

NEW BELIEVERS GUIDE



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**Making it easy for
people to follow God**

Can you believe we get to do this?

Congratulations

**We exist to change lives
for Christ, one life at a time**

Followers of the Red Text



**ABOUT.
EVERY.
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You've said "**I HAVE DECIDED**" to follow Jesus. You just made the most important decision of your life. In fact, your life will never be the same again.

Following Jesus is a journey – one that will continue for all eternity. You will grow and mature in your personal relationship with him, but that doesn't mean you're on the journey alone. It is within the context of community that freedom takes place. The people you surround yourself with will either bring you closer to Jesus or distract you from the purpose he has for your life.

THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO BE A RESOURCE FOR YOU TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT STEPS OF YOUR JOURNEY.



ABOUT.
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ONE.

Gift

Freedom

What is Salvation?

Eternity

Relationship with the Father



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WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation is a gift from God. You are saved from the eternal consequences of your sin and given eternal life. Salvation is about what God has already done for you – not what you can do for Him.

HOW AM I SAVED?

Ephesians 2:8 says, **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."**

You have been saved by the grace of Jesus through faith; not because of anything you have done but rather, because of what he did for you when he died on the cross and rose again.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BE SAVED?

Romans 10:9 says, **"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."**

Salvation is when you turn away from sin, repent, and believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. You don't have to work for salvation, you can simply believe for salvation.

(References: Romans 3:20, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:13)



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*Why follow
Jesus?*

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WHY IS FOLLOWING JESUS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION I'LL EVER MAKE?

Surrendering your life to Jesus is the greatest decision you can ever make. Through Jesus, you are given a living hope (1 Peter 1:3-6). Your sin is forgiven and your relationship with God has been restored.

Salvation begins the process we call sanctification. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."**

This means that your former way of life has ended and a new life with Jesus has begun. No longer are you bound to past mistakes and failures; you now live in the freedom that Jesus brings.

Finally, making Jesus Lord of your life gives you direct access to God the Father. According to John 14:6, **"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"**

Jesus is, in fact, the only way to the Father and the only way to receive salvation. Accepting him gives you access to everything that God has for you.



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AS YOU START TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SALVATION IS, YOU WILL LIKELY BE LED TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS.

1. Why is there sin in the first place?
2. Why did Jesus need to die for my sins?
3. Why do I accept the gift rather than earn it?

In order to gain a deeper understanding of God's plan, not just for your life, but for all of humanity, you have to become a student of His Word.

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither — whatever they do prospers."

Psalms 1:1-3

The Bible is the living word of God. Every part of it is divinely inspired and written. It is how He speaks to us. It tells us His story – and our part within that story.



**ABOUT.
EVERY.
ONE.**

Direction

Guidance

What is God's Word?

Peace in troubled times

Wisdom for life



**ABOUT.
EVERY.
ONE.**

THE BIBLE IS FULLY INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD-BREATHED.

The Bible is the word of God, written by faithful men and women chosen by God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While humans were the vessels God used to write down the passages, the truth of the Bible did not come from human understanding or knowledge.

Every part of the Bible is God-breathed. While various writers bring different perspectives, the Bible is inspired by God and reveals his identity, nature, and divine plan for all of humankind.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."
2 Timothy 3:16



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SO LET'S LOOK AT HIS WORD...

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:1

All that you see and all that you can sense was created by God. The very first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives us an account of creation. God spoke all things into existence, including humans.

Scripture tells us that God then placed the first humans, Adam and Eve, into a garden called the Garden of Eden – to work it (Genesis 2:15). These humans were special, set apart from the rest of creation because God breathed his own breath into them and gave them dominion over all living things (Genesis 2:7).

God's intention from the very beginning was for humans to share in his royal position and carry His authority in the world. But He gave us the choice to live according to His wisdom and share in His inheritance or to follow our own wisdom and live according to what we think is best. He gave us free will.

In the Garden of Eden, God placed a tree known as the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree, but rather to trust in His knowledge of good and evil. But, tempted by a serpent (Genesis 3), Adam and Eve took from the tree and ate the fruit, acting in disobedience to God and introducing sin into the world.

They chose to go their own way rather than to walk in God's way.



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*What is
Sin?*

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SIN, BY THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION, IS AN IMMORAL ACT CONSIDERED TO BE A TRANSGRESSION AGAINST DIVINE LAW. BIBLICALLY, SIN IS WHEN A PERSON DOES ANYTHING THAT IS OUT OF LINE WITH THE PERFECT CHARACTER AND DIRECTION OF GOD



**ABOUT.
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WHO IS THE SERPENT?

The serpent in Genesis 3 is the tempter. He convinced Eve to act in opposition to God. This character matches that of a being known as Satan, an opposer of God. Throughout scripture we see Satan and his followers deceive and destroy God's creation. Jesus and his apostles warn us time and time again to resist Satan (also known as the Devil) as to not fall into the same trap as Eve.

(References: 2 Corinthians 11:3 | 1 John 3:8 | John 8:44)

Sin causes a separation between humans and God. God is holy and perfect in every way. When we act out of line with His nature, we create a divide between us and our Creator. Because God so loved the world, He had a plan to save us from our sin.

"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

Throughout the entire Bible, we see this salvation plan in motion. Before Jesus ever entered the world, God made Himself known to people and time and time again revealed His desire to be close to us.

He did this most often through the Israelites, known as His chosen people because it was through them that God intended to show the rest of the world what it looks like to be close to Him. Through them, He would send a savior into the world.

Because of Jesus, God's one and only Son, we now have a way to be rid of our sins and draw close to God. Jesus gave his life once and for all – taking our place and inviting us to live according to the way of his kingdom here on earth.



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*Jesus
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Sin*

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WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE FOR MY SIN?

Romans 6:23 teaches us that **"the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

Every one of us has sinned. The consequence or payment for that sin is death or eternal separation from God. Why? Because God and sin can't coexist – sin goes against His very nature.

Since we have all sinned, we all deserve to be separated from God forever. The wage of death has to be paid. Jesus came to earth to pay that price. He took the punishment we deserve on himself. He was beaten, bruised, nailed to a cross and killed on our behalf.

In doing this, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the one who would suffer on behalf of humanity.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

JESUS PAID IT ALL SO THAT WE CAN HAVE IT ALL. JESUS DIED THE DEATH THAT WE DESERVE SO THAT WE COULD RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.



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HOW DID JESUS OVERCOME SIN?

Jesus came into the world, faced all the same temptations that we do, yet never sinned. His innocence made him worthy to be the perfect sacrifice. If Jesus didn't live a perfect, sinless life, there would be no sacrifice to pay the debt that separated us from God. Because of Jesus' blood that was shed for us, all of our sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven.

But Jesus did not only die on the cross, he conquered death by coming back to life. After three days in the grave, he resurrected from the dead. Jesus defied all the power and logic of death, making a way for you to live eternally.



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WHY DO I ACCEPT THE GIFT RATHER THAN EARN IT?

The truth is, we are saved because of Jesus' actions, not our own. In fact, there is nothing you could ever do to earn your salvation. Even on your best days, you still sin. We needed a perfect savior to die on our behalf and grant us salvation as a gift, because we could never have earned it on our own.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

No matter how often you attend church, how many days you read your Bible, or how nice you are to people, those things will never get you into Heaven. Your salvation is secured because of Jesus and Jesus alone. There is nothing that you could ever do that will make God love you more, and there is nothing that you have ever done that has made God love you any less.

Once you are saved you become a child of God, and when God the Father looks at you He doesn't see your sin or mistakes, He sees Jesus. Because of God's grace you have been saved, and there is no sin that is too much for God to forgive. He has already forgiven all sins because of Jesus.



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Sanctification

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SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the ongoing process of submitting to God's Word and Spirit to complete the development of Christ's character in us. Sanctification is not about perfection, it is about progression. It is the Holy Spirit's continued work in us to become more like him.

God is the one who does the work of making us more like Christ. We participate in that work by continually turning away from sin and demonstrating our faith in Christ by obeying God's commands.



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Next Steps

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BIBLE TIPS

- Schedule your Bible reading time
- Choose a Bible reading plan - Download the You Version Bible App
- Have a reading goal
- Find a quiet place and set aside distractions
- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the scripture

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16-17

PRAYER TIPS

- Talk to God daily
- Be open and honest
- Pray for others as well as yourself
- Find a quiet place
- Be in silence and solitude

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

CHURCH TIPS

- Attend Growth Track
- Serve on a team
- Join a Life Group
- Invite others on the journey

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20



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*Find
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HUMILITY. UNITY. GENEROSITY.

We believe life change happens in the context of relationships. Our Life Groups have one simple purpose: to bring people together. God created us to live in community with others, and it is only then that we can experience the full life He intends for us.

Life Groups provide three things:

1. A place to connect with others.

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Small Groups provide a place for you to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

"Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 TLB

2. A place to support each other.

When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Small Groups become a place where others don't just know your name but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."

1 JOHN 3:16 NLT

3. A place to grow together.

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

PROVERBS 27:17



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HUMILITY. UNITY. GENEROSITY.**Liverpool One Church Life Groups Model**

We want people to gather together based on things they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Small Group! From sports groups to parenting groups to student groups & Bible study groups, our groups are as varied as we are. With so many groups to choose from, we are confident there is a group that is a great fit for you.

We base our Small Groups model on the early church as described in the Bible in the book of Acts. In Acts, you can read about how small group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation for tremendous growth in the first church in Jerusalem.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house."

ACTS 20:20

Liverpool One Church is a church of Small Groups, not a church with Small Groups.



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liverpoolonechurch.com