

NOW GROW!

7 Key Questions for
New Believers

d dare 2 share



START HERE!

Whether you've just recently put your faith and trust in Jesus or you've been a believer for a while now, God wants you to grow in your understanding of Him. Just like in any human relationship, getting to know someone better helps your relationship grow deeper and stronger. The same is true for your relationship with God. Getting to know Him better will launch you on an exciting journey—and you'll discover how much God loves you and values you. You'll get to see that doing life with God is a better way to do life! And learning to walk more closely with God through the ups and downs of life is what *Now Grow!* is all about.

You can explore God's Word (The Bible) in the following pages by yourself, with a friend or in a small group. You can approach these seven key questions for new believers over seven days, seven weeks or anything in between. All you need is a pen and an open heart as you set out on this adventure of discovering God's great promises and purposes for you.

You'll be exploring the answers to seven questions in *Now Grow!* by reading what God's Word says. There are plenty of Bible verses for you to read and think about. God wants you to grow deeper and deeper in your relationship with Him and He has provided His Word in order to help you do just that!

But before you launch off on this new journey, let's make sure you're starting with a clear understanding of Jesus' gospel message. The word gospel means "good news", and we explain it as "Life in 6 Words": God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

- G**od created us to be with Him.
Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his (Psalm 100:3a).
- O**ur sins separate us from God.
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23).
- S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds.
All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6a).
- P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
- E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
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).
- L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.
Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3).

The moment you trust in Jesus, you enter into an unbreakable relationship with God. Your life will never be the same. Both now and for all eternity.

And once you've begun this new relationship with Jesus, it's time to grow!

1 DOES GOD REALLY LOVE ME AND FORGIVE ME?

Does God **really** love me? If you've ever wondered about this, you're not alone. That's why God provided us with the Bible—His love letter to us! So dig in and take a look at what God has to say on the subject.

GOD'S WORD SAYS *For God loved the world so much that 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).*

How did God show His love?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins (1 John 4:9-10, NLT).*

Why did God send His Son?

THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus chose death over living life without you! How does this make you feel?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God (Ephesians 3:16-19, NLT).

THINK ABOUT IT

Write in your own words what you think God is saying to you.

God loves you so much! And He demonstrated it by drawing you to Himself through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection.

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12, NLT).

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering (Romans 8:15-17, NLT).

What kind of relationship do you have with God now that you've put your faith and trust in Jesus as your only hope of salvation?

You've learned that the Bible makes it clear that God loves you! But does he forgive you?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2:13-14, NLT).



**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:11-12, NLT).



What happened to your sins once you trusted in Jesus?



**KEY
VERSE**

This means that 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. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19, NLT).



What is this saying about your new life in Christ?



So God loves you and forgives you, but is this forever and unchanging?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand (John 10:27-29, NLT).*



What does this say about Jesus?



What does it say about the sheep?



Who can snatch you away from God?



GOD'S WORD SAYS *And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-13, NLT).*



List everything this passage says about eternal life.



Who can know that they have eternal life?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?* (Romans 6:1-2, NLT).



GOD'S WORD SAYS *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life* (John 10:10, NLT).



What kind of life does Jesus want for us?



2

WHAT DOES JESUS REALLY WANT FROM ME?

If you've put your faith and trust in Jesus as your only hope for a restored relationship with God both here and now and forever after, the Bible says that you've been *"called out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9)."* You've been changed!

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir (Galatians 4:7, NLT).*

Circle the three things this verse says about you now that you've put your trust in Jesus.

KEY VERSE

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT).

What do these verses say about your salvation?

THINK ABOUT IT

How would you feel if someone gave you an immense gift—like a million dollars?

How do you feel knowing God has given you the immense gifts of salvation and a never-ending life with Him, and has also made you His child and heir?



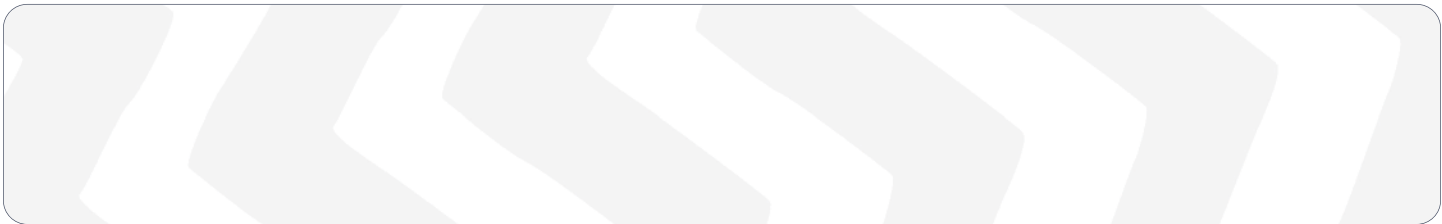
As a result of this free gift of salvation, you've been changed and called to a new life in Jesus! But what does that new relationship look like? Is it a list of do's and don'ts?
Or is it something more?



GOD'S WORD SAYS *And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him (Ephesians 1:13-14, NLT).*



What did God do to make you His own?



Why did He do this?



**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect (Romans 12:1-2, NLT).

What is the writer (the Apostle Paul), telling believers to do in these verses?

Why should we give ourselves to God?

What begins to happen when you let God transform you into a new person?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

For you are not like that, you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9, NLT).

What has changed now that you belong to God?

So to review, the Bible makes it clear that when you trust in Jesus, you receive the free gift of salvation and eternal life and a new personal relationship with God. And in the midst of this new relationship, God invites you to give yourself to Him, not because you 'have to' but because you 'want to,' out of gratitude. So what does Jesus really want from you?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31, NLT).*

What does Jesus say are the two most important things you need to do as you live for God?



How do you learn to love God and love others? By getting to know God better through talking to Him in prayer, learning from Him through reading His love letter to you—the Bible, and by hanging with other believers who can help you grow in your new relationship with God. You also love God and others when you serve Him and share the news of His free gift of salvation with others who don't know Him.

You'll be learning more about each of these areas in the next 5 lessons, so stay tuned!

What are some other ways you can grow in your faith by loving God and loving others?



3

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

The Bible is filled with truths that describe what God is like.
Let's look at a few of His character traits.

God is ETERNAL

GOD'S WORD SAYS

All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen (1 Timothy 1:17, NLT).

Circle three things this verse tells you about God.

God is ALL POWERFUL

GOD'S WORD SAYS

The Lord is king! He is robed in majesty. Indeed, the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken (Psalm 93:1, NLT).

GOD'S WORD SAYS

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns" (Revelation 19:6, NLT).

Circle three things these verses tell you about God.

THINK ABOUT IT

If God is in control, how should this effect the way you view personal struggles and difficulties?

God is ALL KNOWING

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? (Romans 11:33-34, NLT).*

Based on these verses, should you be surprised if you don't entirely "understand" God and His ways?

Why or why not?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head (Psalm 139:1-5, NLT).*

THINK ABOUT IT

Does God know everything about you? How does that make you feel?

God is EVERYWHERE

GOD'S WORD SAYS

*I can never escape from your Spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night—
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.*

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb
(Psalm 139:7-13, NLT).*

THINK ABOUT IT

Based on these verses, can you ever get away from the presence of God?
How should this effect the way you live your life?

God is TRIUNE

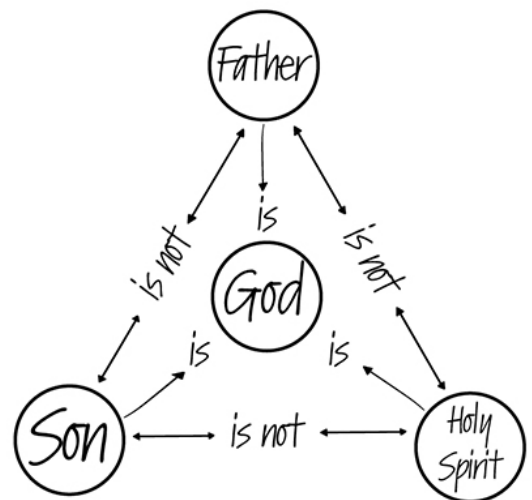
GOD'S WORD SAYS

After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy (Matthew 3:16-17 NLT).

GOD'S WORD SAYS

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the
Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, NLT).*

God is one God, yet He exists in the form of three persons: Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. "Trinity" is the word used to describe the three-part nature of God. Here's a picture that tries to capture this concept.



Each person in the Trinity is distinct from the others, but all are a part of the One True God described in the Bible. Another illustration that is sometimes used to try to describe the Trinity is the concept of – water, which takes 3 different forms (liquid, steam and ice)– but remains one substance, H2O.

But all human illustrations of the triune nature of God fall short. The concept of the Trinity is at its root a mystery to the human mind, so it shouldn't surprise us that the nature of this immense, infinite God is difficult for our puny brains to grasp.

|

God is HOLY

GOD'S WORD SAYS

They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3, NLT).

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God is pure, holy and glorious. Write down something in God's creation that reflects His glory and makes you want to praise Him.

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God is JUST

GOD'S WORD SAYS

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is! (Deuteronomy 32:4, NLT)

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Circle six things this verse tells you about God.

God is LOVE

GOD'S WORD SAYS

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them (1 John 4:16, NLT).

What does this verse say God is?



KEY VERSE

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16, NLT).

How did God show His love for the world?



Because God has demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin, we respond to Him by loving Him and serving Him with everything we have because we're grateful for this free gift He has given us!

4

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE BIBLE?

The Bible is one of God's key means of communicating with humans. It consists of 66 individual books which are divided into the Old Testament (written before Jesus) and the New Testament (written after Jesus). Sometimes people refer to the Bible as Scripture or God's Word.

The 66 smaller books that together make up the Bible were authored by 40 different individuals from 3 different continents over a period of 1500 years, yet they tell a unified story of God's ongoing relationship with humans throughout history. The Bible touches on hundreds of subjects, yet it is entirely consistent in its message and theme.

Scripture tells us that every word of the Bible as originally written was divinely inspired by God Himself – literally "God-breathed."



All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right (2 Timothy 3:16, NLT).

Circle the ways the Bible is designed to help us.



God's Word Says Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God (2 Peter 1:20-21, NLT).

Where does the inspiration for Scripture come from?

The concept here is that the writers of Scripture were being carried along by the Holy Spirit. This is the same word that was used in Bible times to describe a rudderless ship being driven along by a strong wind. In other words, the God-breathed wind of the Holy Spirit guided the minds of the Biblical writers.

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

*The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.*

*They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb
(Psalm 19:7-10, NIV).*

Circle five things this passage says about God's communication with us.

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105, NIV).

What role should God's Word play in your life?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

*The rain and snow come down from the heavens
and stay on the ground to water the earth.
They cause the grain to grow,
producing seed for the farmer
and bread for the hungry.
It is the same with my word.
I send it out, and it always produces fruit.
It will accomplish all I want it to,
and it will prosper everywhere I send it
(Isaiah 55:10-11, NLT).*

What does this verse say about God's Word?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12 NIV).

Circle four things this verse tells you about God's Word.

THINK ABOUT IT

Should it influence your choices and how you live your life? Why?

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (Psalm 119:11, NIV).

What does it mean to have 'hidden' God's Word in your heart?

Why would you want to do this?

The Bible is God's love letter to you and to all of humanity! It tells the sweeping story of His ongoing desire for a relationship with humans and it unveils His loving plan to save us from the mess we've gotten ourselves into.

What's the plotline of this grand, sweeping story that's contained in the Bible? It can be summarized as "Life in 6 Words": God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.

God created us to be with Him.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his (Psalm 100:3a).

Our sins separate us from God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6a).

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

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).

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3).

The Bible tells us that God created us to be with Him and that He longs to have a deep and personal relationship with every person He's ever made. But our sins have gotten in the way of that relationship and have created a separation between us and God. So God has made a way for our relationship with Him to be restored, and He did that by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sin. If we put our trust in Jesus as our only hope, our sins will be forgiven and our relationship with God will be restored and we will receive the free gift of eternal life—life that starts now with a restored relationship with God and lasts forever!

Spending time in God's Word will help you live a life that is God-centered. You'll get to know Him better and learn how to do life a better way – His way! The Book of John is a great place to start your Bible reading because it describes Jesus and His message in a clear, powerful way.

5

WHAT IS PRAYER AND HOW DO I DO IT?

Prayer is simply talking to God. He has given us the tremendous privilege of coming directly before His throne and talking to Him like a child talks to a parent. He is the infinite, almighty God of the universe, yet He longs to connect with His children and loves to hear from you!

One day Jesus' followers asked Him to teach them how to pray.
So let's take a look at what He told them.



KEY VERSE

This, then, is how you should pray:

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one"
(Matthew 6:9-13, NIV).*

Overall, there are basically four components to this prayer: Praise, Request, Admit, and Yield.
Let's take a closer look, line by line.

Reread Matthew 6:9-10.

What does the way Jesus started this prayer off say about your relationship with God?

After opening His prayer, Jesus moves directly into praise, showing you how important it is praise God and acknowledge that He is holy and above you. The next couple lines of Jesus' prayer are about acknowledging God's ability to set things right in the world.

THINK ABOUT IT

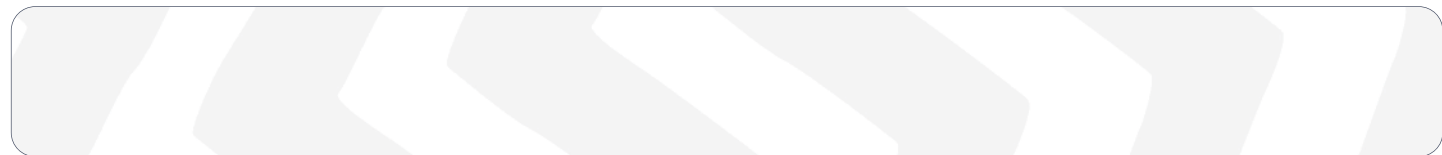
How does praising God for His holiness and His power change your perspective on things?
Does it have the effect of helping you remember that God is God and you are not?
Why do you think that?

Reread Matthew 6:11.

Next, Jesus prays about daily physical needs like food. God wants you to bring your requests to him when we pray. This can mean intercession (requests on behalf of someone else) or supplication (requests for "supplies" for ourselves).

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you think God will always give you what you ask for? Why or why not?



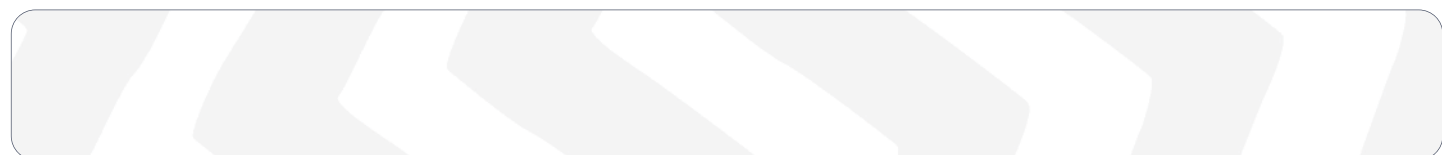
It's true that God always answers prayers. Sometimes He answers "Yes" to our requests, but sometimes He answers "No" because He knows what's best for us. And sometimes He answers "Wait, not right now, but be patient and keep praying."

Reread Matthew 6:12.

Forgiveness is a big deal with God because it lies at the very center of the Christian message – Jesus sacrificing His life so sins could be forgiven. God wants us to admit when we mess up (confession) and ask Him to forgive us of our sins. And we should also forgive others. Jesus is saying here that when you come to the Father for forgiveness, come with an attitude of forgiveness.

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you think asking God for forgiveness is easy or difficult? Why do you think that?



Reread Matthew 6:13.

Jesus' prayer acknowledges the need for God's help in dealing with temptation and the evil one. It's not that God is planning on leading us into tempting situations. It's more like this: "Lord, when I desire to sin, keep me from the opportunity; when I have the opportunity to sin, keep me from the desire." This is where we yield to God, surrendering ourselves to follow His lead in our lives to victory over Satan's attacks.

THINK ABOUT IT

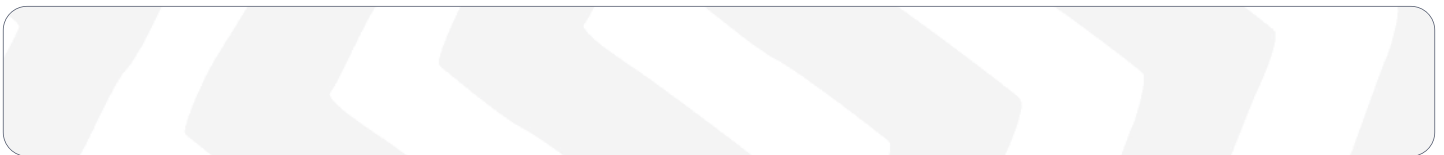
How might praying about temptation help you stay close to God?



Lastly, Jesus closes His prayer with another round of praise, focusing on God's power and glory.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Jesus revisits this at the end?



To summarize: Praise, request, admit, and yield. Here's a simple acrostic to remind you of these four basic talking points with your heavenly Father:

Praise (worshipping and praising God for who He is and what He has done)

Rquest (interceding for others; asking God for what we want or need)

Admit (confessing our sin to God and accepting His forgiveness)

Yield (surrendering ourselves to follow God's lead in our lives)

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).*

Take a few minutes and write out a prayer to God.

Dear Father,

6

WHY AM I SUPPOSED TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS?

The Bible makes it clear that you're not supposed to do this new life in Christ thing alone. This is not a solo deal, where you pull yourself up by your bootstraps and try to figure it out by yourself. God is relational and He created you to be in relationship too - with Him, and also with others. "Fellowship" is the word many Christians use for spending time with others who are following Jesus.

The Bible tells us that Christians should spend time together because we're all part of the "body of Christ."

GOD'S WORD SAYS

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 27, NIV).

What kind of diversity do you see reflected in the body of Christ?

**Will everyone come from the same kind of background?
Does everyone have the same role to play? Is every role important?**

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Ephesians 4:15-16, NIV).

THINK ABOUT IT

Why is it important that every believer is plugged in with other believers?

So in summary, each follower of Jesus has a critically important role to play in keeping the body of Christ healthy, growing and full of love. If you're missing in action, it's not just you that misses out; you're depleting the strength and vibrancy of Jesus' church and its ability to accomplish its mission in the world.

But what actually happens when believers gather together in fellowship?
Dig into the following verses and see what you can learn.

**GOD'S
WORD
SAYS**

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, NIV).*

THINK ABOUT IT

What are some of the benefits to you personally when you spend time with other believers?

GOD'S WORD SAYS

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's (Romans 1:11-12, NIV).

GOD'S WORD SAYS

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV).

What benefits of fellowship are laid out in these verses?

KEY VERSE

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35, NIV).

When believers love each other, what impact can it have on those who don't know Jesus?

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others* (Philippians 2:1-4, NIV).

Circle the things these verses tell you to do when you hang with other Christians.

Name the things these verses tell you to avoid.



GOD'S WORD SAYS *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer* (Acts 2:42, NIV).

GOD'S WORD SAYS *Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts* (Colossians 3:16, NLT).

Circle three activities these verses encourage when Christians get together.

Doing life with Jesus is designed to be done in relationship with other believers. It will help both you and others. When you're not plugged in and hanging with other Christians, an important piece of the body is missing!

7

HOW DO I LIVE OUT THE CAUSE OF JESUS AND MAKE DISCIPLES?

We live in a cause-focused world. Go Green! No More Bullies! Many of these causes are good and worthy of our time, but there's one cause that should rise to the top, demanding your attention, passion and action. This one overarching cause is THE Cause of causes – THE Cause of Christ – to make disciples who make disciples.

GOD'S WORD SAYS

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10, NIV).

Why did Jesus come?

GOD'S WORD SAYS

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:11-13, NIV).

THINK ABOUT IT

Why is it so important that we share Jesus' message of salvation with those who don't know Him?

KEY VERSE

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).

What is THE Cause Jesus has called you to?

Did you know that a friend has one hundred times more influence on another friend than a stranger does? You can do more to impact your friends for Jesus than any stranger ever could, by reaching into their lives with His love and His gospel message. The Christian word for this is “evangelism.”

GOD'S WORD SAYS

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19, NIV).

THINK ABOUT IT

What task and message has God given you?



This interactive, engaging, faith-sharing tool provides you with a bridge for naturally initiating spiritual conversations. You can share the GOSPEL in-person or by recording and sending an audio story!

Get the **Life in 6 Words** app on iTunes or Google Play.

THE CAUSE CIRCLE

THE Cause Circle is a simple tool that will help you be more intentional about sharing Jesus' message with your friends. It's built around three simple priorities that Jesus lived out during His earthly ministry. These same priorities will help you effectively share your faith: Prayer. Care. Share.

THE CAUSE CIRCLE



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

PRAYER. It all starts with prayer! Jesus often took time away so He could be alone with His Father in prayer. He knew how important it was to talk to God about people, before He talked to people about God...and the same is true for us. When we start by praying for the people we are seeking to reach with the gospel, it prepares their hearts to hear the good news of Jesus.

CARE. Jesus also modeled how important it is to care for people's needs. Jesus often healed the sick, fed the hungry and helped the hurting. He cared for the whole person, not just their spiritual needs. In the same way, we must love those we are trying to reach. We do this by listening to them and caring for them. They are not projects, they're people!

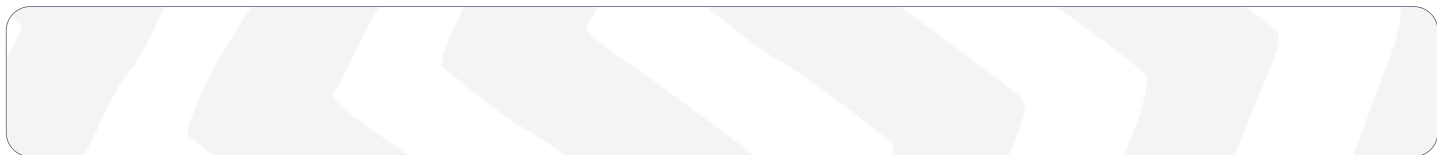
SHARE. After prayer and care, we must lovingly share the gospel message clearly and confidently. When we invite someone to put their faith in Christ, we are inviting them to make the biggest and best decision of their entire lives. A restored relationship with God is the absolute best news on the planet, so don't be afraid to ask them to put their trust in Jesus!

If they say “no” or “not now,” continue the Prayer, Care, Share process. And if they say “yes,” celebrate! Then get them plugged into a good church, help them grow deeper in the faith and challenge them to begin their own Cause Circle of Prayer, Care, Share with their own friends.



THINK ABOUT IT

Think back,... who prayed for, cared for and shared the gospel with you?

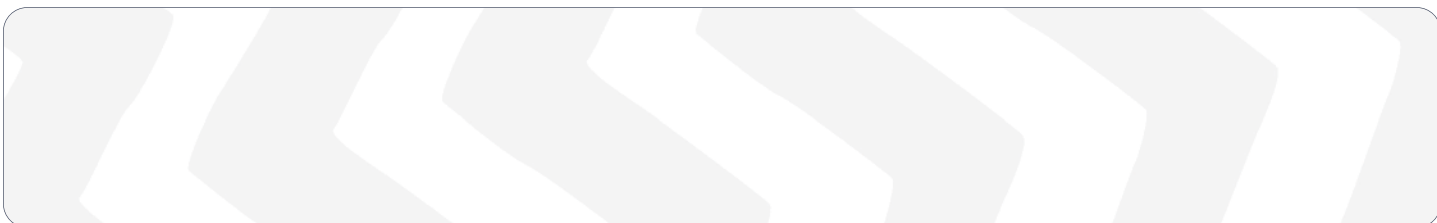


GOD'S WORD SAYS *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God (2 Timothy 1:7-8, NIV).*

Circle the three things God has given us.



Why has He given us these things?



THE CAUSE CIRCLE

Who is God prompting you to **Pray** for, **Care** for, and **Share** the gospel with?
Write their names on the lines below.



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You can also add names to your Cause Circle digitally on the Life in 6 Words app! Fill out your Cause Circle, set daily prayer reminders, and create/join a faith-sharing group on the app and commit to THE Cause together!

Prayer. Care. Share. Start today! And when your friends become followers of Jesus, invite them to commit to THE Cause of making disciples who make disciples as well, so they are praying for, caring for and sharing with their friends too! Then the message of the gospel will be carried on and on and multiplied out in life after life! Rock your world for Jesus!

WHAT'S NEXT?

We're so glad you've taken the journey through Now Grow! We pray that you continue to process the things you've learned and put them into action in your daily life. We also invite you to share this resource with another believer, even walk through it with them, to help them grow in their relationship with God as well.

Whether you're a new believer in Jesus, or just want to continue to strengthen the foundation of your faith in God, we encourage you to check out the [6 Words That Will Change Your Life](#) devotional on YouVersion.



KEEP GOING AND GROWING!