

NEXT STEPS

FIRST BENTONVILLE

CONGRATULATIONS!

I rejoice with you in your decision to trust your life to Jesus Christ. I truly believe that you have made the greatest decision you will ever make in your life. I realize that you probably still have many questions. I was exactly the same way. It is my prayer that this simple book will serve as a help as you begin this new life in Christ. I want to encourage you to use this valuable resource. It is a tool to help you understand what God has done and will do in your life now that you have trusted Christ.

Welcome to the Family,

Chris Dixon
Lead Pastor, First Bentonville

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST

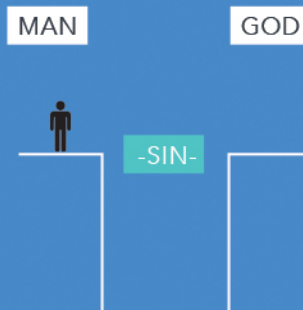
"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." - **John 3:16-17**



GOD LOVES YOU
and has a plan for your life
& eternity.

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." - **Romans 3:23**

**YOUR SIN CAUSES
A COSMIC CHASM**
between you and God.

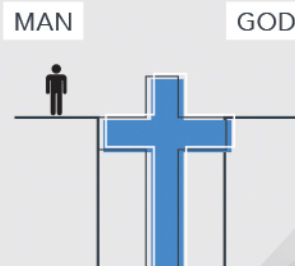


"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." - **Romans 6:23**

**GOD SENT
JESUS CHRIST**
to die on the cross.



"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." - **Romans 5:8**



**WILL YOU TRUST
IN WHAT CHRIST
DID FOR YOU?**

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - **John 14:6**

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." - **Romans 10:9-10**

Knowing Jesus is simply recognizing your need for Him, believing that He died and was resurrected for you. God says in Romans 10:9 that if we make Jesus Lord (the leader) of our lives, and believe that He was raised from the dead, we will be saved. If you're ready to start a new life with Jesus leading you and experience His true peace and joy in your life, pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, I know that I have sinned and I need You to save my life—I need You as my Savior. I have tried to do things on my own for too long, and I know it doesn't work. So today, I give my life to You. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You rose from the dead. Help me to live my life for You and You alone. Thank You for Your unending love, forgiveness and grace in my life. Thank You for a fresh start! Today, I start out my new life as a part of Your family."

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

BAPTISM

Baptism is an opportunity to share with your community about the decision you've made to place your faith in Jesus. Our hope for you is that once you've understood what it means to be a Christ follower, that you can follow that up with the personal decision of Baptism.

TOP REASONS FOR BAPTISM

1. Baptism is our first step of obedience to Christ.

Jesus commanded us to be baptized in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:16. Jesus went on to say in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." The Christ-following life is one of daily obedience to Christ and His Word. One of the first steps we can take is to be obedient to Jesus' command to be baptized. Even Jesus himself modeled baptism to us by being baptized Himself! Even though He was the sinless Son of God, Jesus set the example for us when He got baptized in Matthew 3:13-17. Jesus never asks us to do something that He was not willing to do himself.

2. Baptism takes our faith public.

Jesus desires us to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8) and not keep our faith private. Yes, it's a personal decision, but Christ's mission is to lead every person to this same personal decision as well. It's been said, "Baptism is an outward sign of an inward transformation." When you step into the water, you are letting the world know that you have walked into a new life of faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

3. Baptism deepens commitment to Christ

Many times, all of us can make emotional decisions in our relationship with God, but then never think about it again afterward. There is nothing wrong with emotion, it's a powerful thing God has given us to enrich our lives on earth, but our faith can't be based on emotion alone. The entire process of deciding to get baptized creates an opportunity to think more about the life-changing decision they've made.



"For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."
- Acts 22:15-16

Text **Baptism** to 479.342.4939



GROWTH

"Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church." - Ephesians 4:14-15

Spiritual growth is not automatic; it takes an intentional commitment. You must want to grow, decide to grow, make an effort to grow, and persist in growing.

Discipleship is a fancy word for spiritual growth; it's the process of becoming like Christ. And it always begins with a decision. Matthew 9 tells of Jesus calling some of his first disciples:

When the first disciples chose to follow Jesus, they didn't understand all the implications of their decision. They simply responded to Jesus' invitation. They decided to follow him. That's all you need to get started too: Decide today to become a disciple.

**We offer several ways for you to grow here at First Bentonville:
Rooted • D-Groups • Life Groups • CYCLES**





HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

Develop disciplined habits

"Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit." - 1 Timothy 4:7b (Ph)

"Discipline yourself for the purpose of Godliness" - 1 Timothy 4:7b (NASB)

HOW DO I GROW? THREE KEY HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

TIME IN GOD'S WORD

"If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." - John 8:31-32

TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER


"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." - John 15:7-8

SPEND TIME WITH GOD'S FAMILY

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35

Every week, when we gather together as a church, we connect to worship God, discover His plan for our lives, and learn how to live out His priorities. Our desire is to help you grow and learn all that God has for your life.

To find out how you can learn more about Christian habits attend our ROOTED class. We will be teaching the four habits of a healthy walk with Christ.



redeemed by His grace
the Lord sing praise

SERVING

Here are a few things the Bible says about serving God:

Serving is one of your life purposes.

Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith, as Christ Followers we are called to... "Love one another." "Care for one another." "Pray for one another." "Encourage one another." "Help one another." "Counsel one another." "Support one another." On and on Scripture tells us of our relationship to God and others through service. Matthew 5:16 says, "Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Until you learn how to serve, you're not really living—you're just existing. You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give away.

Serving makes you more like Jesus.

Matthew 20:28 says, "Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many" (NLT). If you don't learn how to serve others, you will never grow to spiritual maturity. In fact, you'll be a spiritual baby your entire life.

God wants you to think differently about serving and to "never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11 NIV).

Some people serve out of guilt, duty, or pressure. But God wants you to serve out of gratitude for what he's done for you. He made you, he saved you, and he's taking you to heaven. Gratitude is the best motivator to serve.



Visit [fcbentonville.org](http://fbcbentonville.org) for more information on all the opportunities we have for service.



SHARING

God wants to use you specifically. Why? Because the best messages are personal messages. The most powerful messages come through people and you now have the most powerful message available to man. You have your story of how you came to know Christ.

God has a message to share with the world today. Instead of writing it in the sky, he wants to share it through you. You don't have to be perfect to share your life message. You just have to be honest—real and authentic. You can say, "I don't have it all together, but here's what God's doing in my life. Here's the difference Jesus Christ has made."

If you don't share your life message with other people, they may never hear about what God can do for them too. God has already placed people in your life: family, friends, co-workers, even people you come across in your daily life – who are just one invitation to church away from experiencing all that God has for them. Begin to pray for opportunities to share your story with others and you will be amazed at how God will use you to bring life-change to the world, one person at a time.

For resources to help, visit [fcbentonville.org](http://fbcbentonville.org)



WHAT SHOULD I DO THIS WEEK?

- **Let us know about your decision.** On the back of this booklet you will find a couple of ways to let us know. We will send you some extra resources to help you better understand your decision to trust Christ.
- **Be sure to invest in a study Bible.** We recommended the **Life Application Study Bible: New Living Translation**. If you cannot afford a Bible let us know and we will help you to get your hands on one.
- **Start a Bible reading plan.** We recommend **F260 Bible Reading Plan**. You can google it or go to replicate.org to find it.
- **Make plans to attend our Rooted Class.** You can find the dates for this class at fcbentonville.org/small-groups or scan the QR code below.
- **Make plans to attend our Starting Point** where you can find out more about following and serving Jesus. You can find the dates at fcbentonville.org/small-groups or scan the QR code below.



ESSENTIAL TIPS

Here are a few essential elements to help you in your journey.

1. Prayer

It is important to spend time in prayer every day. Your life needs spiritual food to grow, even more than your body needs physical food. Time in prayer is one way to feeding your life. We have access to God's presence anytime we want to spend time with Him. Prayer is simply talking with God. Learn to share your thoughts, fears, and desires with Him. Praise, thankfulness, confession, and requests will become an active part of your prayer-life.

2. Bible Reading

The second way to feed your spirit is with Bible reading. To grow as new Christians, it is essential to develop a daily habit of spending time in God's Word. As you read and study it will become clear how passages apply to your life. The Bible is God's way of sharing Himself with us. Find a translation that is easy for you to read – again we recommend the New Living Translation (NLT). A good place to start reading is the Gospel of John and 1 John in the New Testament.

3. Fellowship with Other Believers

We all need help and support in life. Our Christian walk is no different. It's important to become part of your local church, but it's more than attending services on Sunday morning. (There's a Bible verse about the importance of meeting with other Christians – Hebrews 10:25.) As you get involved in small groups and sharing with others, you will receive encouragement and strength from others. It's important to make new friends who share your new beliefs; they will help you continue to grow and learn from others.

4. Learn to Trust God

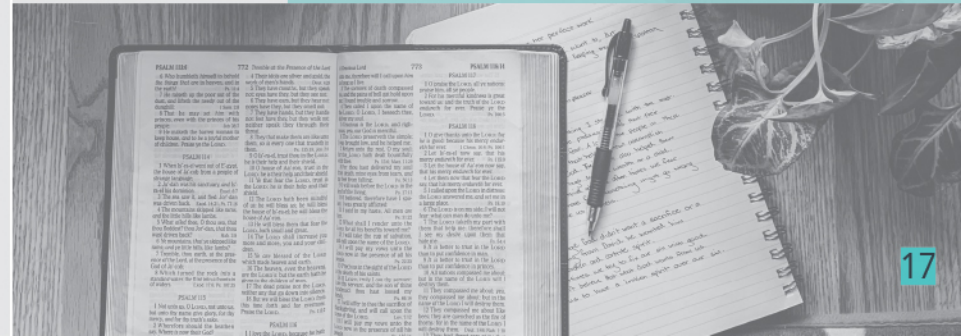
It's often difficult to believe that God has really forgive and accepted you. Ephesians 2:8 explains it: "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God." Don't doubt God's plan for your salvation.

5. Memorizing Scripture

Reading the Bible is the first step in understanding God's Word. But when you memorize a scripture, it's with you at all times. If you are doubting that God has forgiven you, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" or 1 John 5:13: "I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life."

In 1 Corinthians 13:11 the apostle Paul wrote about spiritual growth: "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me." We all want to grow and mature in our Christian life.

Blessings as you begin your new life in Christ!

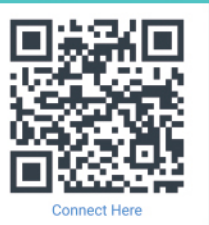


MORE QUESTIONS?

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, CONTACT US AT
FIRST BENTONVILLE.

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