5:18

### I AM SIGNIFICANT

Discuss – Why is it so important to us to feel significant?

Read the verses and make “I” statements:

Matthew 5:13-14, John 15:1-5, John 15:16, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Ephesians 2:6, Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 4:13

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a story about how one of these verses has changes your life?

### APPLICATION

What can we do to let these verses change our lives? How could we encourage other people with these verses?

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou for making me a new person. I thankyou that I am accepted by You, secure in You and that my life is significant! I believe that I am \_\_\_\_\_. Thankyou!*

# FAITH

## FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.”(Hebrews 11:1) Faith is about being 100% sure about something we haven’t seen yet. This is the way we come to God and are saved and it is the basis of our life as a Christian. Let’s read about Peter in Matthew 14:22-33.

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### HEAR GOD’S WORD

In verse 29 Jesus told Peter to come to Him on the water. Faith is about knowing and hearing God’s word to us from the bible. Read Romans 10:17- Where does faith come from? Read Hebrews 11:11- Who and what did Abraham and Sarah put their faith in?

### STEP OUT IN FAITH

What did Peter do after Jesus told him to come? (v.29)  
Read James 1:22-23- Why is it not enough to just know God’s word?

### KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Why did Peter begin to sink? (v.30) Read 2 Corinthians 5:7- How can ‘what we see’ discourage our faith? Read Hebrews 12:1-2- How can we endure in faith?

### DON’T DOUBT!

Read James 1:6- How does doubt affect us and our faith?  
In Matthew 14:31, Jesus challenged Peter about his faith. What are some reasons why we shouldn’t doubt?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony about faith? How do you overcome doubt?

### APPLICATION

Let’s take a moment to think of a verse or promise from the bible that God has reminded us of recently. Take a hold of that word and stir up your faith and think of a way that you can act on it. Read Hebrews 11, which lists some great people of faith and the great things they did.

### PRAYER MODEL

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou that Your word is powerful and true. I take hold of Your word and I fix my eyes on You. I believe in You and I thankyou for what You will do in my life.*

### MEMORY VERSE

**HEBREWS 11:1 – WHAT IS FAITH? IT IS THE CONFIDENT ASSURANCE THAT WHAT WE HOPE FOR IS GOING TO HAPPEN. IT IS THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS WE CANNOT YET SEE.**

# THE CHURCH

## GOD'S FAMILY

The church is not a building, nor is it an event – it is God's people living, celebrating and growing together. As individuals, church helps us to grow in God and fulfill His plan for our lives. And as we focus on others, the church is God's way of reaching out to the lost and building His Kingdom.

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### **GOD WANTS US TO BE FREE**

Read John 8:31-32- How does Jesus' teaching change our lives?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6- Who is God's truth and freedom for?

### **FREE FROM WHAT?**

Read the following verses and answer- what do we need freedom from?

Acts 13:38-39, Romans 6:14-23, 2 Corinthians 3:14, Hebrews 9:15, Colossians 2:20-23

### **SEEK THE TRUTH**

Jeremiah 29:12-14, Matthew 7:7-8

Seek God with all your heart

John 16:13

Seek the Holy Spirit who guides us in to all truth

Hebrews 4:12

Seek the truth in God's word

### **KNOW THE TRUTH**

How can we know the truth? Read the following verses to answer.

Psalm 119:6, John 14:6, 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

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### **ASK A FRIEND**

Can you share a testimony of experiencing freedom? (How did you find the truth? From what were you freed?)

### **APPLICATION**

What would you like to be free from? How? How can we become more free everyday? How can we help others to become free?

### **PRAYER MODEL**

*Lord Jesus, I thankyou for setting me free from sin, death and the lies of the devil. I receive Your truth that makes me free. Please continue to teach me from Your word.*

# FREEDOM

## RECEIVE THE TRUTH

God loves us and wants us to be totally free from sin, death and all the lies that would hurt us. As we seek God's truth in His word, and apply it to our lives we will experience greater and greater freedom and we will be able to share it with others.

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### **PRAYER MODEL**

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### **MEMORY VERSE**

**JOHN 8:32 — AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.**

# TITHING

## BUILDING THE LOCAL CHURCH AND A BLESSING FOR OUR LIVES

Tithing is a Godly principle of giving the first 10% of our income to God through His church, which God has set in place since the beginning of time.

When we tithe we are putting God first over all our finance. Our tithe is used to build the local church helping it to grow in size and influence to impact many people and the world. We are putting our money to an eternal use.

God's promise is also that our lives will be blessed so much that we will overflow! Not just financially but in every area of life. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.

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### **THE BLESSING OF TITHING**

Read Malachi 3:10

Why should we bring our tithe into the 'storehouse' or local church? What does the 'food' represent? This is the only time in the Bible God says to test Him. What is His promise for our lives? Read Proverbs 3:9-10

Honouring God is giving Him the best of your life including in your finances. When we give a tithe of our income God will fill our 'barns' to overflowing and our 'vats' will brim over. What do the barns and vats represent in your life?

### **GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

If we sow sparingly how will we reap? What if we decide to sow generously?

God loves and rejoices when we give with a cheerful heart. We shouldn't feel pressured to give, but rather we should give out of a thankful heart for all Jesus has done for us.

Do you always have a cheerful heart when you give, or are you giving with regret? Let's purpose to give with joy! Read 1 Corinthians 16:2

In Paul's time, most people were paid every week. At your workplace it may be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Why is it important to take time and prepare to give?

### **OUR TITHE IS HOLY TO GOD**

Read Leviticus 27:30

Actually a tithe of our income, wherever it comes from, already belongs to God. It is not our property; rather we are just honouring and returning to God what is already his. The Bible says that our tithe is holy and special to God. It has a special and important meaning to Him, as it shows His place as number one over all areas of our lives.

Read Romans 11:16

When we honour God with our tither, the holy firstfruit of our income, the rest of our income is also made holy. The tithe is the holy root that produces holy fruit in our lives.

If we want our lives to produce holy fruit what must we do?

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### **ASK A FRIEND**

**HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD BUILD THE CHURCH SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN TITHING?**

**HAVE YOU SEEN GOD'S BLESSING IN YOUR LIFE? WHAT IS ONE OF THE STORIES WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED?**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT TITHING?**

### **APPLICATION**

**HAVE YOU TRIED TITHING BEFORE? LET'S START TODAY!**

### **PRAYER MODEL**

**GOD, THANK YOU THAT YOU WANT TO BLESS MY LIFE. I PRAY THAT YOU WILL USE MY TITHER TO BUILD THE LOCAL CHURCH AND EXPAND YOUR KINGDOM. HELP ME TO LIVE A GENEROUS LIFE, BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING.**

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### **KEY VERSE**

**LUKE 6:38 (NIV) "GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER, WILL BE POURED INTO YOUR LAP. FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU."**

# THE MIND

## THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS

God's word has a lot to say about our mind and our thinking. God has given us new life as well as a new way of thinking. We have to let the truth determine how we think and live.

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### CHANGE YOUR THINKING

Read Romans 8:5- How does what controls us affect our thinking? How does God transform us? What do we need to do? Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:23-24

Read 2 Timothy 1:7- What has God given us to help with our thinking?

### GOD'S THOUGHTS

How is God's thinking different to ours? 1 Samuel 16:7, Isaiah 55:8-9

What are God's thoughts about us? Psalm 139:13-18, Jeremiah 29:11

### GOOD THINKING

Read Matthew 6:25-34- Why should we not worry?

Match the verses with the thing we should think about:

Psalm 1:2-3	Heaven/eternity	Philippians 4:8-9	Other people
Psalm 119:148	God's Word	Colossians 3:2	Encouraging others
Philippians 2:4	God's promise	Hebrews 10:24	Good things

When we think God's way we will have His peace and we will know His will  
(Philippians 4:9 and Romans 12:2)

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony of changing your thinking? What do you do to stop thinking the wrong way?

### APPLICATION

What part of your thinking do you need to change? (Psalm 139:23)

What verse can you apply to that part you need to change?

### PRAYER MODEL

Father God, thank you for giving me a new life and a new way of thinking. Please help me to change the way I think as I study Your word.

### MEMORY VERSE

**ROMANS 12:2 – DON'T COPY THE BEHAVIOUR AND CUSTOMS OF THIS WORLD, BUT LET GOD TRANSFORM YOU INTO A NEW PERSON BY CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK. THEN YOU WILL KNOW WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO, AND YOU WILL KNOW HOW GOOD AND PLEASING**

# GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

## PUTTING OTHERS FIRST

Through the bible, God teaches us about how to have great relationships. Of course, it's not about changing others, but about changing ourselves to become a good family member, friend of life partner. We have to learn to think of others as more important than ourselves.

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### PRINCIPLES FOR GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

Read Luke 6:31- How should we act towards others? Read Philippians 2:3-4 How can these verses help you to have good relationships?

### BEING A GREAT FAMILY MEMBER

God promises a blessed life for those who honour their parents(Ephesians 6:1-3).  
Read Proverbs 23:22-25- What can we do to make our parents happy?

### BEING A GREAT FRIEND

What can we learn from these Proverbs about being a great friend?

Proverbs 16:28, 17:9, 17:17, 18:24, 27:9, 27:17

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33- What can we learn from this verse about choosing friends and about being a good friend?

### BECOMING A GREAT LIFE PARTNER

Read Ephesians 5:21-33- What kind of characteristics do we need to be a great husband or wife?  
Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2- How should we treat other women and men that are not our partner?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a story about what you did to fix a family relationship? Do you have a story about doing something to improve a friendship? Do you have any other questions about relationship?

### APPLICATION

How can you become a better family member? What can you do this week to be a good friend?

What can you do to prepare to be a good life partner?

Homework: Try some of the things from the application and report back to the group.

### PRAYER MODEL

Dear God, I thankyou that You want me to have great relationships and that in the bible You have shown me who to have them. I commit all my relationships to You.

### MEMORY VERSE

**PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 – DON'T BE SELFISH; DON'T LIVE TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON OTHERS. BE HUMBLE, THINKING OF OTHERS AS BETTER THAN YOURSELF.**



# HEAVEN

## OUR ETERNAL HOME

Heaven is a real and wonderful place for those that accept God's invitation by believing in Jesus, heaven is a paradise and a future home where we can live in God's presence forever. The truth about how to get to heaven is so wonderful that we should tell others.

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### **A REAL, ETERNAL HOME IN HEAVEN**

Read Luke 23:43. How does Jesus refer to heaven? What should we look forward to heaven?  
Matthew 6:20-21, John 14:2, 2 Corinthians 5:1-2, Colossians 3:1-2, 1 Peter 1:4,  
Revelation 21:1-5

### **GOD'S INVITATION, OUR CHOICE**

Although God wants everyone to go to heaven, we cannot go to heaven unless our relationship with God is right(Matthew 5:20 and 2 Peter 3:9). Read Mark 9:47-48 and Matthew 13:40-43  
What kind of place do we go to if we don't go to heaven?  
Read Matthew 7:13-14- In what way is it our choice to go to heaven or hell?  
What does it mean to follow the narrow path? (John 14:6)

### **TELLING OTHERS**

Why would it be wrong for us not to tell others about heaven and how to get there?  
Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 4:20  
Read Luke 16:19-31- How does this story motivate you to tell others about Jesus?  
Read Matthew 5:11-12 What can we look forward to as a result of following Jesus and telling others about His Good News?

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### **ASK A FRIEND**

How can you be sure that you will go to heaven? Do you have any other questions about what happens when we die?

### **APPLICATION**

What should we think about heaven? What can we do to help other people get to heaven?

### **PRAYER MODEL**

Heavenly Father, I thankyou that there is a real, eternal home for me in heaven. I ask for opportunities to help other people enter heaven. And I look forward to spending eternity praising You!

### **MEMORY VERSE**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2 – FOR WE KNOW THAT WHEN THIS EARTHLY TENT WE LIVE IN IS TAKEN DOWN – WHEN WE DIE AND LEAVE THESE BODIES – WE WILL HAVE A HOME IN HEAVEN, AN ETERNAL BODY MADE FOR US BY GOD HIMSELF AND NOT BY HUMAN HANDS. WE GROW WEARY IN OUR PRESENT BODIES, AND WE LONG FOR THE DAY WHEN WE WILL PUT ON OUR HEAVENLY BODIES LIKE NEW CLOTHING.**

# LIGHT OVER DARKNESS

## LIVING IN GOD'S TRUTH

God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and welcomed us into His kingdom of light! In every area of our life we need to walk in His light, letting Him challenge and heal those hidden hurts and sins.

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### LIVING IN DARKNESS

What does “darkness” make you think of? Read John 3:19-20. Why do some people prefer to stay in darkness? What are the results of living in darkness?

1 Corinthians 4:3-6, Ephesians 4:17-19

### WHAT IS THE LIGHT?

Read John 8:12- In what way does Jesus refer to himself? What do you think this means?

Read Psalm 119:105- How can God's word be a light for us?

Jesus, the light, will expose the hidden and dark parts of our lives so that He can bring healing, forgiveness and life! (1 Corinthians 4:5 and Luke 12:2-3)

### LIVING IN THE LIGHT

Read Colossians 1:13 and 1 Peter 2:9- What has God done for us? What can we learn from the following verses about living in God's light? Isaiah 58:10, Luke 11:33, Luke 12:3, Ephesians 5:8-14, 1 John 1:5-10

### SHINING OUR LIGHT FOR OTHERS

Isaiah prophesied that as God's light shines on us, that we will stand out on this dark world, and many people will want to come to this light(Isaiah 60:1-3).

Read Matthew 5:4-16- Why should we let our light shine?

Read Acts 26:17-18- What does God want us to do?

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### ASK A FRIEND

Can you share a testimony of changing your thinking? What do you do to stop thinking the wrong way?

### APPLICATION

What part of your thinking do you need to change? (Psalm 139:23)

What verse can you apply to that part you need to change?

### PRAYER MODEL

Father God, thank you for giving me a new life and a new way of thinking. Please help me to change the way I think as I study Your word.

### MEMORY VERSE

**JOHN 8:12 — JESUS SAID TO THE PEOPLE, “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. IF YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU WON'T BE STUMBLING THROUGH THE DARKNESS BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS TO LIFE.**

