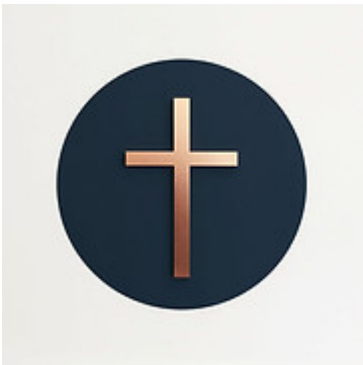


Welcome to the Family – A Starter Guide for New Christians

A gentle, practical companion for beginning a life of faith with Jesus. You do not need to have everything figured out to take your next step.



Welcome

We are so glad you have chosen to follow Jesus. This is the beginning of a new relationship with God, and you are welcome to grow one step at a time, with questions, hope, and help along the way.

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THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

A faith centred on Jesus

Christianity begins with who Jesus is and what God has done through him. These foundations are not a test you have to pass. They are a starting point for discovering God's love and learning to trust him.

What is Christianity?

Christianity is the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. Christians believe that God made us, loves us, and invites us to know him through Jesus. The Bible tells the story of God's work in the world and helps us understand his character, his promises, and the way of life he offers.

Following Jesus is more than adopting a set of rules or joining a group. It is a relationship with God: receiving his love, learning to trust him, and letting his teaching shape the way we live. Christians gather and serve together, but faith is personal too. You can speak honestly with God and bring him your real questions.

The Bible is central to this journey. You do not need to understand every passage straight away. Read with patience, notice what a passage shows about God, and ask trusted Christians when something is difficult to understand.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God. Christians believe he is fully divine and fully human: God come near, who lived a real human life among us. In the Gospel accounts, we see his compassion, his courage, and his care for people who were overlooked or hurting.

Jesus came to earth to reveal God's love and bring people back to God. He died on the cross for our sins, taking the weight of what separates us from God, and he rose again. Christians trust that his death and resurrection open the way to forgiveness, new life, and lasting hope.

You can get to know Jesus by reading one of the Gospels, especially John, and by talking with God about what you are learning. Faith grows as you discover his words and see how his love meets everyday life.

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SIMPLE PRACTICES FOR THE DAYS AHEAD

Begin with small steps

A steady rhythm can help faith take root. Start with a little time, keep it simple, and let these practices become part of your life gradually.

How to start reading the Bible

Start with the Gospel of John, which introduces Jesus and invites readers to believe in him. Read a short passage each day rather than trying to cover a lot at once. A few thoughtful minutes can be more helpful than rushing through several chapters.

Choose a modern translation you can follow, such as the NIV or ESV. Before reading, ask God to help you understand. Afterwards, consider: What does this passage show me about God? What might it mean for my life today? It is fine to pause, reread, and write down questions to discuss with someone you trust.

How to pray

Prayer is simply talking with God. You can thank him, ask for help, share what is troubling you, or sit quietly with him. There are no perfect words you need to find. Speak honestly, as you are, and trust that God listens.

If you would like a simple place to begin, try the separate resource [Beginner's Guide to Prayer](#). It offers gentle prompts and practical ideas for building a prayer rhythm that feels natural to you.

Finding a church

Christian faith is personal, but it is not meant to be lived alone. A church community can help you learn from the Bible, worship with others, receive encouragement, and find people to walk alongside you as you grow.

You might visit a few local churches, look at their websites, or ask a Christian you trust for a recommendation. Look for a church that preaches the Bible, points people to Jesus, welcomes honest questions, and treats others with care. It is all right to take time, and you can ask a pastor or church leader what to expect before visiting.

Keep going, one day at a time

There will be days when faith feels easy and days when you have more questions than answers. You are not expected to grow all at once. Philippians 1:6 offers this promise: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” Keep turning towards Jesus, receive help from others, and remember that God is patient with you.

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