


A 7-DAY GUIDE TO BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

Welcome to
the family!



Meredith & Phil Ryburn



Congratulations on your decision to follow Jesus, we want to welcome you to the family of God! Becoming a Christian is the best, boldest decision you can make in your life. Throughout this week – and the weeks to come—we encourage you to take every opportunity you can to let somebody know, “I am a Christian, and I declare Jesus everywhere.”

Our team here at Cornerstone Church has put together this 7-day guide to get you started actively moving in the right direction. Use it to build your faith and learn the foundational elements of being a Christ-follower.

Blessings,

Pastors Phil & Meredith Ryburn

What is a Christian?

The essence of being a Christian is knowing Jesus Christ as your Savior and friend.

²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

(Romans 3:22-24)

How Do I Become a Christian?*

A – Admit:

The place to start is admitting, or confessing, that you are a sinner and that you need a Savior.

B – Believe:

Next, move into believing that Jesus Christ is that Savior, put your faith and trust in Him.

C – Consider:

Jesus wants to be your Savior and your Lord. Thoughtfully consider anything in your life that is displeasing to Him; you are beginning the journey of walking away from those things and walking totally with Jesus – this is repentance.

D – Do:

Make the decision to personally commit to a relationship with Jesus. Say the prayer below to invite Jesus to be part of your everyday life and begin telling everyone, "I am a follower of Jesus."

The prayer you recently prayed dedicating your life to Christ is known as the "Salvation Prayer". Keep these words close as a reminder of what He has done for you.

Prayer: *Jesus, I want to invite you to come into my life. I know that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Today, I put all my faith in you – thank you for dying on the cross for me and rising from the dead. There are things in my life that I know do not line up with your purpose or will for me, help me in these things. I vow to keep walking with you as you show me how. In your name, Amen.*

Get the most from the first 7 days

We are excited to walk with you as you begin your Christian walk. We want you to succeed, so we have developed this 7-Day series to help get you started in what we think are essential first things. Below are some steps for getting the most out of your New Direction series:

VIDEO: You should be receiving daily texts and emails to help walk you through this booklet. If you need help, be sure to jump on our website at:

www.cornerstone.church

SCRIPTURE: Each day starts with a Bible Scripture that will provide focus for your day.

READING: There is a brief description and encouragement on each topic.

BUILD: After your devotional, there are a few additional scripture references—look those up in your own Bible and get used to using it often.

PRAY: Included on the page is a prayer to get you started, or you can use your own words.

REFLECT: Use this page to think about each day's devotional. What does it mean? How does it make you feel? What is God saying to you?

MAKE A PLAN- to set 15 minutes of each day aside to focus on your 7-Day steps. Maybe over breakfast or a lunch break? Right before bed? Go ahead and write down your time now and start making it part of your daily schedule:

_____.



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Day 1 - Jesus

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"

Jesus is entirely God and Jesus is entirely man. What?! Quick history lesson. The first people, Adam and Eve, were in perfect relationship with God; they communicated and walked with God in the Garden of Eden – awesome! But they allowed themselves to be deceived by Satan and sin came into the world. That sin created a space in our relationship with God, a divide that we could never shrink by ourselves. God knew this though, and He had a plan – Jesus.

As part of our Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Jesus set aside his deity (God-ness) and became a human baby. This is the Christmas story– a virgin, Mary, miraculously conceived and gave birth to the Savior. Since He is completely God, Jesus lived on Earth sinless; and, since He was completely man, He lived with all the pain, temptation and troubles we experience. While on Earth, He performed all kinds of miracles so that people would know He had come to be the Savior (to save them from their sins). When the timing was right, Jesus became our sin sacrifice. This is the Easter story– Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb for three days, and then came back to life. His resurrection forever defeated death and opened a door for us to

be back in a continual relationship with God. Now, Jesus is back in Heaven and prays for us continually. How great is that kind of love!

Build: 1 Timothy 2: 5-6, Isaiah 53:5

Prayer – *Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice and for coming to be my salvation. I am so glad to be in relationship with you. Be with me today, speak to me and help me walk with you. Amen*

Reflect

Day 2 - You

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Remember what we learned about Adam and Eve yesterday—how they were deceived and allowed sin to come into the world? Well, since they were the very first people, their sin did not just affect their relationship with God, but the whole human experience. When Jesus came, His whole purpose was to allow people to be in a restored, right relationship with God. We call this righteousness. It is the mystery and beauty of salvation, that we have been recreated!

Although we used to be sinful and separated from God, we are now righteous and connected to God. And what did we do to receive this salvation? Have faith in Jesus – that is a pretty good deal! And even better, since we are now living a new life, the power of God living in us – which is the same power that raised Him from the dead – empowers us to live like Jesus. This really is good news! That means that we have the ability to see the power of God working in our lives – signs, miracles and wonders are all available to us today. You don't have to wait; you can be bold in your faith today. Ask God to show you His power in action today – pray for someone who is

sick, or needing provision or hope; or maybe, God will give you a special word of encouragement for a co-worker or classmate. This part is important – as you ask God, pay attention through your day, and then act when you see an opportunity.

Build: Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:11

Prayer – God, thank you for transforming my life! I am so glad to be empowered with your love. I am asking that you show me someone who I can show your love and power today.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflect

Day 3 - Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now that you have been born-again, made into a new creation, you are part of the family of God. This family is called the church. Maybe you have been taught that the church is the building you come to on a Sunday, that is true; but there is more. The church is people. All of the people who have called Jesus their friend and Savior make up the church. Just like your natural body has many parts that make up the whole, there are many diverse types of people who make up the body of Christ, or the church. You are one of those people, and God has a specific place planned for you in his Kingdom family. Members of the global church meet in local church communities, like ours, every week. The Bible teaches us that being in community with other believers is an important part of the Christian faith. That is because, as a family, we exist to help each other in tough times, celebrate together in good times and keep pushing each other more toward Jesus at all times. So, welcome to the global church; make coming to

your local church a part of your regular routine.

Build: Ephesians 4:2-6, Hebrews 10:25

Prayer – *God, thank you for welcoming me into your family of believers. Help me to grow strong and to build up those around me in your holy faith. Show me the place that I belong in your church. Amen.*

Reflect

Day 4 - 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 filled with the words of God, the same words that spoke all of creation into existence – powerful! The Bible is made up of many books that were written by human beings who were inspired by God. Every bit of it gives us help for our journey with God. There are two sections inside the Bible – the Old Testament, which is all about people and events before Jesus came to earth, and the New Testament, which tells us about Jesus' time on earth and the early Church. The most important thing to learn about your Bible is – just get into it! Make it part of your daily routine.

First thing, find a translation of the Bible that you understand. Some of the most common are: KJV, NIV, ESV, or MSG. Not sure where to start? A great idea is to look up the scriptures from Sunday's service and reread them to better understand their context. There are many great ways to read through your Bible. There are apps that send you a daily verse, or devotionals that focus on a specific theme, even a study guide that will take you through one book. This is the fun part—try some new things and find out what

works for you. Regardless of how you do it, we think consistency is key.

When reading your Bible, what you ask will make a big difference in what you take away. Here are some questions to use while reading to get you started: How would I say this in my own words? What does this scripture tell me about who God is? What does it tell me about who I am? How am I going to apply this scripture to my daily life?

Build: Psalm 1:2-3, Romans 15:4

Prayer – *Dear Jesus, thank you for your living Word, for your Holy Scripture that leads to life and godliness. Create in me a desire to know you more, teach me your ways and help me to apply them. In your name, Amen.*

Reflect

Day 5 - Prayer

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

In the simplest words, prayer is talking with God. It is important to know that God hears you and cares for you, which is why He wants you to start talking with Him regularly. Prayer is a really powerful thing—it is speaking the language of Heaven. Think about prayer like when you learned to speak your first words as a child. You didn't know very many words and you fumbled through them, but your parents were so excited to hear you say anything remotely like speech! You kept building on those words until you had more of them, until you spoke them more clearly and then started intentionally growing your vocabulary. The same is true for your prayers. Right now all you might know to say is, "Thank you, God" or "I need you." Those are great prayers! But don't stop there, keep building.

One of the reasons we talked about our Bible yesterday is because Scriptures make for great prayers and help us grow in our prayers. Try taking your daily Bible reading and making it part of your prayer to God. Finding a set time every day to pray will help you with consistency and make it a priority in your life. The great thing about prayer though, is that you can talk to God throughout your day as well. In fact, Scripture encourages us to "pray continually."

When you aren't sure where to start, start with thankfulness. There are so many things we can thank God for and it is good to remind ourselves of how good He has been to us! And just like any good conversation, talking is only one side of the deal. Take time to quietly listen to what God is saying to you. These thoughts are great things to write in your daily reflection and look back on to see His faithfulness and guidance in your life.

Build: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6 or Psalms 145:8

Prayer – *Dear God, thank you that you want to speak with me, I want to speak with you too. Help me be devoted to prayer; help me be alert and watchful of areas that I can bring to you in prayer and help me keep an always-thankful heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Reflect

Day 6 - Mindsets

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Moving away from sin-awareness, and closer to God-awareness is the goal of our Christian walk. Sometimes it is easy, and sometimes it is really tough; but it is always worth it. God wants us to be transformed in our daily lives from people who reflect the world's set of rules into people who reflect His truth. Now this is more than just following a list of do's and don'ts. If we could have done that, Jesus wouldn't have had to come. When Jesus went back to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to be with us here on Earth.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can be assured that He is with us because one of the main things He does is direct us to the will of Jesus. That uncomfortable feeling you have doing some old habit, is the Holy Spirit convicting you (letting you know that isn't something God wants you to do anymore). Respond to those feelings and trust them! Remember **Day Two** – you have been made into a new creation, so God is changing the very things you want to do or be part of anymore. He is making

you into His image. Now, this might be confusing for some of the people who have been in your life for a long time, which is why Day Three (Church) is important. Get connected to some people who will encourage and support your new decisions. And, remember, stay in the Bible and Prayer to make you even stronger.

Build: Philippians 4:8, Proverbs 23:7

Prayer – *Jesus, thank you for being my example and strength. Help me to change my mind, my habits and my desires in line with your will for my life. I want to follow you and I want to please you. Amen.*

Reflect

Day 7 - Share Your Story

Mark 16:15-16 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

In church-terms, we call this "Evangelism". What is Evangelism? It literally means, "spreading of the good news or gospel." And that's it. Now that you are a Christian, you have the opportunity to tell the people you know about what Jesus has done for you, and wants to do for them. As you grow in your faith and understanding of scripture you will keep wanting to share what you are learning. As well as this, keep sharing your story. It's important for people to hear! So don't wait until you "feel ready" ...start today! Standing on a street corner shouting at people might not get you very far. It is much better to talk to people you already have a relationship with, or begin by asking someone if there is anything you can pray with them about, then look for an opportunity to share.

Listen to the Holy Spirit when you get the feeling inside that "this person wants to hear about Jesus," and go for it! When you find people who want to accept Jesus, take them through the prayer at the beginning of this book, bring them to church and

start sharing what you have learned. Now you have the chance to walk with them in their journey – what a privilege! Evangelism is an essential part of our Christian walk and should become a regular part of our life—sharing about the goodness of God in our lives. To start your life of evangelism, in today's reflection, write down three names of people that you want to come to know Jesus. Begin praying for those people and looking for opportunities to tell them who Jesus is in your life.

Build: 2 Corinthians 5:20, Acts 4:20

Prayer – *God, I am so thankful that someone shared the gospel with me, help me to share it with others! I especially want 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ to know you. Make me bold and alert to tell them the good news of Jesus, in His name, Amen.*

Reflect

Keep Going

You finished your First 7 Days – well done! Now keep going in the new habits you are building and the relationship with Jesus you have started. Maybe you missed a couple days this week, or you just want to revisit some of the topics we covered – repeat your first 7 Days series for another week! Feel like you got it all? Move on to some of the suggestions from Day 4.

What are you going to Study for the Next 7 Days?
Write it here:

Next Steps

Water Baptism: Getting baptized in water is an outward sign of the inward change in your life. When you enter the water, it is a representation of the old person before your salvation. As you come out of the water, it is a reminder that you are now a new person in Christ. Being publicly baptized is an important next step in your faith walk. Find the next Baptism dates on the church website or stop by The Corner the next time you are in a worship service to ask.

Life Groups: These are small groups of believers that meet outside of weekend service times to build relationships and learn more about being a Christian together. Stop at The Corner at your home campus for more information.

Volunteer: Church is a great place to get involved. The first step to getting involved at Cornerstone is completing a volunteer form on our website. Be sure to also check out our outreach opportunities.

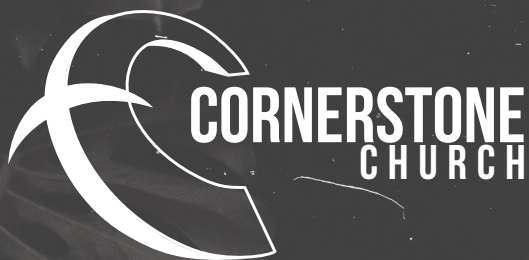
Brag About it

Keep telling everyone that you are a follower of Jesus!

Share your story of what God is doing by emailing testimony@cornerstone.church

If you're happy to be part of what God is doing here at Cornerstone Church, feel free to post on social media using the hashtag #mycstone and tagging us @churchcstone.

**All Scriptures used come from
New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan House, 1984*



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