



BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

INTRODUCTION

We love kids at Venture Church! One of our prayers is to be used by God to guide kids in making life's most important decision - inviting Jesus Christ to be the leader of their lives. You are probably reading this booklet because you are ready to make that decision, and we can't wait to celebrate that with you! Giving your life to Christ is the first step in an exciting day-by-day and lifelong journey with Him. This booklet will help you as you begin this new walk. You will learn more about the importance of baptism, what it looks like to be a church partner, and the meaning of the Lord's supper.

The Bible, through many different verses, reveals the freedom that comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship begins by believing that God sent his only Son, Jesus, and that everyone who believes in and follows Jesus will live with Him in heaven forever.

Jesus left the glory and perfection of heaven to come to earth, with all of its brokenness and limitations, to live a life completely obedient to God. During his life on earth, Jesus lived without doing anything wrong! He died on a cross, and on the third day after His death, raised Himself back to life. What a miraculous story!

Why would God do such a crazy, amazing thing? The answer is one simple word - love! God loves ALL the people of the world, and He loves us so much that He wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. But, heaven is a perfect place where no one who is disobedient to God (sinful) can live. That is a problem because we are ALL disobedient. This is why Jesus came to earth - because of our sin. When He came to earth, He took the punishment that we deserved for our sin. In other words, He rescued us from punishment! When we choose to believe what Jesus did for us and accept His gift, God no longer sees our sin - it is permanently removed! God wants everyone to make this choice.

There is no greater joy that can be experienced than being rescued from our own failures. We want that for you and are thrilled to lead you on your journey to daily know, love and follow Jesus Christ!

Now, grab your Bible and let's read about this exciting and important decision to follow Jesus with your life!

OUR PROBLEM, GOD'S SOLUTION

THE GOOD NEWS PSALM 139:16

God has an awesome plan for your life. He has planned only the best for you. He loves you more than anyone else loves you.

THE BAD NEWS ROMANS 3:23

Sin keeps you from having the awesome life God has planned for you.

WHAT IS SIN? JAMES 4:17, 1 JOHN 5:17-18

- Sin is disobeying God.
- Sin is breaking God's law.
- Sin is wanting your way instead of God's way.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF SIN? ROMANS 6:23

- Sin separates you from God.
- Sin keeps you from going to heaven.
- Sin deserves to be punished.

THE BEST NEWS JOHN 3:16

God provided the solution to our sin problem: Jesus!

WHO IS JESUS? LUKE 2:52, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21, 1 PETER 3:18, MARK 16:6, JOHN 14:6

- Jesus is God's only Son.
- He was born on earth and grew up to become a man.
- Jesus did not sin - EVER.
- He is also God.
- Jesus willingly died on a cross for your sin.
- Jesus rescued you from having to die for your own sin.
- Jesus received the punishment for your sin.
- Jesus miraculously rose from the grave and death.
- Jesus lives in heaven.
- Jesus is the only way to be close to God.

Jesus saves us from the punishment our sin deserves, so we call Jesus our "Savior."



HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

God loves you and He has an amazing plan for your life, but you have sinned against God - we ALL have. No one is perfect, not even you! To discover God's best plan for your life, you must ask His forgiveness for your sins. You must also choose to know, love and follow Jesus Christ to receive God's free gift of forgiveness and become one of God's children.

Read John 3:16

1. How does God feel about you?

2. What did God do to show His love for you?

3. Why did God give His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross?

4. What must you do to have eternal life?

Read Romans 3:23

In your own words, say why you need to become a Christian.

Read 1 John 3:4

What is sin?

Read Romans 6:23

What is the punishment for sin?

How do you feel when you think about your own sins against God?

Read Romans 5:8

Who died in our place?

When you truly believe in Jesus, your life will be changed by your belief and will reflect what's in your heart. What does that look like? It looks like loving, trusting, obeying, and serving Him.

LET'S REVIEW

- God loves me.
- God showed His love to me by sending His Son.
- God gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross so I could be saved from being punished for my sin.
- I must accept Jesus as my savior to have eternal life.
- To discover the life God wants for me and to live eternally in heaven with Him, I need to become a Christian because I have sinned.
- Sin is disobeying God.
- The punishment for sin is death.
- I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- Jesus Christ died for us.

THE ABC'S OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

If you want Jesus to be your savior, you must become a Christian - that means that you must be a “follower” of Jesus Christ. Making this decision can be explained in three simple steps.

ADMIT PSALM 32:5

- You must admit that you are a sinner.
- You must be sorry for your sin and want to change.

BELIEVE JOHN 3:36

- You must believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that he died for your sins.

CONFESS JOHN 11:40

- You must confess that you want Jesus to be your Lord - that means He becomes the “boss” of your life and that you will daily strive to know, love and follow Him.

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Romans 10:9-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” **Ephesians 2:8**

PRAYER

Jeremiah 29:12, 1 John 5:15

Prayer is talking with God. Your prayer to become a Christian might sound like this:

“Dear God, I know that I have sinned. I am sorry for my sin, and I want to be more like you. I know that you love me, and I believe that Jesus died for me to take the punishment for my sin so that I could be forgiven. Come into my life, Lord Jesus, and show me how to live for you every day. Thank you for answering my prayers. Amen.”

- I have already prayed this prayer.
- I would like to pray this prayer.
- I still have questions about becoming a Christian.

BAPTISM

We believe that baptism is an act of obedience commanded by Jesus in scripture, and also, we believe it is an outward expression of an inner change. In other words, baptism is an outward action that shows others that a change has happened inside of you. Have you made the choice to believe in Jesus Christ; have you asked God to forgive your sins; and have you asked Jesus to be the leader of your life? If so, you have chosen a life dedicated to knowing, loving and following Jesus and should be baptized to let others know!

Read Matthew 3:11, Matthew 3:13-17

1. How are we to be baptized?

2. Was Jesus baptized?

3. Where was Jesus baptized?

4. Who said we should be baptized?

Read Matthew 28:18-19

In whose names' are we baptized?

F

S

H

Read Romans 6:1-5

Baptism reminds us of the

D

B

R

of Jesus.

Read John 14:6, Romans 3:24-26, Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Ephesians 2:8-9

Does baptism take your sin away?

Are you a Christian if you are not baptized? Why?

LET'S REVIEW

- We are to be baptized by immersion (lowered completely into the water).
- Jesus was baptized.
- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River.
- Jesus told every Christian to be baptized.
- We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Baptism reminds us of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- Baptism does not take your sin away. Only Jesus can do that!
- You can be a Christian (a follower of Jesus) without being baptized.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Before Jesus died on the cross, he told his followers to remember his death by taking the Lord's Supper.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

- When we participate in the Lord's Supper, what does Jesus want us to remember?

Read Matthew 26:26-28

1. What are the two parts of the Lord's Supper?
 - a. The _____ represents Jesus' body.
 - b. The _____ represents Jesus' blood.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:26

1. How long does the Lord tell us we are to keep participating in the Lord's Supper?

2. What do we show when we participate in the Lord's Supper?

NOTES

LET'S REVIEW

- When we take the Lord's Supper, we are to remember that Christ died for us.
- The bread and the cup are the two parts of the Lord's Supper.
- The bread represents Jesus' body.
- The cup represents Jesus' blood.
- We should keep observing the Lord's Supper until Jesus comes again.
- When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we show that we believe Jesus died for our sins.
- The Lord's Supper is something we do with other Christians to remember what Jesus did for us.
- We should be a Christian before we take the Lord's Supper.

GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

Accepting Christ as your savior and then being baptized is not the end of the Christian life, it is only the beginning. You are to grow each day to be more like Jesus. You will find real happiness as you grow stronger and wiser in your faith.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 119:11

- Why should we read the Bible every day?
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Read Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

- Prayer is talking to God. How often should you pray?
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Read Matthew 18:18-20 and Acts 1:8

- We should *invite* our friends to church *with intention* and tell them about the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - Who is someone you can tell about how Christ has saved you from your sin?
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Read Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 18:20, Colossians 3:16

- When we invest in community, we grow stronger in our relationship with God. Why is going to church so important?
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Read Galatians 5:13, 1 Samuel 12:24, Romans 12:11, Matthew 23:11, 1 Peter 4:10

- When we become a Christian, we are to show God's love to other people when we *impress* (His love into their lives) *through serving* them. That simply means we serve other people by putting their needs above our own.
 - List a few ways you can serve other people in your life.
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Read Proverbs 3:9, Deuteronomy 14:22 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

God calls us to be a part of spreading the Good News and *ignite by giving* so that others can hear about Jesus. How much should you give? Why is it important to give?

Read Philippians 4:13 and Galatians 2:20

God wants us to live a holy, Christ-like life. It's not always easy, but God will give us the _____ to live a Christian life.

LET'S REVIEW

- Reading the Bible helps me grow as a Christian.
- I should pray without ceasing—that means at all times.
- Invite with Intention: I am to tell others what Christ means to me.
- Invest in Community: As we worship together at church, we grow in our relationship with others and God.
- Impress through Serving: We help each other and show others the love of Jesus.
- Ignite by Giving: As God gives me money, I am to give my tithe (1/10) to support God's work.
- Christ gives me the power to live the Christian life.

NOTES



HOW I BECAME A CHRISTIAN

My thoughts:

Questions I still have:

I want to know more about:

I love Jesus because:

Write a paragraph telling how and when you became a Christian. What led you to make this decision? Who did you talk with? How did you feel after you made this decision?



I became a Christian on _____ (date)

I was baptized on _____ (date)

_____ (Signed)

I have told these people about what Jesus did for me:

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When you have completed this booklet, have an adult contact us at kids@venturechurch.org to set up a meeting to review this booklet.

WORDS TO KNOW

Savior - A special name for Jesus because he rescues (or saves) us from the punishment our sin deserves.

Christian - someone who follows Jesus by daily committing to know, love and follow Him.

Sin - Disobeying God, breaking God's law, wanting your way instead of God's way.

Eternal Life - to live forever in Heaven with Jesus.



We love and care for families! If there is any way we can assist your child in their decision to know, love and follow Jesus, please email us at [*kids@venturechurch.org*](mailto:kids@venturechurch.org) or call **601-544-0100** to schedule a meeting with one of our kid's ministry team members.

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