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New Believer's Guide



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“If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- Romans 10:9

LETTER FROM PASTORS ANDY + LISA

Congratulations friend! You just made the best decision you will ever make in your life-to follow Jesus. Salvation is God's free gift to us and it's a decision that can never be taken from you. God loves you and wants to empower you to live the life He has called you to. As your church family, we are here to walk with you on this life-changing journey. Accepting Jesus is the first step on your spiritual journey and we want to help you take your next steps. This guide will help you get started. God has so much in store for you and we are cheering you on and praying for you.

- Pastors Andy & Lisa Moore

THE BIBLE

The Bible is the most powerful book you'll ever read. It consists of 66 books written by 40+ authors who were inspired by God. It spans over a thousand years and was originally written in three different languages. There are many different types of writing in the Bible including historical accounts, letters, poetry and Gospels. It's inspired by God himself, and it discusses everything from guidelines for good decisions, God's heart for his people, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the early church, and more. But it's so much more than an instructional book, it is God-breathed, and is a love letter from God to all people.

God wants to speak to you through his Word (the Bible) and to give you power to transform your life! At first glance, the Bible can seem overwhelming, but be encouraged, there are many tools available to help you read, understand, and apply it to your life. Here are some tips to help you get started:

MAKE A PLAN

Choose a time and place that you can read your Bible. In the morning, on your lunch break, or before you go to bed—pick a time that works for you. Also pick a place that's quiet and free from distractions.

START WITH JESUS

We recommend starting with the book called 1 John and beginning your journey with the Bible learning about Jesus in the New Testament Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke + John). This will set the foundation and ground you in the life and teachings of Jesus. There is an index at the front of every Bible that will tell what order the books are in.

USE THESE TOOLS

You don't need to be an expert on the Bible since there are so many plans to help you get started.

The Bible App (also called YouVersion) offers a free Bible experience for smartphones, tablets, and online at Bible.com. You can read the Bible on it or let Audio versions read the Bible to you. We suggest that you start with the New Living Translation (NLT) or the New International Version (NIV). You can subscribe to plans that pair scripture with a written/video devotion.

You can also use the **STEP** model for your Bible reading. As you read the Bible, take your journal and begin to write out the answers to the following questions and let God speak to you:

S **SCRIPTURE** - Write out the verse(s) that speak to you the most.

T **TEACHING** - What stood out to you the most? What do these verses teach you?

E **EXPERIENCE** - What is God saying to you? How does it apply to your life?

P **PRAYER** - Write out a prayer in response to what God is teaching you.

PRAYER

Prayer is us communicating with God. Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate.

You don't have to use fancy language to talk to God—He wants to hear from you!

The Bible instructs us to *“rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Jesus modeled that the best way to cultivate a lifestyle of prayer is to schedule a time, pick a place, and make a plan.

SCHEDULE A TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with his Heavenly Father. Schedule a time to meet with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

PICK A PLACE

Jesus had a specific place he went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

MAKE A PLAN

As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he gave them a prayer outline. We call it The Lord's Prayer. Jesus provided this outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to God, aligns our priorities with his, and helps us live dependently on him.

**“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on
earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also
have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”**

– Matthew 6:9-13

If you don't know where to start when you pray, you can also try the **A.C.T.S.** method:

A ADORATION

Praise God for who He is and what He has done. Humble yourself before God and surrender every part of your life to His control.

C CONFESSION

Acknowledge your sin (anything that separates you from God) and ask for God's forgiveness. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

T THANKSGIVING

Thank God specifically for all that He has done for you. Express your gratitude to God.

S SUPPLICATION

Present your requests to the Lord. Pray for the needs around you and for your family, your friends and yourself.

COMMUNITY

You were not designed to do life alone! Here are two ways you can stay connected to your church family:

SUNDAY SERVICES

Stay connected by attending our Sunday Services, either in person or online. Every Sunday, we have corporate worship with Bible-based teaching to encourage and inspire your faith and daily walk with Jesus. We encourage you to attend in-person services whenever possible, so you can receive the encouragement and blessing that comes from church community.

SMALL GROUPS

Joining a small group will help you on your spiritual journey. Small groups are there for you to find a group of people to connect, pray and grow with. Real life change happens in the context of relationship with others. Gathering in a small group allows you to be known, be honest, and be free to ask the kinds of questions that will help you take steps forward in your spiritual journey.

We offer a variety of different groups such as Bible studies, prayer groups, activity-based groups, and more! Our small groups run on a semester system and are offered three times a year. You can check out coastlinechurch.ca/smallgroups to view the current list of small groups.

RESOURCES

THE ALPHA COURSE

We run this 10 week course about life, faith, and meaning throughout the year. Topics include: Who is Jesus?, Why did Jesus Die?, Why and How Should I Read the Bible?, Why and How Should I Pray? For more information or to register visit coastlinechurch.ca/alpha or www.alphacanada.org

BIBLE PROJECT

Learn the Bible online with Bible Project. This website includes free videos, blogs, podcasts and classes. Bible project is a great resource to learn more about the Bible at your own pace. www.bibleproject.com

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

RightNow Media contains thousands of Christian video resources for all ages. Check out this course - **Grow: First Steps with Jesus** by Jean Symons. It has 20 short daily studies that spread out over four weeks which you can work through to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus. Register for a free RightNow Media account at: coastlinechurch.ca/resources

WORSHIP MUSIC

· GT Music (Album: Already Won) · Hillsong Worship · Maverick City
· Elevation Worship · Bethel Music · Royal City Worship

SHARE

Every person has a story of what Jesus has done in their life and we encourage you to share that with others. You have a testimony and it is powerful! Don't miss the opportunity to share your story with your family and friends and to invite someone to experience the love of Jesus with you at church.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through **his Spirit** in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and **deep is the love of Christ**, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of **all the fullness of God**.

- Ephesians 3:16-19



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