GUIDED BIBLE STUDY · 6 SESSIONS

First Steps

Just said yes to Jesus, or want to go back to the basics? Six sessions on what happened when you believed and how to grow from here. Great for one-on-one or a small group.

1

Sure of your salvation

1 John 5:9-15

Many new believers wonder, "Did it really happen? Am I really saved?" John wrote this letter so that we could know, not just hope. Our confidence doesn't rest on our feelings, which come and go, but on what God has said about His Son.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. According to verses 11-12, where is eternal life found? What does it mean to "have the Son"?
2. Why do you think John says "know" (verse 13) instead of "hope" or "feel"?
3. What are some feelings or doubts that make people unsure of their salvation?
4. How can God's promise in these verses answer those doubts?

LIVE IT

Write verse 13 on a card and keep it where you'll see it every day this week.

PRAY

Thank God that eternal life is His gift in Jesus, and ask Him to settle your heart on His promise.

2 Saved by grace

Ephesians 2:1-10

Paul describes who we were without Christ and what God did out of His great love. Salvation isn't a reward for good people; it is a gift for people who could never earn it. And that gift changes how we live.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How does Paul describe life before Christ in verses 1-3?
2. What two words in verse 4 turn the story around? What did God do (verses 5-6)?
3. Verses 8-9 say we are saved by grace through faith, not by works. Why does that matter so much?
4. If good works can't save us, where do they fit in (verse 10)?

LIVE IT

Tell one person this week, in a sentence or two, what God has done for you.

PRAY

Thank God for His mercy and grace, and ask Him to show you the good works He has prepared for you.

3 Talking with God

Matthew 6:5-15

Prayer is simply talking with God, and Jesus taught His followers how. He warns against praying to impress people and gives a pattern that covers worship, God's will, our daily needs, forgiveness and protection.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What two wrong ways of praying does Jesus warn about (verses 5-8)?
2. Go through the Lord's Prayer line by line. What does each part ask for?
3. Why do you think Jesus links our forgiveness of others to prayer (verses 14-15)?
4. What makes prayer hard for you? What could help?

LIVE IT

Set a time and a place to pray for five minutes every day this week, using the Lord's Prayer as your guide.

PRAY

Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly, in your own words.

4 Living on the Word

Psalm 119:9-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

God speaks to us through the Bible. The psalmist treasured God's Word and Paul reminded Timothy that all Scripture is breathed out by God. Reading it daily is how we grow, find direction and stay on the right path.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. According to Psalm 119:9-11, how does God's Word keep us from sin?
2. What words in Psalm 119:14-16 show how the writer felt about God's Word?
3. What four things is Scripture useful for (2 Timothy 3:16)? What is the goal (verse 17)?
4. What would help you read the Bible regularly?

LIVE IT

Start a reading plan on the Plans tab, like the Gospels in 30 Days.

PRAY

Ask God to give you a hunger for His Word and understanding as you read.

5 The Holy Spirit in you

John 14:15-27

Before He went to the cross, Jesus promised His disciples they would not be left alone. Every believer receives the Holy Spirit, who lives in us, teaches us, reminds us of Jesus' words and gives us His peace.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What names and descriptions does Jesus give the Holy Spirit in this passage?
2. Where does the Spirit live (verse 17)? What difference does that make?
3. What does the Spirit do for us (verse 26)?
4. How is the peace Jesus gives different from the peace the world gives (verse 27)?

LIVE IT

When you feel anxious this week, stop and remember that the Spirit of God lives in you. Read verse 27 again.

PRAY

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and ask Him to fill you and lead you.

6 You belong to a family

Acts 2:36-47; Hebrews 10:24-25

On the day the church began, three thousand people believed, were baptized and devoted themselves to God and to one another. Following Jesus was never meant to be done alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did Peter tell the people to do (Acts 2:38)? Why is baptism important?
2. List the four things the first believers devoted themselves to (verse 42).
3. What stands out to you about how they treated each other (verses 44-47)?
4. Hebrews 10:24-25 says not to give up meeting together. What keeps people from church, and why does it matter?

LIVE IT

If you don't have a church yet, visit one this Sunday. If you haven't been baptized, talk to a pastor about it.

PRAY

Thank God for His family, and ask Him to lead you to a church where you can grow and serve.