



FIRST steps

I just said yes to Jesus—now what?



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

DATE: _____

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INTRODUCTION

You just said yes to Jesus. Now what?

Inside this book, you'll explore more about what your decision to follow Jesus means.

Each day has a short reading with thoughts and ideas from the Bible. As we walk through these together, we'll answer questions like, "What does this mean?", "What do I do now?", and "How does this change my life moving forward?" **Our hope is that this book can be a guide that helps you take your first steps in following Jesus.**

As you read, we'd love to support you along the way. Scan the QR code below to let a pastor know you said yes to Jesus and start having conversations about what God is doing in your life. We would love to connect with you and help you grow closer to Him!



Connect with a Pastor

Following Jesus is all about taking one step at a time—and you're already doing that by opening this book. We're excited to walk with you!

Day 01

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY YES TO JESUS?

You said yes to Jesus—and we're so proud of you!

People describe that moment in different ways: becoming a Christian, getting saved, choosing to follow Jesus, giving your life to Him. They all mean the same thing. But what does it actually mean to say yes to Him?

Saying yes to Jesus isn't just about joining a church or deciding to be a better person. It starts with something much deeper. **It begins with recognizing that every one of us chooses to live our own way instead of God's way.** We follow what feels right to us in the moment, even when we know it isn't what God wants for us. This leads to regret, hurt, and consequences we never intended. The Bible calls this **sin**... it is breaking God's rules and stepping outside the life He designed for us.

Sin is a problem because God created the world (and us) with purpose. When we follow His way, we experience life, peace, and wholeness. But when we choose our way instead, we move outside His design and end up carrying pain we were never meant to carry. Sin pulls us away from God and creates a gap between us that we can't close on our own. And if that gap remained forever, it would mean being eternally separated from the God who created us.

But **God didn't leave us stuck.** He sent His Son Jesus to step in.

Jesus, fully God and fully man, lived the only perfect life. He treated people with compassion and showed what a life connected to God looks like. Then He did something no one else could do: **He closed the gap by dying on a cross and paying for all the wrong we had done.** He took our sin on Himself and died in our place, offering forgiveness we could never earn. Three days later, He rose from the dead and opened the door for us to have a new life with God.

Why would He do this? Jesus explained it when a man named Nicodemus came to Him with questions:



“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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”

—John 3:16–17 (NLT)

So what does it mean to say yes to Jesus?

It means trusting Him to forgive your sin and restore your relationship with God. It means believing that **God loves you so much that Jesus gave His life so you could be part of His family forever.** And it means beginning a journey of learning to live like Him... one step at a time.

Tomorrow, we'll talk about what that journey looks like. For now, take a moment to thank Jesus and talk with Him in prayer.



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue me. Even though I don't understand everything yet, I want to follow Jesus and live His way. Thank You for forgiving me, loving me, and welcoming me into Your family. Help me take my next steps with You. Amen.

Day 02

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SAY YES TO JESUS?

Yesterday we ended with prayer, and today we'll start with it. God enjoys hearing from us anytime.



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for the gift of salvation: saving me from myself and bringing me into a relationship with You. Use Your love to shape me today, in the coming days, and for the rest of my life. I'm trusting You to make me new. In Jesus' name, amen.

Christians finish prayers in Jesus' name because this is one of the ways Jesus told us to pray. **We're able to connect with God on a first-name basis because of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.** And we need this kind of connection if we're going to live our lives His way and become more like Him.

When you said yes to Jesus, something new began. You were forgiven, welcomed, and brought into God's family... but that was only the starting point. **God has begun something good in you, and He will keep growing you one step at a time.**

The Bible says it like this...



“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ.”
— 2 Corinthians 5:17–18 (NLT)

When you trusted Jesus, God made you new! That means:

- *Your past no longer defines you.*
- *You belong to Him.*
- *You are forgiven.*
- *You are loved.*

God has changed who you are, and now He wants to begin shaping how you live. You don't have to be stuck in sin anymore... you can live God's way. **This kind of change doesn't happen overnight, and it happens from the inside out.** God starts by changing your heart... your desires, your values, and the way you see the world—and then He teaches you how to act in a new way. As you learn and grow closer to Him each day, He helps you grow. That's what this book is designed to walk you through. Over the rest of this book, we're going to focus on a few key steps that help you begin following Jesus with your whole life.

You don't need to have everything figured out today. **Following Jesus is a journey... you grow one step at a time as you live your new life with Him.**



Pause and reflect:

What parts of my life do I want God to make new? How do I want to grow over the coming weeks?

Day 03

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A NEW LIFE?

Before we dive into what our new life means, let's spend time praying.



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for giving me new life through Jesus. As I read today, help me understand what this new life means and teach me how to walk in it each day. Amen.

So far, we've looked at what Jesus did for you and what it meant to say yes to Him. We saw that, because of what Jesus did, you now have a new life. But what does that actually mean?

The Bible explains it this way:



"[Jesus] saved us... because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit."

— Titus 3:4–5 (NLT)

This shows us what happens when we say yes to Jesus. First, God saves us because of His mercy, not because we earned it. Second, He forgives our sin. Third, He gave us a new birth, which means we have a fresh start. Fourth, He gave us a new life. Let's look at what that last one means more closely...

Your new life means you have a new identity. When you said yes to Jesus, God made you His child and brought you into His family. Even if you don't feel different yet, this is now true of you. Your identity isn't based on what you feel, but on what God's done for you.

With this new identity comes a **new purpose**: to know God, love Him, love others, and become more like Jesus. It's also to do the good things that God created you to do. The Bible says it like this,



“...we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”
— Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

This purpose doesn't pressure you... it frees you. It means every moment of your life now has meaning.

New life also means you've started a journey. Like we talked about yesterday, God is changing you from the inside out. You don't walk this journey alone. God is with you, and He gives you other people to help you grow. Tomorrow, we'll talk about finding that support through the church.

For now, remember: new life is a gift, an identity, a purpose, and a journey. You're not expected to be perfect... just to walk with God one step at a time.

II Pause and Reflect:

What parts of my life do I hope God will make new? How do I want God to change me over the coming weeks?

Day 04 WHY DOES CHURCH MATTER?

Today we're looking at an important way God helps us grow: gathering with other Christians at church. So why does church matter?

First, it helps to know what church really is. **Church isn't just a building or a service... it's people.** It's God's family gathered to worship Him, learn from The Bible, and support one another. When you said yes to Jesus, you became part of God's family. Here's the thing: you're not an only-child in God's family... you have spiritual brothers and sisters through Him, and we grow best when we meet together each week at church.

The Bible encourages us to do this:



“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together...”

—Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT)

God uses church to help us grow. When we gather, **we worship God** together, **hear teaching from the Bible**, and **build relationships** with other Christians. Worship helps turn our hearts toward God. The Bible (God's Word) teaches us what's true and how to live it. And relationships remind us that we're not following Jesus alone.

When we set aside time each week to do these things with God's people, we grow closer to Him in a deeper way than we can on our own.

You might be unsure about what to expect when you go to church, and that's completely normal. You don't have to know all the songs or understand everything right away. Churches are full of ordinary people growing closer to Jesus. No one has everything figured out. **You belong because you've said yes to Jesus and you're a part of His family.**

What's your next step?

If you don't already attend a Bible-teaching church, choose one to visit this week. If you live near Crossroads, you can scan the QR code below to learn more about our services.



Come to Crossroads Church!

But if you live somewhere else, find a Bible-teaching church in your area and give it a try. Show up, listen, and let God speak to you.

If you already go to church, make it a priority to keep going regularly. Consistency is key to growing in your faith.

Church is also a place where we take important steps in our faith. Tomorrow, we'll talk about one of the first steps Jesus invites His followers to take: baptism.



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for creating the church. Help me find a church where I can grow, worship, and follow You with others. Give me courage and openness as I take this step. Amen.

Day 05

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Yesterday we talked about gathering with other Christians at church. One of the most meaningful steps you can take there is baptism. So what is baptism, and why does it matter?

Baptism is a public way to show that you've said yes to Jesus and begun a new life with Him. It's an outward expression of an inward decision. Baptism doesn't save you from your sin... Jesus does. It's simply a way to celebrate what God has already done in your heart. It's like putting on a jersey that says, "I'm on Team Jesus now, and I'm going to live my life for Him."

The Bible gives us a true story of baptism happening. There was a man from Ethiopia who heard the good news about Jesus. A man named Philip told him, and he decided to say yes to Jesus. As they travelled, something amazing happened:



"As they rode along, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."

— Acts 8:36–38 (NLT)

This story shows how baptism works. The man said yes to Jesus, and then he wanted to get baptized right away. **Baptism was a natural next step after saying yes to Jesus.**

On the surface, baptism is just being dunked under some water and brought back up. But deeper down, baptism is a powerful thing with a lot of meaning.

Back on day 2, we read 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says:



“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

Baptism is a perfect symbol of this! Going under the water represents your old life (the one before you said yes to Jesus) being gone. Coming out of the water represents the new life that Jesus has given you. Baptism tells the story of what Jesus has done in your life, and it shows your commitment to follow Him. It's an act of obedience to Jesus (Jesus tells His followers to get baptized in Matthew 28:19).

If you've said yes to Jesus, you're ready to get baptized. You don't need to have everything figured out yet. If you've trusted Jesus and are committed to following Him, you're ready.

If you haven't been baptized yet, consider taking that step! If you live near Crossroads, you can scan the QR code below to learn more about baptism and sign up for a future baptism moment.



Sign up to get Baptized!



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for saving me. Give me courage and clarity as I take my next steps with You. If baptism is the step I need to take, help me follow You boldly. Amen.

Day 06

HOW DO I SHARE WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME?

As you follow Jesus, God doesn't just change your life—He invites you into His bigger story. One important part of that story is sharing what Jesus has done for you with others.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers:



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
—Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)

This is known as the Great Commission. Jesus gave this command to everyone who's said yes to Him. **We've all been told to go and tell others about Him.**

Saying yes to Him is the best decision you'll ever make. It changed your life and gave you a relationship with God forever. Now think about this: many people around you haven't experienced His love or said yes to Him yet. They don't know what it's like to experience the joy, love, and redemption that Jesus brings because they haven't heard about it yet. They haven't said yes to Him. It's our job to go and tell them about Him.

So what does it look like to share Jesus with others?

Start with your story. Share how Jesus has changed your life. Your story doesn't have to be dramatic... honesty is powerful. **Here's a simple way to share your story in 3 parts:**

1. **Your Life Before Jesus:** What was your life like before you said yes to Him? How did you used to live? What were the things you used to do?
2. **Saying Yes to Him:** What led you to say yes to Him? What did Jesus do for you?
3. **Your Life Now:** How is your life changing because of Him? How are you different now than you were before you said yes to Jesus?

You're not trying to convince anyone or have all the answers. You're just sharing what God has done in your life...something no one can argue with. **Sometimes, sharing your faith happens in everyday moments.** God uses ordinary moments (like conversations with friends) to do extraordinary things.

If you feel nervous, that's okay. Ask God for courage and trust that He is with you. Your job isn't to change anyone... it's just to share. God does the rest.

II Pause and reflect:

Who in your life might need to hear what Jesus has done for you?



Pray with your own words, or try these:

God, thank You for changing my life. Help me share what You've done with others. Everyone needs to hear about You, so give me courage to share You with boldness. Show me the opportunities I have each day, and give me the words to say. Amen.

Day 07

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

Congratulations on making it to the end of the book! We hope it's helped you take your first steps in following Jesus.

This isn't the end of your journey—it's the beginning of what comes next.

So what now?

The best thing you can do now is take the right next step that Jesus is leading you to take. Following Jesus isn't a cookie-cutter path.

Everyone's journey looks a little different. But over time, we've noticed there are some common steps that go a long way in helping us grow closer to God.

We hope you'll read through the list below and talk with a pastor or trusted Christian friend about what your next step might be...

- *Pray every day*
- *Read the Bible every day*
- *Get baptized*
- *Join a Group*
- *Commit to going to church regularly*
- *Start serving at church and in your community*
- *Share your decision to follow Jesus with a friend or family member*
- *Invite someone to church*
- *Or any other step God might be leading you to take!*

You don't need to do all of these steps at once. **What matters most is continuing to take the next step God is putting in front of you.** As we wrap up, the Bible reminds us of this promise:



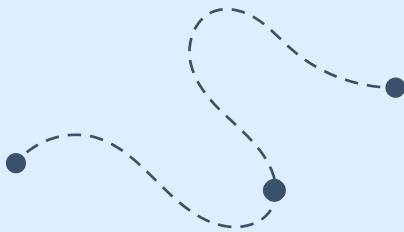
“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

— *Philippians 1:6 (NLT)*

God started something new in you when you said yes to Jesus—and He's just getting started. One step at a time, He's going to keep growing you. We can't wait to see all the amazing things that God has in store for your life! Once again, we're proud of you and are here to support you as you continue to follow Jesus.

Congratulations!

Reflect on your journey through this book. Pray and thank God for all that He's shown you. Then take the next step that you feel Him leading you to take today.



“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. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”

— John 3:16-17



Crossroads Church