



BECOMING PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

A Guide To Help Students Make a Decision to Become a Christian



Dear Friend,

You have indicated that you want to become a Christian. Awesome! This is the most important step you will ever take and it should not be taken lightly. This booklet has been prepared to help you understand what it means to be part of God's family and how you can do that. Nothing makes God happier than when one of His children decides to come to Him. In fact, the Bible tells us that all of Heaven rejoices!

Over the next few weeks, you should set aside an hour or two each week to work on our booklet. Allow enough time to read all the scriptures, and write down any questions you might have. Don't hurry through. There is no rush.

When you have completed all the pages, please call to make an appointment with the Student Pastor so we can discuss what you have learned and take the next step.

All scripture references have been taken from the *New Living Translation* and the *New International Version*.

Did you know that God has chosen you to be part of His family? In fact, He wants everyone to be part of His family. The purpose of this booklet is to help you understand God's plan for you.

GOD'S PLAN

God's plan is that you choose to be part of His family. He wants to have a close relationship with you. His plan not only promises you eternal life in Heaven, but He wants you to have an exciting and fulfilling life here on earth.

Listen to what the Bible says:

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.” EPHESIANS 1:5 (NLT)

That is God's plan for you! This plan is for everyone. It includes people who live in other countries, speak different languages, and have different color skin. God loves everyone. However, a problem was created when man decided to disobey God. Read in Genesis to see what happened:

God created a world.....Read Genesis 1:1, 11, 20, 24

God created people.....Read Genesis 1:26-28

Man decided to disobey God's rules.....Read Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-11, 23

What was God's only rule in the garden? (2:16-17) _____

What did Satan tell Eve would happen to her if she ate the fruit? (3:5) _____

What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God approaching? (3:8) _____

What was their punishment for disobeying God? (3:23) _____

God wants a relationship with us. But because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, man is separated from God.

“It's your sins that have cut you off from God.” ISAIAH 59:2 (NLT)

Since God is perfect, He cannot stand sin. Sin separates us from the relationship God intended to have with mankind. Sin is doing what is wrong in God's sight.

If God is holy and perfect,
then there can be no sin where God is.
So how can man find his way back to God?
God provided a way!

GOD SENT HIS SON

Who is Jesus?

Who does John 3:16 say Jesus is? _____

Read John 20:31. Who does this verse say Jesus is?

a. _____

b. _____

What did Jesus say?

Read John 14:15. What did Jesus say? _____

Read John 20:29. What did Jesus say? _____

In the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you can read many wonderful things Jesus said. **Each night this week before you go to bed, read some of the things Jesus said:**

DAY 1 Matthew 5:43-48

DAY 2 Mark 10:13-16

DAY 3 Luke 10:25-37

DAY 4 John 3:16-19

DAY 5 Luke 9:18-25

What are some of the things that Jesus did?

HE PERFORMED MIRACLES

Read John 2:1-11. This was Jesus' first miracle. What did Jesus' disciples do after the miracle? (v. 11) _____

Read Matthew 8:23-27. What miracle did Jesus do? _____

Read John 9:1-7. What miracle did Jesus do? _____

Read Luke 8:49-55. What miracle did Jesus do? _____

Read John 20:30-31. Why were some of Jesus' miracles written in the Bible for us to read?

HE TAUGHT OTHERS

Read Matthew 7:28-29. How did the people feel about Jesus' teaching? _____

Read Luke 4:31-32. What did Jesus do? _____

How did the people feel? Why? _____

HE DIED ON A CROSS

Read Luke 23:46. We all do wrong. We deserve to be punished. But Jesus loved us so much that He let Himself be punished in our place. He died for us because He loves us.

Read Romans 5:6-8. How did God demonstrate His love for us? _____

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. Why did Jesus die for us? _____

Read Ephesians 5:2. Jesus died for us because He _____ .

Because Jesus died for us, we can be forgiven for the wrong that we do. Because Jesus died for us, we can live with Him forever.

HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

Read Matthew 28:5-7. The angel said, “He is not here. He has _____ as He said He would.”

We are separated from God because of sin, but we are brought together with God because of Jesus! Since eternal life is a gift, it cannot be earned. It can only be received. When you receive Jesus Christ and trust Him as your Lord and Savior, you become part of God’s family and receive eternal life. The Bible says:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” EPHESIANS 2:8 (NIV)

UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO

Just knowing about God’s plan isn’t enough. You must do something about it. You must cross the bridge that Jesus has built. You must receive the free gift that God has given us by sending Jesus to die for our sins.

“To all who received Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” JOHN 1:12 (NIV)

How do you receive God’s free gift?

1. The first step to receiving God’s gift is **BELIEVING**. You must believe that Jesus is God’s son, that Jesus died to pay for your sins, and that God raised Jesus from the dead.
2. The next step is **CONFESSION**. To confess to God means to admit to Him the sins that you have committed.

“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 (NIV)

3. The third step is **REPENTANCE**. To repent means that you have a change of heart. It is very similar to making a U-turn in a car. You stop chasing sin and turn toward the good things from God.

For you to repent, you must be honestly sorry for all the bad stuff you have done against God. Repentance only happens when we are truthful with God.

“Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.” ACTS 3:19 (NIV)

These steps can be accomplished through a very simple, yet very personal & meaningful prayer. You might pray something like this to confess your need for Jesus and your belief in Him:

Jesus, I believe you are God’s Son. I thank you for dying on the cross so that my sins can be forgiven. I am sorry that I sinned and I want to stop sinning and start following you. I want to accept your free gift and have eternal life. I want to serve you and tell others about you. Thank you for loving me and accepting me into your family.

What a wonderful moment it is when someone receives Jesus! The Bible says the angels in Heaven rejoice when a soul is saved.

Do you know what people in the Bible did whenever they asked Jesus into their lives? They were baptized!

4. The last step is to be baptized.

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ACTS 2:38 (NIV)

Why should I be baptized?

Baptism is important because it shows the beauty of what God is accomplishing in us. It shows on the outside what is going on in the inside. Jesus too was baptized, by John the Baptist before He began His ministry.

Read Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus gave you the ultimate example! He went and was baptized by John. If you wish to follow Jesus and become part of His family, then you’ll want to be as much like Jesus as possible.

He not only gave us an example, but a clear command. In the Great Commission, He said, “Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them...” Jesus gave us a command. A command we should obey.

But what does it mean?

Baptism is an object lesson, a symbol of an incredible spiritual truth. A truth that shows your willingness to publicly agree that you need to be cleaned and transformed. That you need to die to your old ways and rise up to live a new life.

Baptism is a physical symbol of the death and burial of the old, and the rebirth that occurs when someone becomes part of God’s family. That is why we are immersed underwater. The word “baptize” actually means to “dip under.”

Read Matthew 10:32-33. In verse 32, what does Jesus ask us to do? _____

Read Romans 10:9-10. What two things are we asked to do?

1. _____

2. _____

When God forgives our sins, He takes them away just like erasing a chalkboard. They are not there anymore. They are gone and forgotten. We do not need to feel ashamed. And everything is right between us and God, just the way God wanted it in the beginning.

This is not something that we earn or even deserve. It’s a free gift from God!

Read Acts 22:16. When Ananias spoke to Saul, what did he tell him to do? _____

Why was he to be baptized? _____

Read 1 Peter 3:21-22. What do these verses say about baptism? _____

Read about the man from Ethiopia in Acts 8:26-39. When the man in the chariot heard about Jesus as Philip explained the scripture to him, he believed in Jesus and turned toward Him. Then he asked to be baptized. You may also want to read about Lydia in Acts 16:13-15 and the jailer at Philippi in Acts 16:25-34.

The water alone does not save us, but baptism shows our obedience and that we are willing to make a commitment to become part of God's family. When you become part of His family you are called by a new name: CHRISTIAN, which means "a follower of Christ." A Christian has a special relationship with God. God is your Heavenly Father and you are His child.

MAKING A COMMITMENT

This wonderful new life in Christ means...

- Our sins are forgiven. And when we do wrong we can pray to God and He will forgive us.
- We belong to Jesus. We are called "Christian," which means "a follower of Christ" or "belonging to Christ."
- We are part of Christ's body - - the church - - the family of God.
- The Holy Spirit lives within us to help us and to guide us.
- We will live for Jesus and tell others about Him and His wonderful love.
- We are promised eternal life in Heaven.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

Write a short paragraph describing how you think this decision will affect your everyday life.

SOME IMPORTANT WORDS

Write a definition for these two words. Use a dictionary or a web search if you need to:

Savior: _____

Lord: _____

Everyone wants a savior! No one wants to be lost. But it is much harder to have someone be your Lord. That means they are in charge of your life. When you become part of God's family, you are asking Jesus to be your Savior and your Lord. He will be in charge of your life. You are no longer the boss — Jesus is. It is a very important commitment. Are you ready to let Jesus be in charge of your life?

Being part of a family requires a commitment and certain responsibilities. Write down the responsibilities you have in life.

There are certain responsibilities when you are part of God's family too. Some of them are

1. Reading your Bible daily.
2. Talking to God each day in prayer.
3. Worshiping God in church regularly.
4. Telling others about Jesus.
5. Serving others.

Write down a plan of how you will do each of these things when you become a Christian. Perhaps you are doing them already. Great! If not, tell how you will make time to do each one.

Reading your Bible: _____

Praying: _____

Worshiping God: _____

Telling others: _____

Serving: _____

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR STUDENT PASTOR WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS BOOKLET

Contact CCStudentsDecision@Christs.Church (Note the campus you attend)

QUESTIONS?

Do you still have questions about becoming part of God's family?

If you would like more information about our Students program, please let us know.

We'll be happy to assist you by answering any questions you may have. Contact

CCStudentsDecision@Christs.Church



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www.Christs.Church