

01

GET STARTED ON YOUR JOURNEY WITH GOD



First STEPS

PART ONE →

Dear Brothers & Sisters in-Christ,

Welcome to the Hope Church family!

Having a personal relationship with Jesus is the best decision you can ever make for your life. I rejoice with you as you join God's family.

Embarking on this new relationship with Jesus is exciting. I pray that 'First Steps' will help you get started and answer some questions you may have. In this book, you will find 10 short chapters that will help you grow in your understanding of who God is and how much He really loves you.

Keep turning the pages and enjoy your first steps with Jesus!

Blessings,
Jeffrey Chong
Senior Pastor

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How to use this book

This book has 10 sessions and each session is divided into 4 sections as follows:

READ

This section is designed to give you a bite-sized understanding of the Christian faith. You can read and discover how you can respond to God personally.

REFLECT

This section is for you to reflect upon what you have read and discover how you can apply the principles into your life.

RESPOND

This section provides practical steps for you to take.

MEMORY VERSE

Every Christian can testify about the rewards as a result of memorising Bible verses. It is a blessing in good times and a powerful antidote in trials and temptations. This section will include a verse that you can memorise.

Share your story

Your story of how God came into your life is one that cannot be refuted, and one that can inspire many! We encourage you to pen down this journey you have had with God so you can share it to your friends and loved ones. You can also bless us by submitting it via email to stories@hopesingapore.org.sg.

Here's a short story structure you can follow (read Paul's testimony in *Acts 26*):

- What were you like before you came to know Jesus
- How you encountered God / How God became real in your life / How you came to accept Jesus as Your Lord & Saviour / How you came to Christ
- What has changed in your life since then

We look forward to hearing your story!

Feedback

If you have any feedback or suggestions on how we can improve First Steps, please write in to equip@hopesingapore.org.sg. We would love to hear from you.

SESSION 1

Who is Jesus?

Christians are called Christians because they follow Christ. Thus, the question “who is Jesus?” lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

Unlike the question “Does God exist?” very few people question whether Jesus Christ existed. It is generally accepted that Jesus was a man who lived in Israel 2000 years ago. However, different views emerge when the subject of Jesus’ identity is discussed. Most major religions recognize that Jesus was either a prophet, a good teacher or a godly man. On the contrary, the Bible reveals that Jesus Himself claimed to be more than that.



”
He is **God** who came
in *human flesh* to **die**
for the **sins of man** and
subsequently **rose from**
the **dead**.

WHO DID Jesus CLAIM TO BE?

• Jesus claimed to be God Himself

John 10:30-33

³⁰ *I and the Father are one.* ³¹ *Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him,* ³² *but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”* ³³ *“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”*

Imagine if someone came to you and said He’s the Son of God! We would find it ridiculous. In the same way, when Jesus made this claim, He invited opposition and accusations of blasphemy from the Jews. Despite this, He continued in this claim. His description of who He is and what He can do point people to see His divine nature.

• Jesus claimed to be the exact representation of God

John 14:7-9

⁷ *“If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”* ⁸ *Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”* ⁹ *Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.* How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

• **Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins**

Matthew 9:2-6a

² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?

⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?⁶ *But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.*”

• **Jesus claimed to be the only way to God**

John 14:6-7

⁶ Jesus answered, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*”⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

• **Jesus claimed to have power over life and death and the ability to give us a full life**

John 10:10

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

• **Jesus claimed that He would return to judge the world one day**

Matthew 25:31-32

³¹ *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.* ³² *All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

Jesus made these astonishing claims of who He is and what He can do. C.S. Lewis has this to say to critics who deny that Jesus is the Son of God.

“I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus Christ]: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to.”

■■■ C.S. LEWIS IN MERE CHRISTIANITY

To sum it up, a man who would make erroneous claims about himself being God could never be a great moral teacher unless what He claims is entirely true.

Besides Jesus’ self awareness and claims of who He is, what other evidence do we have to validate Jesus’ claims that He is indeed God?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT Jesus?

• It describes how Jesus is divine

Philippians 2:5-6

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, **being in very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.*

Hebrews 1:2-3

² *But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* ³ ***The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

• It recognized Jesus as a Saviour

Even before Jesus came, there were prophecies about Him and what He would do when He would come. It was God's plan all along to send His Son Jesus to redeem humanity from our sins. The Bible both predicted it and described it coming to pass.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.***

Isaiah 53:4-5

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ 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.

• It gave evidence of Jesus' resurrection

One of the greatest evidence that points to Jesus' divine nature is His resurrection three days after He died on the Cross. After His resurrection, Jesus also appeared to the disciples on multiple occasions.

John 20:18-19

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: *"I have seen the Lord!"* And she told them that he had said these things to her. ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, *Jesus came and stood among them* and said, "Peace be with you!"

Jesus's resurrection means that He had the power to overcome death, a feat unimaginable for a mere mortal. Beyond that, we can be assured that Jesus is alive even today!

• **It highlighted the radical transformation of Jesus's followers**

Imagine if you were one of Jesus' disciples. You saw him being arrested, nailed to the Cross and died, all because of His claims and teachings when He was alive. Naturally, you would hide in fear, wondering if the authorities will come after you next.

This was exactly what happened after Jesus' death on the Cross. His disciples hid, fearing for their lives, uncertain about what would happen to them next. However, after encountering the risen Christ, these very disciples became utterly convinced that He was indeed who He said he was – the Son of God who came in flesh to save the world! It was their personal encounter with the reality of Christ that emboldened them to obey Him in proclaiming the gospel message with courage.

John 20:19

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

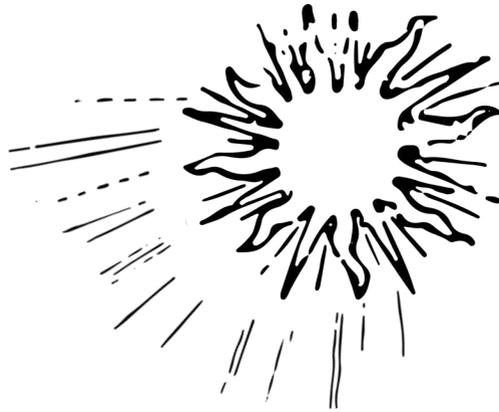
Over the last 2000 years, the message of Christ didn't just remain as a localised message in the nation of Israel. In fact, the gospel message has been carried all over the world, across nationalities, cultures and languages and is regarded as one of the major religions in the world today. Each individual life that professes faith in the risen Christ can testify to an encounter with the true and living God that transformed them.

SO, WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF Jesus?

Jesus was a man who walked on Earth more than 2000 years ago. But He was no mere man. He was not just a good moral teacher who embodied godly character. He is God who came in human flesh to die for the sins of man and subsequently rose from the dead. He is God who loves us so much and desires to have a relationship with us. With an encounter with Jesus, the true and living God, we can find forgiveness of sin, life to the full and eternal life.

John 10:10

¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*



“ He is **God** who loves us so much and *desires to have a relationship with us.* ”



REFLECT

Who do you think
Jesus is?

What other questions
or doubts do you have
about Jesus?



RESPOND

What can you do to
know more about
who Jesus is?



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:6-7

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am
the way and the truth
and the life. No one
comes to the Father
except through me.

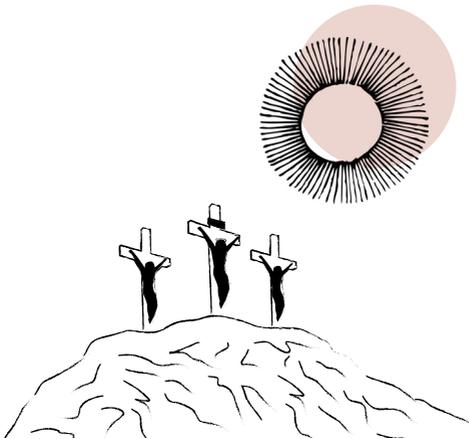
⁷ If you really know me,
you will know my Father
as well. From now on,
you do know him and
have seen him.”

SESSION 2

Why did Jesus have to die?

One of the most well-known Bible verses is found in *John 3:16*, where it says, “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.” God sent His son, Jesus to Earth for the sole purpose of dying on the Cross to save us from our sins.

But why did Jesus have to do that? What was He motivated by?



WHAT IS SIN AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “sin”? Perhaps you may think that it is something bad you did, succumbing to temptation, an immoral act, or a behaviour that society frowns upon. You may also think of Sin as something that is part of you, a character flaw like pride, a difficult temperament or an inclination towards negative thinking. What then does the Bible say about Sin?

• Sin is characterized by a disobedient heart towards God and specific acts of wrongdoing

In the beginning, God created man to relate with Him in a loving and trusting relationship. However, man started to rebel against God and decided that he would rather trust himself than in God who created him and the world around him. Man chose to disobey God and turn away from Him (*Genesis 3*).

Sin is not just specific acts of wrongdoing like lying, losing our temper or looking at someone else lustfully. Ultimately, sin is the heart attitude of rebelling against God, wanting to live independently from Him and choosing to trust ourselves instead of God. Sin is saying to God: “I will be god, and you are not”. In choosing our own way, we begin to harm ourselves, the people around us and our environment, because we decide what is best for ourselves.

Romans 1:18

¹⁸ *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,*

• All man have sinned and fallen short of the perfect standard of God

We may think that certain individuals who have a good moral character or do many charitable works are deemed “good people”. We may even admire them from afar. As inspiring or respectable individuals like Mother Theresa or Bill Gates are for their kind and charitable acts, they too, cannot stand before God and claim that they are without sin.

The Bible is clear that all humanity have sinned when considered against God’s perfect standard. We may struggle against sin, try to hide it, or even pretend to be better people. But if we are perfectly honest with ourselves, sin has overtaken us completely and without God, we are powerless against it. As God is holy, perfect and without sin, no man can stand before Him blameless. God, being righteous and just, cannot simply overlook what we would perceive as “little faults” or minor mistakes.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Sin is saying to God:
I will be god, and
you are not.



• Consequences of Sin

God, being holy and righteous, cannot ignore or tolerate sin. Sin needs to be judged. Hence the consequence of sin is that man will experience eternal death. As a result, man will be eternally separated from God and unable to enjoy a loving and trusting relationship with Him anymore. While God longs to be close to us, the sin in man inevitably causes a rift in our relationship with God.

Sin not only affects our relationship with God but impacts ourselves and our relationships. Sin leads us into harmful habits or addictions and causes us to be self-centered. Sin also causes us to experience brokenness, conflict and strife and in our relationships with others.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SO WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS?**• Jesus died because He loves us and wants us to be reconciled with God**

Though our sins separate us from God, God loved us so much that He sent Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Jesus lived a sinless life on Earth and took our place to be punished for our sins by dying on the Cross for us.

Romans 5:8

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

WHAT DOES Jesus' DEATH MEAN FOR ME?

Is there a particular sin in your life that you are utterly ashamed of and never want anyone to find out about? Do you feel like you can never seem to overcome this sin on your own even though you constantly feel guilty about it? The good news is that Jesus' death on the Cross has given us a way out of our sins and the opportunity to live anew!

• Our sins are forgiven, and we can have a relationship with God again

Jesus' death on the Cross has cleansed us from our sins. We no longer have to pay the penalty for our sins or be separated from God. While we used to be helpless in our struggle against sin, we are now free from sin and can rely on God's power to overcome it. As God transforms us, He can bring restoration to our broken and strained relationships, enable us to overcome our darkest weaknesses and mold us to become people of godly character.

The best thing is that we can now enjoy a loving and personal relationship with the God we created us and loves us. We can also look forward to spending eternity with God Himself.

1 John 1:7

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Romans 8:1-2

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. We receive forgiveness for our sins and have eternal life.



REFLECT

Do you consider yourself a sinner? Why?

What do you think about Jesus' death on the Cross? Why?



RESPOND

How would you respond to Jesus' invitation to you to have a personal relationship with Him?



MEMORY VERSE

John 3:16

¹⁶ 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.

SESSION 3

How can I have faith in Jesus?

Understanding who Jesus is and the significance of His death on the Cross naturally leads us to the next question: How can I have faith in Jesus? While God freely invites all man into a loving and personal relationship with Him, we are given a choice whether we want to respond to His invitation in faith.

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A CHRISTIAN?

Does going to Church make someone a Christian? People commonly associate Christians with visible behaviour like going to Church, not using foul language, wearing a Cross necklace etc. However, the core of the Christian identity is not characterized by outward behaviour, but an inner heart orientation towards God.

-  A Christian recognizes his/her sinfulness, and need for Jesus to save him/her
-  A Christian has faith in Jesus and trusts Him as a personal Lord and Saviour
-  A Christian is a child of God and has a relationship with God through Jesus
-  A Christian is a Christ follower. He/She obeys God and follows God's leading and ways
-  A Christian is part of the Church – the body of Christ, living out the Christian life with fellow brothers and sisters in the faith.

John 1:12

¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, *he gave the right to become children of God.*

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.*

Essentially, the Christian journey starts with one recognizing that only Jesus can save us from our sin. This is called repentance. As we repent and accept Jesus into our life as our personal Lord and Saviour, we learn to put our trust in Jesus and follow Him. Ultimately, salvation is a gift from God and not based on our own human effort.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —* ⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.*

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance may look just like feeling or saying sorry, but it is more than that. If sin says to God, “I am god and you are not”, repentance humbly says to God, “You are God, and I am not”. Repentance is to confess your sins to God and make a decision to turn away from your sinful ways to follow God’s ways.

“Repentance is more than just sorrow for the past; repentance is a change of mind and heart, a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as king in self’s place.”

■■■ J.I. PACKER

We should repent by acknowledging our sins to God specifically and sincerely. As we repent of our sins sincerely, we can be assured that God will forgive us and cleanse us from our sins.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Regardless of how long we have been as Christians, we are to continue practicing repentance and do so as soon as we are aware that we have sinned. We can also ask God to search our hearts to show us how we have sinned against Him.

Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Though we may have repented, it does not mean we will never make the same mistake again. Instead, we rely on God to help us to overcome sin as we grow in Him.

Matthew 3:8

⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.



HOW DO I LIVE A NEW LIFE IN Christ?

As you repent and choose to put your faith in Jesus, the Bible declares that you are now a “new creation in Christ” (2 *Corinthians* 5:17). You were once lost in sin but now you are a dearly loved child of the Father.

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

If you have made a decision to repent and turn to Jesus as the Lord and Saviour of your life, congratulations! Even as you have made a choice to follow Jesus, you can look forward to knowing Jesus more, growing in Him and discovering your purpose as a believer.

“Being a Christian is more than an instantaneous conversion – it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.”

■■■ BILLY GRAHAM

What does growing in Christ mean? It is more than just learning truths from the Bible. It involves knowing Jesus personally, so that we can relate to Him and follow Him in all aspects of our life. It also means rewiring the way we think about life and how we live. If we are selfish, we learn to love by putting others’ interests above our own. If our anger drives us, we learn to respond in gentleness and patience. If we pursue wealth as our ultimate goal in life, we allow God to renew our perspective of earthly riches and how we are to view it in light of eternity. To sum up, it is a lifelong journey of becoming more like Jesus in character and surrendering more of our lives to Him.

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ **and to put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

In our journey with Christ, the reality is that we will still struggle with sin. While some experience instant transformation in certain areas of their lives, for others, it is a continual journey. There will be times where we fail by succumbing to temptations and allowing sin to get the better of us. Yet in our failures and weaknesses, we can always turn to Jesus for forgiveness and grace to pick ourselves up again. We can be assured that every time we go back to God, He embraces us as a loving Father.

Psalm 103:8

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

As we walk with God and know Him more, we will experience a life filled with love, joy and purpose. It is a wonderful adventure with God every day!



You were once lost in sin but
now you are a **dearly loved child**
of the Father.



REFLECT

Do you have any questions or concerns about trusting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

What do you look forward to in your new life with Jesus?



RESPOND

What sins do you need to repent of and ask for God's forgiveness?



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

SESSION 4

Why and how should I read the Bible?

WHAT IS THE Bible?

The Bible is the word of God, written through the words of men. While some may perceive the Bible to be an old historic book, we believe the Bible to be timeless and applicable for the modern man. More importantly, the Bible reveals who God and Jesus are, His redemption plan for mankind and how He wants His people to live.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

The Bible was written by 40 different human authors across 1500 years, yet the amazing fact is amidst the diversity of authors, the central message of the Bible remains the same. The 66 books of the Bible carry a consistent theme of who God is, how He loves His people and subsequently sent Jesus to die for our sins so that we can be reconciled with Him.

As new Christians, the Bible contains the very words of God to enable us to know Him, what He is like and how He wants us to live our new life in Him. Just as newborn babies require milk for nourishment and growth, we as spiritual babies also need spiritual food. Reading the Bible and allowing it to transform us helps us to grow in faith and maturity in God. God also speaks to us through the Bible.

1 Peter 2:2

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation

Matthew 4:4

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

“The Bible reveals who God and Jesus are, His redemption plan for mankind and how He wants His people to live.”

WHY SHOULD I READ THE Bible?

• To know the God we worship

For any relationship to sustain or grow, we need to know the person we are in relationship with. Since Christianity is a relationship with God, reading the Bible is key in helping us know God: who He is, what He is like, what brings Him joy, sorrow and why He does what He does.

What's assuring to know is that God is a God who longs to be known by us! He has chosen to reveal Himself to us so that we can know Him. As we relate to God, we do not have to speculate or make wild guesses about God's character and His ways because the Bible contains the revelation of God. What God has revealed in His word is sufficient in enabling us to know Him and journey with Him.

As we know God more through His word, our faith in Him will also be strengthened.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.



- **The Bible guides us in God's ways**

Our decision to acknowledge Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour changes the way we live. This includes how we make decisions, relate to others and the worldviews we hold. The Bible guides us in God's ways and teaches us how to live in light of our new identity as children of God.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

- **The Bible reveals the areas we need to grow in**

Transformation into Christ-likeness is a lifelong journey for every believer. When we read the Bible, it reveals our sinfulness in contrast to God's holiness. It shows us the areas in our lives that we need God to change us in.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

James 1:23-25

²³ *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do.*

HOW SHOULD I GET STARTED?

We benefit most from the Bible when we read it with an attitude of faith, hunger (to receive a personal message from God) and a desire to obey God. If this is the first time you are reading a Bible, start by reading the Book of Mark in the New Testament.

SPENDING QUIET TIME (QT) WITH God

Quiet Time refers to an unhurried time which we set aside daily to know and relate to our heavenly Father. When Jesus was on earth, He also spent regular time alone with God. Hence, daily Quiet Time is a very important habit of every Christian.

During Quiet Time, we can read the Bible, pray and reflect upon what God is speaking to us about. For our QT to be meaningful, we must have:

- **Right attitude**

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

- **Faith and expectation that we will meet God**

Psalm 5:3

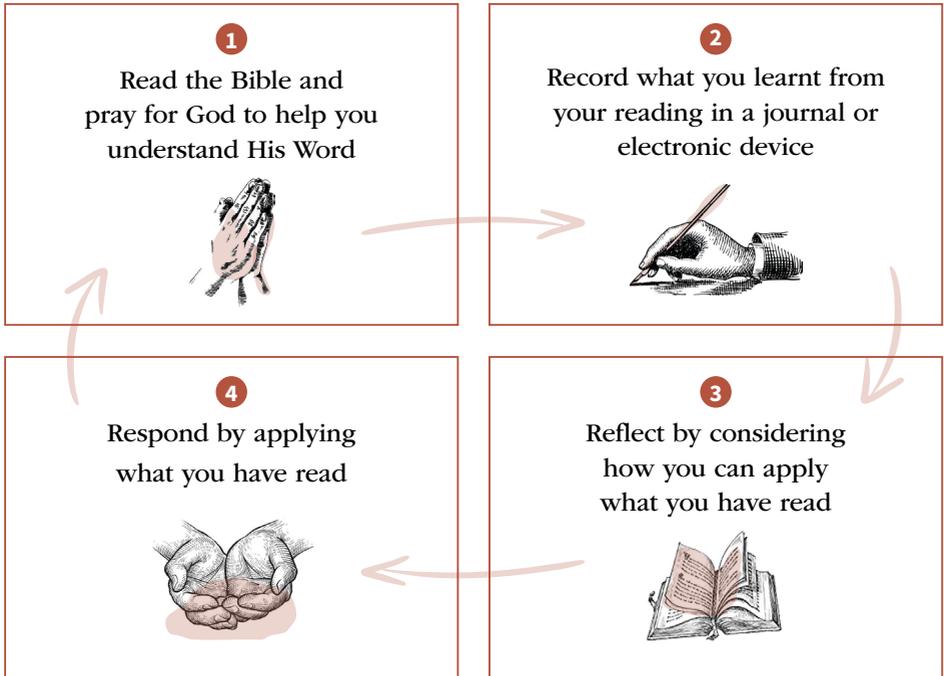
³ In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

- **Desire to be filled by God**

Psalm 42:1-2

¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

Here is an example of how you can do your QT.



“The man who would truly know God must give time to Him.”

■■■ A.W. TOZER



REFLECT

Do you have any questions or concerns about reading the Bible?

What are some challenges you may face when reading the Bible? How can you overcome these challenges?



RESPOND

Plan and determine when, where and how you will do Quiet Time daily. Share this with your mentor.



MEMORY VERSE

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

Additional Resource

Story of the Bible by the Bible Project
(tinyurl.com/QT-thebibleproject)

SESSION 5

Why and how do I pray?

Think about a friend whom you are very close to. How was the bond developed and sustained? A large part of maintaining relationships usually boils down to communication and the element of trust. Likewise, our relationship with God needs nurturing. To be able to know and trust God more in our Christian journey, we need to learn to relate to Him daily in prayer.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is simply talking to God. As a child of God, He loves you and desires to connect, hear, talk, and respond to you. Prayer is not a monologue but a dialogue with God. When we pray, we can expect God to listen and respond to us. Prayer is also a time for us to quieten our hearts to listen to God.

Prayer must be understood through what Christ had done for us on the Cross. Before, we were sinners who were separated from God. Now, because of Christ's work on the Cross, we can have access to God's very presence and draw near to Him in confidence. In light of this, prayer is a privilege, rather than a duty, that believers get to experience.

Hebrews 10:19-22

*¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, **since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,** ²⁰ **by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,** ²¹ **and since we have a great priest over the house of God,** ²² **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.***

Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a **privilege to be enjoyed**, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.

■ ■ ■ E.M. BOUNDS

WHY SHOULD I pray?

Have you seen a child talking to his dad? Whether he's asking curious questions or just sharing his thoughts, his dad is delighted to listen to him. Similarly, our heavenly Father also delights in us as we converse with Him. Christians pray because we share an intimate relationship with God. Start praying today, God desires to hear you.

Even Jesus himself set aside time to pray!

Mark 1:35

³⁵ *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

HOW SHOULD I pray?

There is no special formula or specific words we need to use in prayer. Ultimately, God looks at our heart when we pray and we can share openly and vulnerably to God about the issues on our heart.

You can pray anytime and anywhere. Your prayer life is not restricted to your time alone with God. You can pray when you are studying, when you are on the public transport, or even while talking to a colleague. Just like with a friend, the more we communicate with God, the more our relationship with Him grows.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

So how should you get started? Here's a simple guide (P.R.A.Y.) to help you to pray:

P: PRAISE

God is good. He sent Jesus to save us and gave us a new life in Christ. If you do not know how to start, just begin by thinking about how good God is and begin praying by adoring God and praising Him for who He is.

"Dear God, I praise you because You are _____!" (Start off each prayer by telling God how great, good, awesome and mighty He is.)

R: REPENT

Praying can also be a time when we repent of our sins specifically and ask God to forgive us and help us to change. Sin separates us from God. If we love God and cherish our relationship with God, we will want to be repent of our sins.

"I am sorry for _____! Please forgive me and help me to change."

A: ASK

God is a generous Giver. When you are praying, you can ask God to provide for your needs, protect the ones you love, help you in your weaknesses, enable you to overcome sin etc. You can also pray for people around you who are in need or facing challenges in their lives.

“Please be with _____!” or “Please help _____!”

Y: YIELD

Praying includes yielding to God. Yielding means in whatever we pray for, we trust God to answer in His way and His timing.

“God, I trust you for _____!”

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



REFLECT

What are some answered prayers you can give thanks to God for?

What are some things you can pray to God for with regards to your relationship with Him?



RESPOND

Practice P.R.A.Y as you spend time with God every day.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray continually,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Appendix: Prayer and Fasting

Fasting is the practice of abstaining from food, or other pleasures, for spiritual purposes. In setting aside our desires, we choose to remember that we depend on God and not on them, and look to Him in prayer. Hence, fasting is a spiritual habit that goes hand-in-hand with prayer. The Scriptures contain many examples of people who abstained from food to seek God. Jesus fasted before He began his public ministry (*Luke 4:1-2*). The early church also fasted while worshipping and seeking God (*Acts 13:2*).

WHY FAST AND PRAY?

Fasting and praying helps us to focus on God, desire and depend on Him more. We fast when we are greatly troubled about something, when we earnestly need a specific answer from God, when we sincerely want to conquer some sin and when we strongly desire to grow closer to Him and remain in Him.

HOW TO FAST?

There are various ways one can fast. Some fast by abstaining from one full meal a day, or from specific food like meats and other delicacies, some choose to abstain from food for 24 hours and take only water. You can also choose to fast from activities that may distract you from God (e.g. social media, Netflix, games).

The most important thing in fasting and prayer is not what we fast from, but the heart attitude we have while doing so. As we intentionally abstain from a physical pleasure (be it food or others), we are to set aside time to seek God in prayer and abide in Him. Fasting allows us to be completely dependent on God to meet our needs and to center our attention on Him.

SESSION 6

What is the spiritual family?

One of the greatest needs of the human heart is relationship. When you were born, God placed you in a biological family where you share a relationship with your parents. When you accepted Jesus, you became a child of God. God is your heavenly Father and other believers are brothers and sisters in your spiritual family.

The church is neither a building nor a place of worship. It is the gathering of believers who have been called out by God from darkness into His wonderful light. As believers, we are to live out our faith within the spiritual community that God has placed us in. Our relationship with God and the church is inseparable. In this session, you will learn about the blessings of belonging to a spiritual family.



It is the gathering of believers who have been called out by God from darkness into His wonderful light.

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL FAMILY?

In the Bible, God's people gathered together for the purpose God has given to them. The book of Acts described the first church in history where the believers supported one another by meeting up regularly to do life together, learn from the Bible, pray for one another and encourage one another in their faith.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

In Hope Singapore, Life Groups are our immediate spiritual family to whom we belong to and meet regularly. In our Life Groups, we do life together and help each other grow in God. Everyone in our church is encouraged to be connected to a Life Group so that we will not miss out on what God has for us through the spiritual family.

WHY SHOULD I BELONG TO A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY?

In a barbecue, charcoal pieces in the fire burn longer and stronger together but loose pieces of charcoal burn out easily. Similarly, when a believer is connected to a Life Group, there is not only belonging but also strength, support, and encouragement in our walk with God. Our spiritual family supports us during challenging times and encourages us to press on when we are feeling weak spiritually. We celebrate breakthroughs in our faith together and support each other during the difficult times. We experience the love of Jesus through one another as we do life together.

It is such a blessing to belong to God's spiritual family!

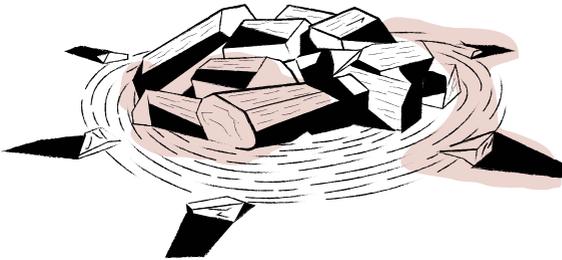
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

In our Life Groups, we will meet people from all walks of life who are different from us. We may have different personalities, belong to different nationalities, work in different professions or be in different life stations, but we can still belong to the same Life Group and love one another because God first loved us. The foundation of every spiritual family is our relationship with God. It is through Jesus that each one of us is able to come and belong to this spiritual family.

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



Charcoal pieces in the fire burn longer and stronger together but loose pieces of charcoal burn out easily

Besides receiving blessings in the spiritual family of God, we are also called to be a channel of blessing to those who are in our spiritual family. We can be a blessing by serving them and looking out for their needs. God can use us to bring His blessings to those in our spiritual family.

HOW CAN I PLAY MY PART IN THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY?

Here are some ways to be a blessing in the spiritual family:

1. Help and serve one another (*Galatians 5:13*)
2. Do good to one another (*Galatians 6:10*)
3. Meet up together (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)
4. Love one another (*Hebrews 13:1*)
5. Offer hospitality to one another (*1 Peter 4:9*)
6. Share what we have (*Acts 2:42-46*)
7. Encourage one another to grow as believers (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)

The church is not just a social group or a gathering place. It is the community of God that embodies His presence and that which He works through! God desires for His people to come together to worship Him and to experience His goodness through one another.

The church community is where we will testify about God's goodness, witness the transformation of lives, see the power of God move and collectively shine Jesus's light.

The church is where every believer should belong!



REFLECT

Why should I connect myself to a Life Group?

What are some challenges I face in attending Life Group meetings? Are there ways to overcome these challenges?

How can I be a blessing to my Life Group members?



RESPOND

Join a Life Group meeting this week if you have not.



MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:24-25
²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ 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.

SESSION 7

What is worship?

Do you remember the first time you experienced God speaking to you personally or answering your prayer? You may have felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude and amazement. At that moment, you just want to say “thank you God, you are good to me!” Your heart naturally wants to respond to God in worship.

In our world today, everyone worships someone or something, often seen in the way we value, pursue, or hold onto the object. As believers who have been saved by the amazing grace of Christ, the object of our worship centers around the person of Christ.

WHAT IS Worship?

Worship is the act of offering our lives to God as a response to who He is and what He has done for us. The more we know God and experience His goodness, the more our hearts are inclined to worship Him.

Worshipping God is not only something we do only when we gather for service on Sundays. In fact, worship should be seen as a lifestyle for all believers. It is a re-orientation of our lives that focuses on pleasing and honouring God in every aspect of our lives, even in the mundane.

We can worship God daily by being diligent and responsible in school, doing our work with excellence and integrity, relating to our family members patiently and lovingly and responding to life circumstances with godly attitudes. These are all acts of worship.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, *in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.* ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Worship is also expressing our devotion, thanksgiving and adoration to God. We commonly do so by singing songs to Him. We proclaim His goodness for who He is and praise Him for what He has done.

We regularly worship God together with other believers during weekend church services and Life Group meetings. We can also worship God anytime and anywhere: when we are alone in the office, travelling to another place or taking a walk. No matter how we are feeling, we always have a reason to worship because God is worthy and He is always good.

Ephesians 5:19

¹⁹ ...speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.



We always have a reason to worship because God is **worthy** and He is **always good.**

HOW DO WE worship?

Singing songs of praise to God, clapping and lifting your hands, bowing down, dancing with joy and making music with musical instruments are all ways we can worship God.

Psalm 100:1-2

¹ *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

² *Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

Having said that, what matters most in our worship to God is not the outward actions we portray, but our heart attitudes. True worship also does not depend on the music, place of worship or even the songs, but a heart that places God at the center of our worship.

Matthew 15:8-9

⁸ *“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

⁹ *They worship me in vain, their teachings are merely human rules.”*

Sometimes, we may find it difficult to draw close to God in worship because of our negative emotions or simply because we had a tough day. We need to remember that worship is not dependent on how we feel but springs from a heart that acknowledges who God is and what He had done for us.

The Bible also teaches us to worship God in spirit and in truth. We are to worship God based on what the Scriptures have revealed about Him and do so with a sincere heart. Ultimately, worship is not about us, but should be centered around God.

John 4:23-24

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the *true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.* ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.





REFLECT

What does it mean for you to worship God through your daily life?

Think about the different roles you play (e.g. student, employee, child, father, sister etc.)

When life feels mundane and routine, how can you have a heart of worship in all that you do?



RESPOND

Take some time to worship God through some worship songs.



MEMORY VERSE

John 4:24

²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

Additional Resource

Listen to Hope Singapore's Worship Playlist (tinyurl.com/HopeSGspotifyplaylist)

SESSION 8

Why should I be water baptised?

Water baptism is not just a time to get wet. The Bible records many early believers who were water baptised immediately after they believed in Jesus. During the Pentecost, many were baptised within hours after they accepted Jesus (*Acts 2:41*). The Samaritans were baptised immediately (*Acts 8:12*) and the Ethiopian Eunuch was baptised on the same day after he believed (*Acts 8:35-37*). Some Christians may ask, “Is water baptism really necessary?” This session will help you to understand the significance of water baptism and why we should get water baptised.



Water baptism holds tremendous significance for every Christian to identify with Christ's death and resurrection.

WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

“Baptism” comes from the Greek word “baptizo”, which means to immerse or dip fully in water. Water baptism holds tremendous significance for every Christian to identify with Christ’s death and resurrection. As you are fully submerged in the water, you are saying ‘goodbye’ to the sinful self who has died. As you rise from the water, you have new life through your faith in Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead.

Romans 6:8

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Colossians 2:12

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

WHY SHOULD I BE WATER BAPTISED?

1. Water baptism is an expression of gratitude for what Jesus has done for you

Although water baptism is a command given by Jesus, we do it not just out of mere obedience, but out of gratitude for what Christ has done for us on the Cross. After all, true gratefulness is not just a warm fuzzy feeling but shows forth as an active response to obey God’s commands.

Matthew 28:19-20

*¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

2. Water baptism is a personal confession of our belief

By going for water baptism, we are confessing that our old self has died, and we are now new creations in Christ. While sin used to have a hold over us, we acknowledge that it is no longer our master. Instead, Jesus is our new Master whom we will follow and trust for the rest of our lives.

Romans 6:4-7

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

3. Water baptism is a public declaration of our commitment to Jesus

Our faith in Jesus being our Lord and Saviour is never meant to be a private matter. Water baptism is a time where you can declare your new-found faith and commitment to follow Jesus. This explains why water baptism is a public event, where believers will invite their friends and loved ones as witnesses to their new commitment to Jesus. This is also a way we express our commitment to Jesus, by being unashamed of Him and what He has done for us.



Water baptism is a time where you can declare your new found faith and commitment to follow Jesus.

Acts 2:41

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day

These are the **three questions** believers will have to answer before getting water baptised:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? That He is the way to salvation, and He died for you and rose again on the third day?
2. Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour?
3. Do you have the intention to live a new life in God and follow Him until the last day of your life or until Jesus returns?

If it is your heart's desire to express your commitment and gratitude to Jesus because of what He has done for you, water baptism is definitely a significant decision in your faith that you cannot miss. Talk to your Life Group Leaders or your spiritual mentors and make arrangements to be baptised.



REFLECT

Are you willing to be water baptised? Why?

How is water baptism significant to you personally?

What are some hindrances you have towards getting water baptised? How do you plan to overcome them?



RESPOND

Get water baptised at the next available opportunity.



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 6:4

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

SESSION 9

What does it mean to be empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Have you ever seen someone windsurf before? While paddling is possible when the sea is calm, it is tough work when the seas get choppy. Most of the time, the boat will just end up being tossed about by the waves. Changing directions is even more difficult.

However, these challenges can be easily overcome by opening the sail. The sail enables the boat to be “empowered” by the wind to move swiftly even amid the choppy waters. The sail does not dictate the direction of the wind but merely decides whether it wants to “catch the wind” and be carried along in the direction where it is already blowing.

In the same way, this is like our relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us towards what is good and pleasing to God. We cannot see the Holy Spirit so we may sometimes doubt His presence or ability to help us. But once we choose to trust Him, just like opening our sail, we will be able to experience His empowerment in our lives!



WHO IS THE Holy Spirit?

The Bible has revealed that there is one God who exists in three persons, called the Trinity. The Trinity consists of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each person in the Trinity is distinct and play different roles, yet they are one in essence. God the Father is commonly known as the Creator of all, while Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who came to die for our sins on the Cross. What about the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is known as the 'Advocate'. 'Advocate' means one who provides support, defends, and pleads on another's behalf. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised His disciples that He will send them the Holy Spirit. Though Jesus is no longer able to be with His disciples on Earth, the Holy Spirit lives in us to help us, empower us to witness, teach us the truth and convict us of our sins.

John 16:7-11

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

John 16:13

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Although we cannot see or touch the Holy Spirit, we can sense His presence and power at work in our lives. Even as embark on a new journey in Christ, we may still experience struggles against sin or need courage and power to do what God has called us to do. In order to experience the fullness and empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live a holy life and to serve God, we need to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS BAPTISM IN THE Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit baptism means to immerse in the Holy Spirit, like how we would immerse ourselves in water when swimming. By immersing ourselves in the Spirit, we get to experience Him fully and we are empowered as we live in the ways of God. God desires His people to be baptised in the Spirit. Regardless of age, gender, past or culture, God promises to give the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers who want Him in their lives (*Luke 11:11-13*).

At its essence, Spirit-baptism is receiving the gift of the Spirit, whom God has graciously poured out on all who are seeking Him. Our God is a Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. If we desire to surrender ourselves to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, He is more than willing to bless us with this gift!

“ Our God is a Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. ”

HOW CAN I BE BAPTISED IN THE Holy Spirit?

Just like the sail analogy, the only way for the boat to move forward despite the choppy sea is to allow the wind to empower it. In the same way, the way for us to be baptised and experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is to fully surrender ourselves to God. All you need to do is to focus on why you need the empowerment from God in your life, confess your weakness and choose to yield yourself to the Holy Spirit's enablement. As the Spirit leads and moves within you, take a step of faith to trust and move with Him!

Here are **three practical steps** you can begin with:

1. Pray and ask God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit
2. Desire to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and choose to surrender yourself fully to God
3. Have faith and receive it from God

Luke 11:9-13

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

HOW DO I KNOW I AM BAPTISED IN THE Holy Spirit?

In the Bible, when the disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in new tongues as the Spirit enabled them. This ability to speak in tongues or a new language, is the tangible evidence that you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BAPTISED IN THE Holy Spirit?

As we submit to the Spirit who works in us, we live in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and will see various outcomes tangibly in our lives. What are some ways we can experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us?



We will be empowered to share Jesus with others (*Acts 1:8*)



We will receive help in times of weakness. This is especially helpful when we do not know what to pray for (*Romans 8:26*)



We will be uplifted and encouraged (*1 Corinthians 14:4*)



We will have spiritual gifts to build God's church (*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*)



We will grow to become who God created us to be (*Galatians 5:22-25*)

When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to grow in our character towards Christlikeness. The Bible refers to this transformation as bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

After we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, we still need to make a daily decision to yield to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and to keep in step with the Spirit. Every morning, we can start our day by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to lead us in His ways and to rely on Him in all that we do.

Galatians 5:25

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.



REFLECT

Why is it necessary for believers to be Holy Spirit baptised?

What is one area of weakness you face and desire to overcome through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

Is there anything that may hinder you from desiring the baptism of the Holy Spirit?



RESPOND

Pray and ask God to baptise you in the Holy Spirit.



MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

SESSION 10

What does it mean to share to others about Jesus?

When we discover a fantastic deal or a delicious new eatery, we cannot help but share it to those around us so that they can enjoy it too. Similarly, after we have personally experienced the love and goodness of God, we would also want those around us to know God too! In this session, we learn what it means to share Jesus to others and how we can do it so that they will come to enjoy a personal relationship with God.

WHY SHARE ABOUT JESUS TO OTHERS?

Perhaps you have heard of terms like ‘Witnessing’, ‘Outreach’ and ‘Evangelism’. They all refer to the same thing: sharing with others about who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Each of us has personally experienced God’s love, forgiveness, and grace in different ways. We can share all these personal experiences we have with Jesus so that our loved ones can also know the God who created them and experience new life in Him.

Mark 5:19

¹⁹ *Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”*

Sharing about Jesus to others is a natural overflow of the Christian life. Just like how we are excited to share a fantastic deal, we should also be excited to share how good God is and what He has done for us. When we share about Jesus to others, we invite them to experience God's love and goodness.

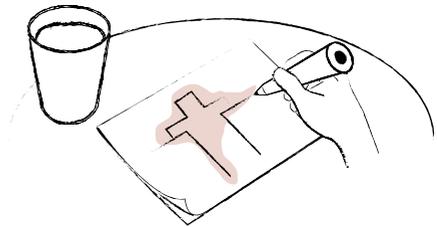
Psalm 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Sharing to others about Jesus is also about being a vessel of God's love to others who have not come to know Him yet. God loves every one of His creation and He does not want anyone to be lost. God desires for all man to be reconciled back to Him so that we can experience a meaningful life with Him. When we share about Jesus, we partner with God to show His love for others.

Luke 15:3-7

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.



HOW TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS TO OTHERS?

Here are some ways we can share about Jesus to others:

1. Share your personal testimony of coming to faith in Jesus

We can tell others about how Jesus has transformed our lives after we have received Him as our personal Lord and Saviour (see page 66 for an example of how to write a testimony).

A personal testimony helps others see the reality of Jesus in our lives. It allows others to get a glimpse of the goodness of Jesus and what He can do through our unique life story.

2. Invite others to service or Life Groups

We can invite our friends, family members, colleagues, schoolmates or neighbours to join us in service or Life Groups.

Inviting others to service or Life Groups help them hear the truths of God and experience the love of Christ through other believers.

3. Share the Bridge Diagram (see pages 67-69)

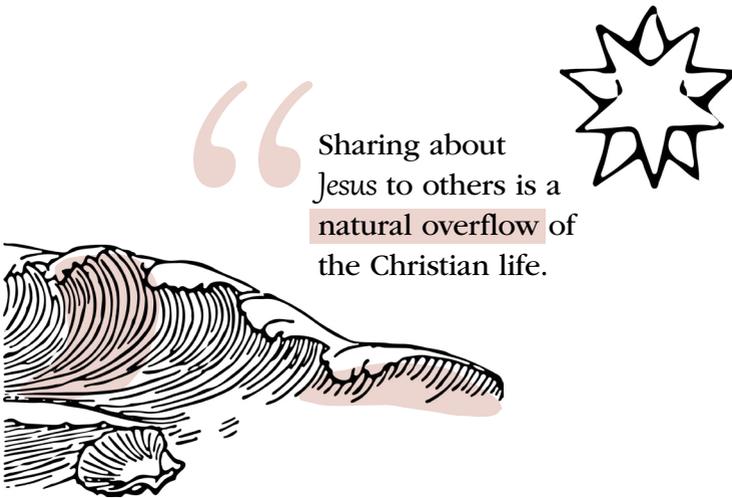
We can share the gospel of Christ through the bridge diagram to help others understand what having a relationship with Jesus is all about. The bridge diagram is a helpful tool that shows man's need to be saved from our sins and how Jesus' death on the Cross enables us to have a relationship with God.

4. Being a salt and light

We also communicate and share Jesus with others through the way we live our lives. How we make decisions, treat others in school, at home or in our workplaces and respond to difficult circumstances can cause others who do not know Jesus to be curious about our relationship with God as they see His goodness reflected through our lives! Living our lives as salt and light can point others to Jesus.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ *You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*





REFLECT

How have you experienced Jesus personally in your life?

How can you prepare to share to others about Jesus?



RESPOND

Think of a person you can share to about Jesus. Pray for him or her and start finding opportunities to do so.



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:18-20

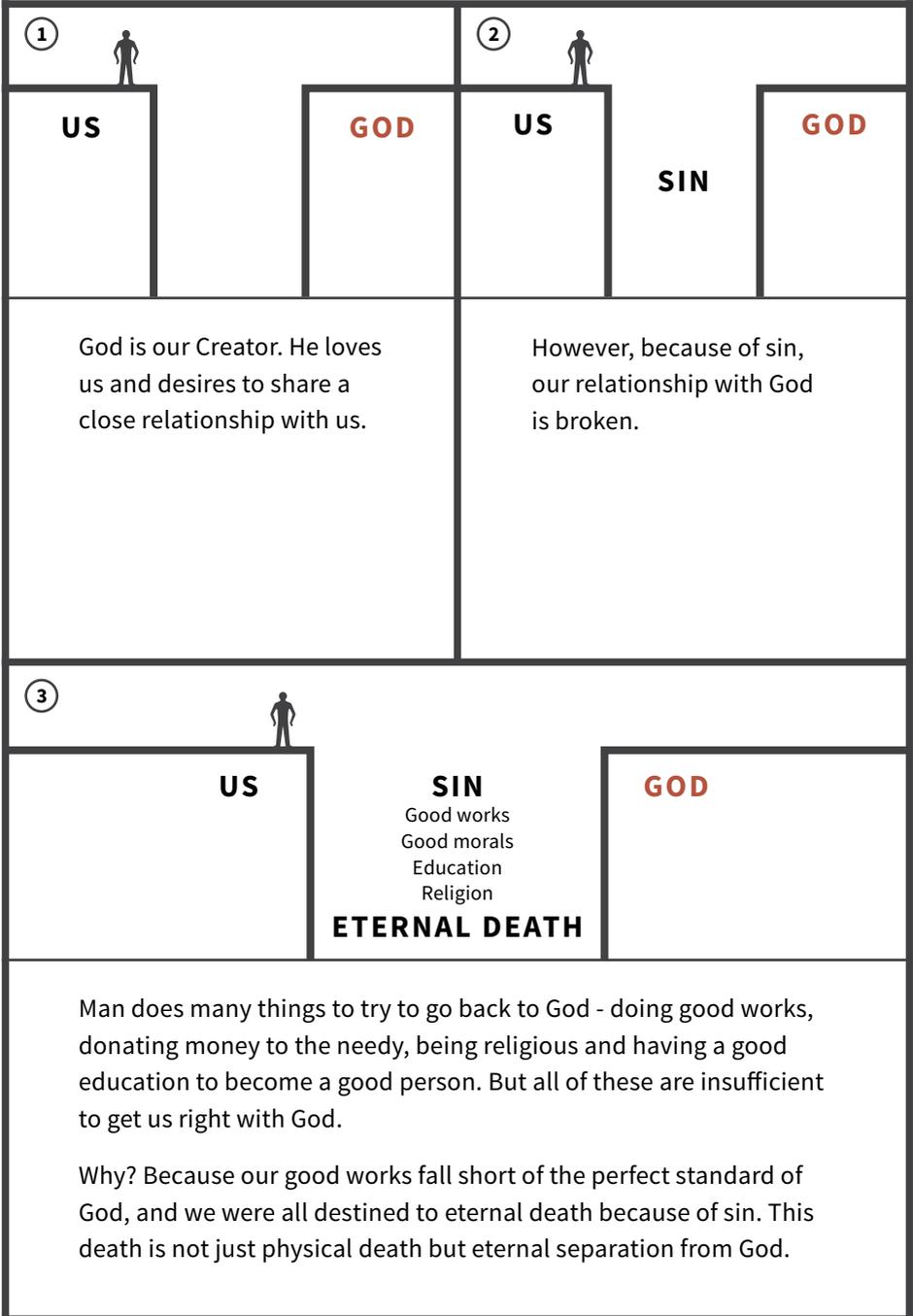
¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

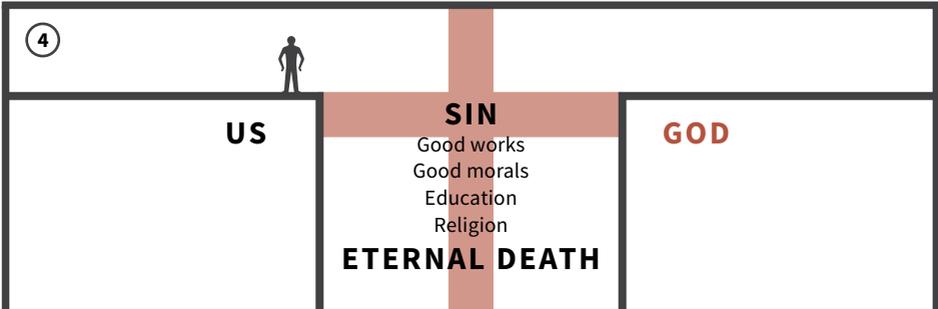
Appendix: Sharing Your Testimony

Your story of how God came into your life is one that cannot be refuted, and one that can inspire many! We encourage you to pen down this journey you have had with God so you can share it to your friends and loved ones. You can also bless us by submitting it via email to stories@hopesingapore.org.sg.

Here's a short story structure you can follow (read Paul's testimony in *Acts 26*):

- What were you like before you came to know Jesus
 - How you encountered God / How God became real in your life / How you came to accept Jesus as Your Lord & Saviour / How you came to Christ
 - What has changed in your life since then
-





Despite the seemingly hopeless situation that man is in because of sin, God loves us and does not want us to remain in our sins. As God is holy and just, He had to punish someone for our sins. Hence, God sent His one and only son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice because He is sinless and comes from God. He is the bridge between God and us. Because of His death, the consequence of sin is paid for and those who believe in Him will not have to suffer eternal death. Jesus did not stay dead, but was resurrected by the power of God.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

5

**US****SIN**

Good works
 Good morals
 Education
 Religion

GOD**ETERNAL DEATH**

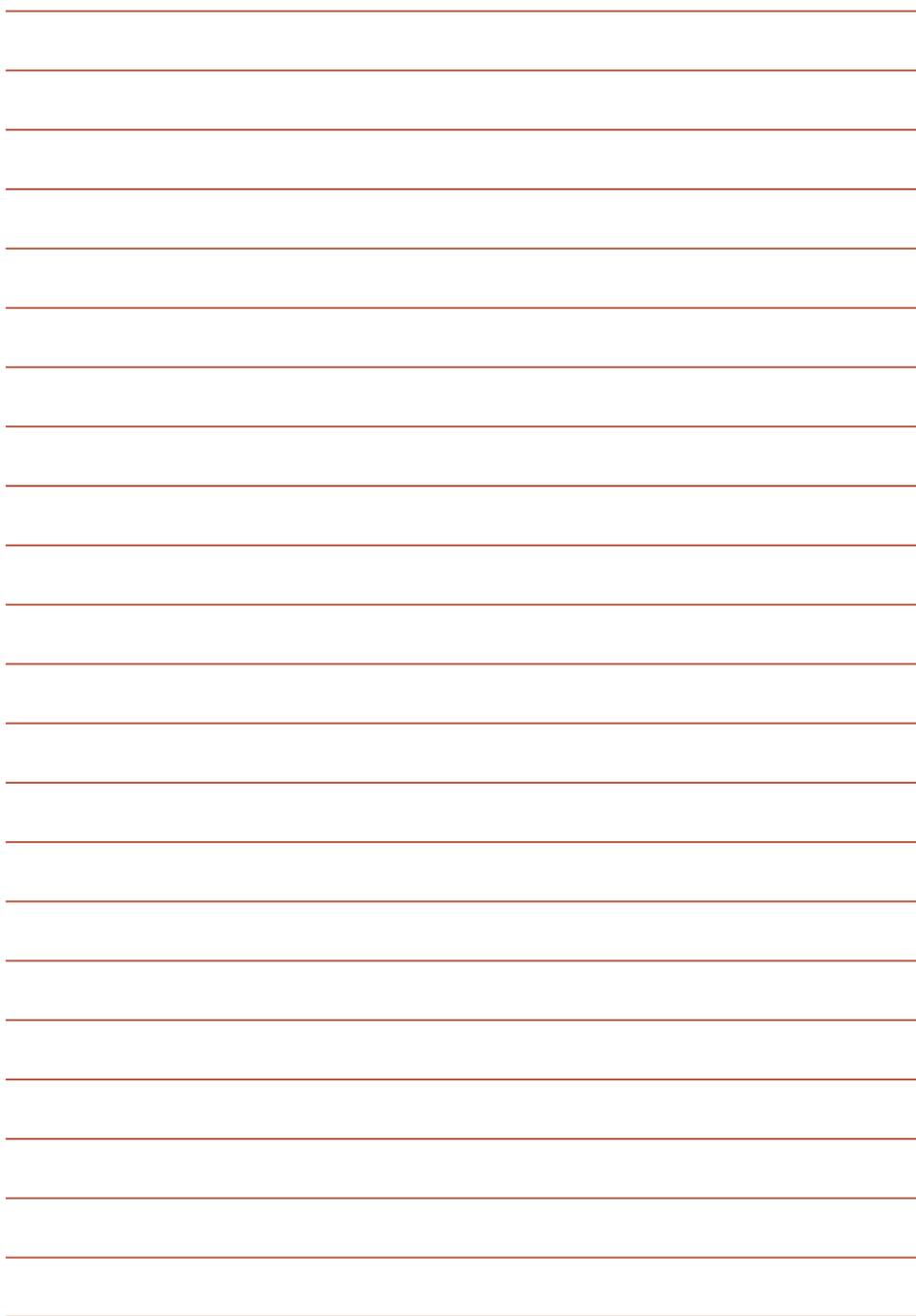
Do you want to know Jesus Christ? You can choose to accept Christ as your Lord and Saviour and receive forgiveness for your sins.

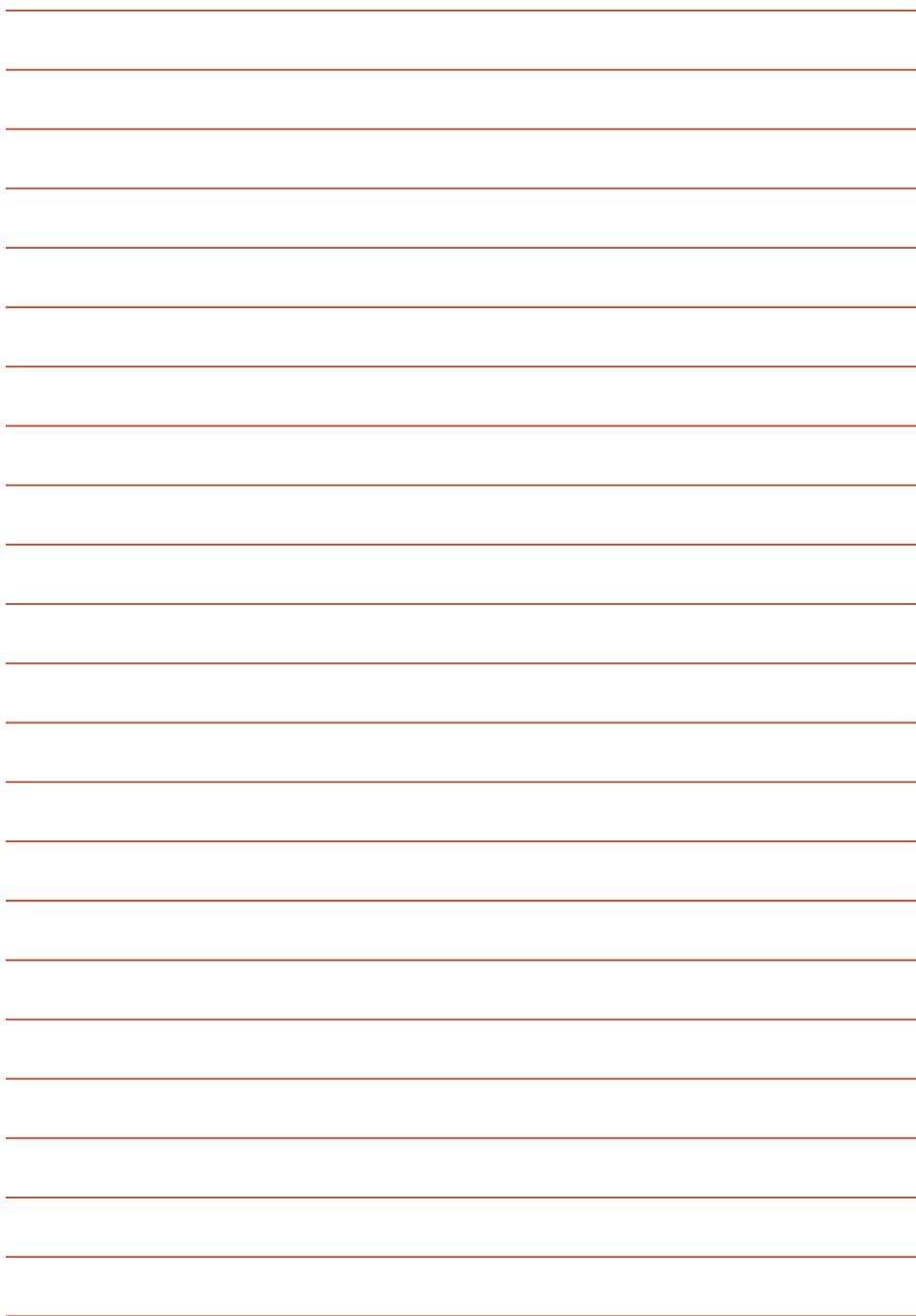
You can invite Jesus into your life by saying the sinner's prayer below. The sinner's prayer is a prayer a person prays to God when they understand that they are a sinner and is in need of a Savior.

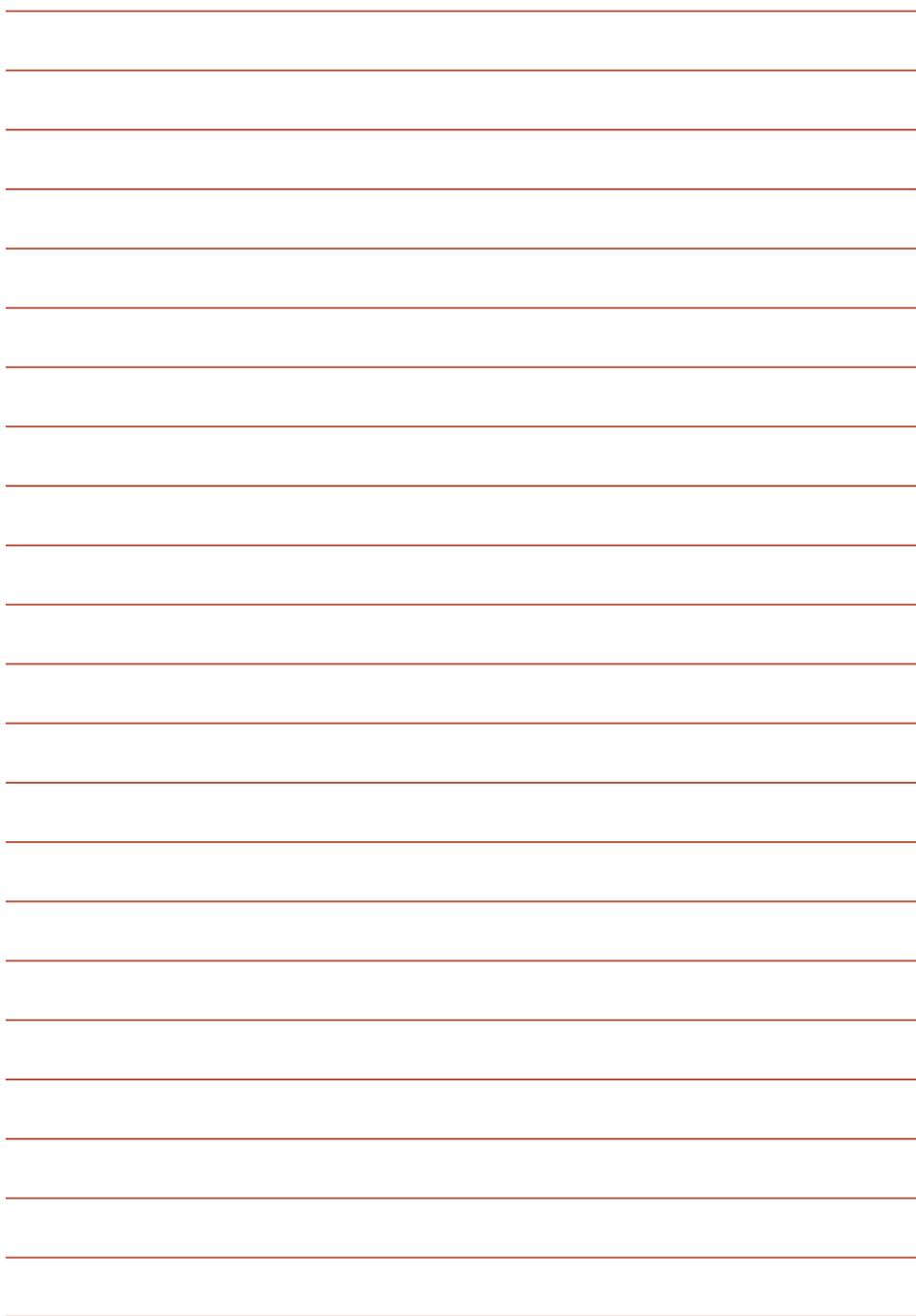
Dear Jesus,
 I confess that I'm a sinner and I want to thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Please come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour, and make me into the kind of person I was created to be.

All these I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

If you have decided to repent of your sins and accept Jesus into your life today, we welcome you into God's family!









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