

IT'S A NEW DAY

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

*First Steps*

*Discipleship Introduction*

# *Hello New Sister,*

**We have been praying for this moment. We know what an exciting day today is now that you have accepted Jesus into your heart. We are excited you have made this life changing decision! You probably have some questions running through your mind. You might even be unsure of what exactly you just committed to. Don't let those things overwhelm you. We have been where you are and we want to walk alongside you on this journey. The very first thing you need to know is that you are not alone! When you gave your life to Christ you joined a community of believers that became your family**

**This is not like your earthly family. This family is bound together by something that runs much deeper than anything you have experienced in the past. We welcome you with open arms. No matter where you have been and what you have done, you are accepted in this family. Jesus makes us new and washes away all of the things of the past. Please take a moment and let that soak in. Let your newness in Christ run over you. Breathe in your new life. We know you might not be feeling so new right now, but we promise that you are. There are a few things that you can do now to help propel you into this new relationship that you have with Jesus.**

**This booklet will give you information on your next steps. Your relationship with Christ is not based on your performance. The steps laid out here are to help you gain the most out of what God has offered you and hopefully answer some of those questions buzzing around in your mind.**

*Your Sisters  
In Christ*



# Table of Contents

Kickstarting Your Relationship with God. 2

In this TogetHER 3

Connecting With God 6

Resources 8

Verses for the Soul 9

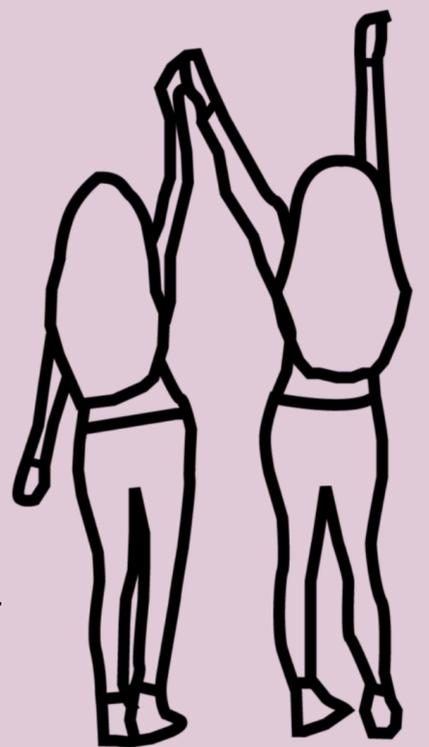
What does It all mean? 11



# Kickstarting Your Relationship with God

**There are a few things every woman of God needs to grow.**

1. **Getting to know God's word-** The Bible tells us the story of God's love and the history of his people. The Bible is available anywhere books are so sold or free digitally at [Youversion.com](http://Youversion.com)
  - a. It is important to note there are different translations, sometimes called versions, of the Bible. We recommend you begin your journey with either the New International Version (NIV) or the New Living Translation (NLT). Both are easy to understand and still maintain the integrity of the Bible..
2. **Getting to know God's people.** God created us for community, this community is often called the church. It is vital to your growth as a believer to find a church you feel comfortable in, with a group of believers where you can connect. True community sets the atmosphere for growth.
3. **Finding your local community-** Every church community is different and that is completely normal.
  - a. **Recommendations of people**
    - i. If there are already believers in your life, they are a valuable resource. They know you and have personally experienced the churches they recommend.
    - ii. **Sectional Representatives-** There are some amazing women who would love to connect you with a church In your area. New York is split Into several sections and these women have personal experience with the churches In their area. Their Information Is on the page ten.
  - b. **The Internet-** It may sound ridiculously simple, but this is where we turn to get most of our information.
    - i. **Ag.org-** We are apart of the Assemblies of God Fellowship of churches. On the main page of our national website there is a church directory. You can type your location and get a list of churches with their addresses, phone numbers, websites and email addresses.
      1. A church website can be a good source of information and a good indicator of the atmosphere you are likely to encounter in person.
    - ii. **Facebook-** Many churches today have Facebook pages that can provide you valuable Information when trying to find your biblical community.
    - iii. **Google-** If you are looking for a broader view of the churches in your area google is a valid search option. It can be overwhelming depending on where you live. If you take this approach, It would be wise to have a solid idea of what you are looking for.



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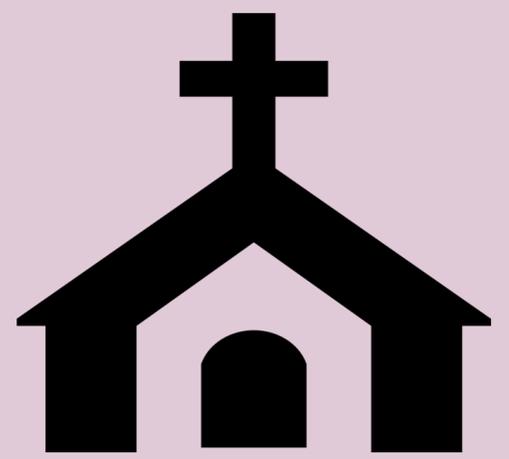
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## In This TogetHER



*When you find churches you are interested in, don't be afraid to visit a few. One of the wonderful things about our society is most churches have online services. Virtually visit churches until you find one, or even a few, you want to check out. Talk to God as you search. The Holy Spirit will help to guide you to the right community for you.*

Social Media- Social media can be a great tool to stay connected and be encouraged. We want you to follow our page **NY Women of Purpose**. Not only will this keep you updated on other events we host, It is a place we seek to offer encouragement to women on their journey of faith.



# Connecting with God



*The best way to grow any relationship is through connection. You have just begun the greatest relationship of your life! Below are some practical ways for you to connect with God.*

## **Creating a devotional life**

The devotional life of every person is unique. What you do and how you do it is completely up to you and your personality.

**Find what works best for you!**

## **Here are three essential action steps for a productive devotional time**

1. **Spend dedicated time with God-** We get to know Him through the Bible and through talking to Him (prayer)
2. **Give your attention and focus to this time**
  - a. Do what you can to limit distractions. Put your phone on silent and/or do not disturb mode. Do your devotions before the kids wake up, after they go to bed or even during nap time.
  - b. Sometimes it helps to put on worship music to help you focus. (Don't worry if you don't have any, there are some suggestions on the resource page)
3. **Open your heart to listen**
  - a. It might help to start your time with a quick prayer, song or writing in a journal to release what might be causing your heart to be heavy to God.



# Connecting with God

## Practical Tips for your devotional time

- **The Bible is an amazing book.** Take a breath and start small. The Bible is made up of two parts, the Old Testament and New Testament. Genesis is a good place to start in the Old Testament. The first four books of the New Testament help you get to know about Jesus and His life on Earth. Luke and John are good books to start with in the New Testament.
- **Devotional Books and plans are great tools.** The Bible App (Youversion.com) has some devotional plans on it. You can search by topic to find something that interests you or there are plans that help you to go through reading the entire Bible. These plans connect the truths of the Bible with the real issues we are facing. There are tons of different devotional books available in the same places you got your Bible from. We will include some of our favorites on the resource page at the end.
- **SOAP Bible method is a way for you to study scripture. This is where a journal comes in handy**
  - **S- Scripture-** Write down the verses that jump out to you.
  - **O- Observation-** Write out the things you notice in the verses.
  - **A- Application-** How does this verse apply to your life.
  - **P- Prayer-** Write and say a personal prayer based on your observation and application.

*Take another deep breath. It may seem like a lot, but God really only wants your heart and attention. Give Him that every day and the rest will come as you grow and work at it. His love is not based on your performance.*



# Resources

## Worship Music

Housefires

Worshipmob

Presence Chasers

River Valley Worship

Covenant Worship

Vertical Worship

Elevation Worship

This music can be found on Youtube, iTunes or the play store. There are also Christian radion stations such as Air1 and K-LOVE

These are just a few devotional books to use as a starting point. There are so many more out there to choose from. They are all available in print and ebook form.

## Devotional Books

God Hears Her: 365 Devotions for Women by Women- Our Daily Bread Ministries

Embraced 100 Devotions to Know that God Is Holding You Close-Lysa Terkeurst

Unshakeable: 365 Devotions for Finding Unwavering Strength in God's Word- Christine Caine

## Bible App Devotionals

Nothing Else: Only Jesus

First 5

Finding God In The Hard Places

Quiet Time For Your Soul



# Verses for the Soul

*Here are some Bible Verses for you to cling to in tough times. Verses to remind you how much God loves you. Verses that remind you that you are not alone!*

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

**Isaiah 26:3-4**

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

**Psalms 23:6**

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

**2 Peter 3:9**

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

**1 Corinthians 1:27**

No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

**Joshua 1:5**

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

**Psalms 62:5-8**

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20**



## Verses for the Soul

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

**Psalms 46:1-2**

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Or your self? Is anything worth more than your soul?

**Matthew 16:25-26**

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.

**Psalms 27:10**

You are altogether beautiful, my darling, beautiful in every way.

**Song of Songs 4:7**

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. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

**Exodus 33:10\***

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

**Philippians 4:11-13**

\*All verses are in the New Living Translation (NLT) except Exodus 33:10 which is in the NIV

## What does It all mean?

*Now that you have accepted Christ, there are some words that may be confusing. We want you to understand these things so that you are informed about the decision you just made.*

- **Bible-** Our Instructions for life and our love letter from our God.
- **Born Again-** People may refer to you or themselves as this once you have accepted Christ. It simply means that you have started a new life. The slate has been wiped as clean as a baby that was just born.
- **Communion-** This is something that we do to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. He also tells us to do this to remember Him. We take bread and grape juice and follow the example he set in Luke 22:19-20. 1 Cor. 11:23-26
- **Disciple/Discipleship-** A committed follower of Jesus, who seeks to grow their relationship with God and teach others. The process of becoming and growing as a disciple.
- **Grace-** This is undeserved favor. In other words Grace is giving someone something amazing that they don't deserve. God's grace to us is that He loves us so much that He gave His son so that we could have a relationship with him.
- **The Great Commission-** This refers to a passage of scripture in the Bible. Matthew 29:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.." This is a command from Jesus to us to go and tell others about Him.
- **Holy-** Set apart and devoted to God. Through Jesus we are holy.
- **Reverence-** This is simply the respect that we show God for who He is.
- **Sacrifice-** Sacrifice in its most basic form means to give up something that means a great deal to you for a greater purpose. Jesus gave his life for us so in turn we sacrifice or will and desires to follow Him.
- **Saved/Salvation-** You know and allow yourself to come to terms that you are a sinner. You believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again. Lastly, you choose to submit yourself to Christ.



## What does It all mean?

- **Sin-** Missing the mark that God has set. Our standard for this is the Bible. Our sin is what separates us from God. It is only through what Jesus did on the cross that this separation can be erased.
- **Testimony-** This is someone's story of how God intervened and changed their life. Your testimony starts today now that you have allowed God into your life.
- **Trinity-** The three persons of our one God:the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (The Helper).
- **Water Baptism-** In our context, this means to be fully Immersed in water and brought out as a declaration and to symbolize the death of the old you and the beginning of your new life of faith. It is not a requirement for salvation. That only comes through Jesus.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask one of your new sisters. Our hope is that after you are finished reading you will feel empowered and excited about this journey we are on together

