



MOBILISE FOR THE CAUSE

A guide to **share** and **grow** your faith



Word of Life®
Youth Ministry

www.wol.org.au

MOBILISE

FOR THE CAUSE

This guide is designed to help in two ways.

For those of you who have recently put your faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and received eternal life, these lessons will show you how to have a meaningful relationship with Jesus and guide you in sharing Jesus with your friends.

Teach a friend how to have a meaningful relationship with God and share his faith with his circle of friends. Show how to have a deep relationship with Jesus and encourage sharing of Him with others.

For those of you who have led a friend to faith in Jesus, these lessons will help you teach your friend how to have a meaningful relationship with Jesus and how to share Jesus with their circle of friends.

Jesus said we should go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). As you progress through these lessons, you are joining the greatest cause ever: to reach your generation with the Gospel. Remember, God wants to use you, your words, and your life to reach your friends. It's time to get going and mobilise for THE CAUSE!



CONTENTS

LIFE WITH JESUS LASTS FOREVER - ASSURANCE	1
MY STORY - TESTIMONY	3
LIFE IN 6 WORDS - GOSPEL	6
THE GOSPEL ACRONYM	9
ASK, ADMIRE, ADMIT	10
THE CAUSE CIRCLE	12
QUIET TIME	14
TALKING TO GOD - PRAYER	17
THE BEST SOCIAL NETWORK - THE CHURCH	20
IDENTIFY WITH JESUS - BAPTISM	23
YOUR CONTROL CENTRE - SCRIPTURE MEMORY	25
YOUR IDENTITY - NEW LIFE	28
YOUR IDENTITY - ADOPTED	30
NOTES	33
WORD OF LIFE - LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES	34

LIFE WITH JESUS LASTS FOREVER - ASSURANCE

INTRODUCTION

LIST A FEW THINGS THAT DON'T LAST:

Most things in our world wear out and need to be replaced. We get new clothes, new phones, and sometimes even new friends. When we stop and think about it, we realise that not much lasts forever. That's what makes God's promise of eternal life—life with Jesus forever—so amazing.

ROMANS 6:23

ACCORDING TO THIS VERSE, WHAT HAS GOD GIVEN TO US AS A GIFT?

- ☐ A BETTER ATTITUDE
- ☐ ETERNAL LIFE
- ☐ THE ABILITY TO DO GOOD WORKS

Notice that the verse says eternal life is a gift. If something is a gift, all you need to do is receive it and it becomes yours; no work is involved!

ROMANS 3:23

ACCORDING TO THIS VERSE, WHAT IS IT THAT WE ALL DO?

- ☐ SEEK GOD
- ☐ TRY TO DO GOOD
- ☐ SIN

If eternal life (life with Jesus forever) depended on you and me being good enough to deserve it, it would be a lost cause, because we all fall far short of God's standard of sinless perfection. We all think, say, and do things that disobey God; sin is part of our "DNA." We were born with a natural propensity to sin. Think about it: no one had to teach you how to lie — you did it instinctively.

JOHN 3:16

This verse says that God gives eternal life to everyone who believes. It's that simple. Anyone who believes in God's one and only Son (Jesus) can have eternal life (life with Jesus forever). Jesus is God. He was born of a virgin and lived a perfect, sinless life. Jesus took the punishment for our sins. He died and rose again, proving that He is God and has the power to forgive our sins and give us eternal life. By believing in Jesus, we receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that lasts forever.

JOHN 10:28

WHAT PROMISES DO YOU SEE IN THIS VERSE? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ **I will never perish.**
- ☐ **If I am a good person, I receive eternal life.**
- ☐ **Jesus gives me eternal life.**
- ☐ **No one will take me out of God's hand.**

This verse teaches that eternal life is given; it's not something you work for or something you have to work to maintain. ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER!
We can have confidence that eternal life is a gift from the loving and never-changing God of the universe. The next time you think about things that don't last forever, let it remind you of the one thing that does last forever — eternal life. Remember, eternal life began the day you believed in Jesus and will last forever.

ACTION STEPS

As you wake up each day this week, take a few minutes to thank Jesus for giving you eternal life that lasts forever. Write a prayer to God, thanking Him for the forgiveness of sins.

MY STORY - TESTIMONY

INTRODUCTION

**WATCH THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING VIDEO
VIA THE QR CODE:**



All followers of Jesus have a story to tell. It is the story of their life without Jesus, how they came into a relationship with Jesus, and how knowing Him has changed their life. One of the best ways to share the Gospel is to simply share the story of your personal journey to Jesus. To do this, you share what changed your mind about Christ and what has happened to you since. Here is what makes your personal journey to Jesus so powerful:

- 1. It is intensely personal.**
- 2. It brings the power of the Gospel to life through your story.**
- 3. It's REAL! It is hard to argue with a transformed life.**

ROMANS 6:23

MARK 5:2-5, 8, 14-20

The man in this story receives deliverance from the possession of evil spirits. When Jesus set him free, and he was back to normal, the man wanted to go wherever Jesus went. The man was grateful for his healing and wanted to be with the person who had changed his life. Jesus had a different plan. He challenged this new believer to go home and tell his story.

There were friends, neighbours and family who knew about his awful condition, and now he could share how Jesus changed his life. Jesus said to him, *"Go home and tell them all the good things I did and how I saved your life."* Keep in mind that this man was a new believer with no formal training in how to tell others about the change in his life. While we may not have all the answers for a sceptic, our story is real, even if it is not accepted or believed.

Even in the most intimidating situations, the story of how you came to faith in Jesus is simply you telling your personal story.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Think through the story of your journey to Jesus. To tell it well, it is good to write it down. This will help you focus on the main parts. As you are preparing, think about sharing three key things:

1. BEFORE: WHAT YOU WERE LIKE BEFORE JESUS

Maybe you were wild and crazy, or a partier, maybe life was dark and full of pain, maybe you were a cutter. Maybe you had a fear of dying because you saw a movie about hell. Whatever it was, just tell about life before Jesus. Go to the My Story Worksheet below to outline your life BEFORE Jesus.

2. THEN: THE TURNING POINT

What was it that helped convince you to believe in Jesus? Were you looking for something more because life seemed empty or hopeless? Was it a Christian friend who had something you didn't? Was it the feeling of guilt after doing something you knew you shouldn't? Was it the fear of death or hell?

REMEMBER, YOUR TURNING POINT WAS SENT FROM GOD TO HELP TURN YOU TOWARD HIM, AND IT MAY DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS AS WELL! ON THE MY STORY WORKSHEET, OUTLINE WHAT THEN WAS YOUR TURNING POINT.

3. AFTER: WHAT YOUR LIFE IS LIKE NOW WITH JESUS

The third component should be a brief description of how your life is different since you put your trust in Christ. Maybe you feel unconditionally loved, or the nagging guilt is gone because your sins are forgiven. Whatever it is, share it from your heart, with grit and raw honesty. On the My Story Worksheet, outline what your life has been like AFTER trusting in Jesus.

MY STORY WORKSHEET

Use the following space to write out the story of your journey to Jesus. You can get started with the friend who is going through this lesson with you. Get the basic outline written and then work to complete it by the next time you meet so you can share it, and make adjustments.

- 1. **BEFORE: WHAT WERE YOU LIKE BEFORE YOU BELIEVED IN JESUS?**
- 2. **THEN: WHAT WAS THE TURNING POINT FOR YOU?**
- 3. **AFTER: HOW IS YOUR LIFE DIFFERENT SINCE YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN JESUS?**

ACTION STEPS

Ask the person doing this lesson with you to share their story with you. In the coming week, complete your story so you can share what you have written.

LIFE IN 6 WORDS - GOSPEL

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

FROM THIS VERSE, WHAT CAN YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD’S PLAN TO GET THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL TO PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS?

God Himself will speak to each person.
God’s plan is to work through me.
God has no plan to reach people who do not know Jesus.

One thing you need to learn is the “big-picture” theme of the Bible so you can explain it to others. There is a simple acrostic that will guide you in explaining the Gospel to those unfamiliar with the Bible so they will understand. The acrostic spells the word “GOSPEL” and shares six key truths.

Learning these truths is like putting in the prep work needed to play a guitar. First, you learn the chords. Chords give you the basics, and as you master them, you can begin to play a simple song that others are willing to listen to! As your musical abilities continue to improve with practice and experience, you’ll progressively improve until you reach the point where you’re able to improvise, be creative, and make your own beautiful music. Mastering these six key truths will prepare you to be used by God to get the Gospel to your friends.

THE G.O.S.P.E.L. ACROSTIC

GOD CREATED US TO BE WITH HIM.

PSALM 100:3

God’s original plan was that all humanity would be happy and in a perfect relationship with Him. God designed us to be in perfect harmony with Him. We were made to fit together like peanut butter and jelly.

OUR SINS SEPARATE US FROM GOD.

ROMANS 3:23

God's plan for us to live in a perfect relationship with Him was disrupted by an evil act thousands of years ago when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. This verse says that every human falls short and cannot keep the perfect standard of God.

It's like having a contest to throw a rock to the moon. No one can actually do it. Some throw it further than others, but everyone falls short of this impossible goal. God is holy and His perfect standard has been violated by everyone, even the best of us. Every person has sinned because sin was passed on to us, it is a part of us, and we cannot change that.

SINS CANNOT BE REMOVED BY GOOD DEEDS.

EPHESIANS 2:8

Many people try to remove their sin by doing good things, but good works don't work! This verse says that God sees all our attempts to be good as filthy rags. When we do good works to try to make up for our sins, it is like putting white frosting on burnt cake. It puts a covering over something that is bad, but it does not remove the problem.

PAYING THE PRICE FOR SIN, JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN.

ROMANS 5:8

Jesus rescued us from our sins by being judged by God as if He had committed our sins. He took the full force of the wrath of God for our sins by dying on the cross. Jesus took our place! It is like Jesus pushing us out of the way of an oncoming bus and taking the hit Himself. Jesus was buried and then three days later, He rose from the dead.

EVERYONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM ALONE HAS ETERNAL LIFE.

JOHN 3:16

Eternal life is a gift given by God. Jesus paid the price so you don't have to! Eternal life is free! You do not need to try or cry, you just need to trust in Jesus alone. Like putting your full weight in a chair you sit in, you put your full trust in what Jesus did for you on the cross, not in your own good works.

LIFE WITH JESUS STARTS NOW AND LASTS FOREVER.

JOHN 10:28

Eternal life starts as soon as you believe in Jesus, when you receive the free gift of eternal life from God.

REVIEW

Take a few minutes to practice going through the G.O.S.P.E.L. acrostic with the person working through this lesson with you.

ACTION STEPS



Watch the 4-Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith video via the QR code:



THE

GOSPEL

G

GOD CREATED US TO BE WITH HIM

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." - Psalm 100:3

O

OUR SINS SEPARATE US FROM GOD

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

S

SINS CANNOT BE REMOVED BY GOOD DEEDS

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." - Ephesians 2:8-9

P

PAYING THE PRICE FOR SIN; JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN

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

E

EVERYONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM ALONE HAS ETERNAL LIFE

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- John 3:16*

L

LIFE WITH JESUS STARTS NOW AND LASTS FOREVER

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." - John 10:28

ASK, ADMIRE, ADMIT

INTRODUCTION

One of the biggest roadblocks to sharing the Gospel with people who are not Christians is knowing how to bring up the Gospel. Using the 'Ask, Admire, Admit' method makes it easy to turn a secular conversation into a spiritual conversation.

WATCH THE ASK, ADMIRE, ADMIT VIDEO VIA THE QR CODE.



ASK

People generally like to talk about themselves, so by asking questions, you are engaging the person in a conversation about themselves. As they are sharing, pray that God will show you ways you can turn the conversation toward spiritual things. The reason to ask good questions is not to trip them up but to show you care about them and want to get to know them on a deeper level. You can ask great questions like...

- **Where are you from?**
- **What sports do you play?**
- **What do you do for fun?**
- **What hobbies do you like?**
- **What is your favourite TV show?**

Try to find things you have in common with them. If they are a close friend, you may already know this. The goal is to move toward questions about their faith, like:

- **Do you have any spiritual beliefs or belief in the supernatural?**
- **What do you think about God or do you believe in God?**
- **Do you go to church anywhere or do you ever think about religion?**

No matter how they might answer your question, you can ask them to explain to you what they believe. Remember, we want to ENGAGE people not ENRAGE them. With good questions it is possible. Remember, you are not out to win an argument. The goal is to have a Gospel conversation in which you share the Gospel.

ADMIRE

Once you have gained more understanding of their spiritual beliefs, look for ways you can admire what they believe. Find something to admire about their faith system and thank them for sharing.

ACTS 17:22-23

How do you see the Apostle Paul admiring the Athenians' spirituality in these verses? (Tick all that apply.)

- o He called them very religious people.**
- o He condemned their idol worship.**
- o He noticed all their altars.**

Once you have admired what you can about their beliefs, ask them if you can share your spiritual beliefs.

ADMIT

Now you simply admit how messed up your life was and how Jesus radically changed you! This is the perfect place to share your story, the story of how you came to put your trust in Jesus to forgive your sins and receive eternal life. This is where you share what you developed in the "My Story" lesson. Remember to keep your story brief, about 3-5 minutes. As you are telling your story, you will be sharing God's story, the GOSPEL!

AFTER YOU FINISH SHARING THE GOSPEL JUST ASK THREE MORE QUESTIONS:

- DOES THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU?**
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**
- IS THERE ANYTHING HOLDING YOU BACK FROM PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN JESUS?**

If they have questions, keep talking with them. If they do not, ask if they would like to put their faith in Jesus Christ right now!

ACTION STEPS

I will ask God to give me an opportunity to share the Gospel this week.
When God gives me the opportunity, I will use the Ask, Admire, Admit method to share the Gospel.

THE CAUSE CIRCLE

INTRODUCTION

WATCH THE CAUSE CIRCLE VIDEO VIA THE QR CODE



The Cause Circle is a simple tool that will help you be more intentional about sharing the Gospel with your friends. It is built around three simple priorities: prayer, care, and share.

PRAYER!

Jesus knew how important it was to talk to God about people before He talked to people about God. The same is true for us. When we start by praying for the people we are seeking to reach with the Gospel, it prepares them to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. The first focus of our prayer should be to ask God to give us a great concern for the souls of the people around us: our friends, family, and neighbours.

When we do this, we are asking God to let us join Him in what He's already doing! As He brings to our mind the names of people He wants to use us to reach, it helps us create our Cause Circle. We must not only pray for our lost friends to be reached, but also for God's Holy Spirit to give us the courage to do whatever it takes to reach them, even if sharing our faith with our friends feels a little scary because we might be risking our popularity.

CARE!

Jesus often healed the sick, fed the hungry, and helped the hurting. In the same way, we must show love to those we are trying to reach. We do this by listening to them and caring for them. It could be simply saying something nice, inviting them to sit at your lunch table or helping them with homework. Ask God for some creative ways you can show them the love of Christ!

SHARE!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

Notice in this verse it says that God is making his appeal through us! Remember, God wants to use you to share the GOSPEL with the people in your Cause Circle.

Share the Gospel with them out loud with words as the Holy Spirit leads. A great way to do this is to use the Triple A method (Ask, Admire, Admit). We must lovingly share the Gospel message clearly and confidently. A restored relationship with God is the absolute best news on the planet, so don't be afraid to ask them to put their trust in Jesus!

ACTION STEP

BUILD YOUR CAUSE CIRCLE

Use the Cause Circle below to think through who you will pray for, care for, and share the Gospel with. Under PRAYER, write the names of people you know who need to begin a relationship with Jesus and for whom you are willing to pray. Use this every day as a reminder of the friends you are asking God to bring to Jesus. In the CARE section, think of ways you could show Christ's love to your lost friends or family members.

Take time and write a few creative ways you could do this. Ask God to help you think of a specific way for each person. When you are ready to share the Gospel with someone, think through how you will do this. Then write the details of where, when, and how in the space provided in the SHARE section.



QUIET TIME

INTRODUCTION

Now that you have begun a relationship with the best friend you will ever have, you will want to spend time with Him every day; this is called a quiet time. Quiet time is all about spending time with God, learning how to listen to Him (by reading the Bible) and learning how to talk to Him (through prayer).

READ PSALM 42:1-2

What words do you see in this verse that show the writer's desire to spend time with God? (Tick all that apply.)

- ☐ THIRST
- ☐ LOOK
- ☐ LONG
- ☐ PANTS

The Word of God, the Bible, changes us as we read it, think about it, and do what it says. God's Holy Spirit, Who lives inside every believer, also uses the Bible to speak to us. He takes the words written in the Bible and tells us what God wants us to know for our lives. Investing time to read the Bible, trying to understand it, and then applying it in your life, will have an incredible effect on you!

YOUR QUIET TIME PLAN

Think through your typical day and decide what time you will set aside for your quiet time. Select a time that you can make consistent each day, when things are quiet, and you can really think. Choose a place that is quiet and has no distractions.

Put a reminder somewhere, like on your phone, to help you build the habit. Plan to share what you learn each day with a friend, youth leader, or parent. The more detailed you are about the plan, the more likely you will be to follow through with it.

YOUR TIME WITH GOD

PRAY

Before you start reading, take some time to talk with God by asking Him to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to help you understand what you read and also to help you do whatever He tells you.

PERUSE

“TO EXAMINE WITH ATTENTION”

Go to the ‘Quiet Time’ page and look up the Bible verses. If you aren’t sure where the verses are, use the index in the front of your Bible, do a Google search, or use a ‘Bible’ app. Read the verses and answer the questions. Your ‘Word of Life Quiet Time’ will help you think about the meaning of the verses and how they can apply directly to your own life. You can use some of the following questions to help you with this:

- **What does this passage teach me about God, others, myself, or life?**
- **Is there a command to obey?**
- **Is there a promise from God that applies to me?**
- **Is there a warning for me to pay attention to?**
- **Is there an example to follow or avoid?**

If you have any questions, get stuck or have a hard time understanding something, feel free to ask for help from the person going through this lesson with you.

PRACTICE

The last step is to apply God’s Word. This is when you take what you read and do something about it. Ask yourself, “If I were to take action on what I have learned, what would I do?” These questions can help you think through your application:

- **Is there sin in my life I need to stop?**
- **Is there a way of thinking or an attitude that needs adjustment?**
- **Is there something I can celebrate and thank God for?**
- **Is there an action I need to take or a conversation I need to have?**
- **How will I live this out in my life today or this week?**

YOU CAN REINFORCE WHAT YOU LEARN BY:

- **Posting what God shows you to your favourite social media platform.**
 - **Make a note about what you learned somewhere and read it a couple of times a day.**
 - **Text what you learned to your parents, a friend, youth leader, or pastor and ask them what they learned from their quiet time with God.**
-

ACTION STEPS

Get your own 'Quiet Time' this week at wolstore.org. If needed, have the friend going through this lesson help you. Once you have your 'Quiet Time', use the information in this lesson to set up your plan.

WHEN - I WILL DO IT:

- **Morning**
- **Afternoon**
- **Evening**

Where - I plan to do it at this location:

Who - I will daily share what I learn with:

Do at least one day of Quiet Time before your next meeting.

TALKING TO GOD - PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

**WHICH STATEMENT(S) DO YOU THINK BEST DESCRIBES WHAT PRAYER IS?
(TICK ALL THAT APPLY.)**

- ☐ the words I use to talk to God
 - ☐ my lifeline to Jesus
 - ☐ when I bring praises, requests, and confess sins to God
 - ☐ a way to show how much I need God
-

BE REAL WHEN YOU PRAY

When we pray, the important thing to remember is that God already knows our deepest thoughts and feelings. We might think we need to present a version of ourselves that is neat and well-kept. The problem with this is we are not showing the version of us that God wants! He wants you to come to Him as you are, the real you - broken, messy, emotional, insecure, and yes, even at times explosive. He wants us to come to Him in our weakness and trust Him with our deepest fears, pains, and questions.

PSALM 6:2-7

“A” IS FOR ADORATION.

Adoration means “to have strong feelings of love or admiration.” To put it simply, just tell God how awesome He is! In Matthew 6:10, it says, “Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” When we tell the Lord that we want His will in our lives, we are saying that we accept that He knows what is best for us. As a believer, you can trust God because He loves you and wants the best for you.

WRITE ONE EXAMPLE OF WHY GOD IS AWESOME AND WHY YOU CHOOSE TO TRUST HIM.

READ 1 JOHN 1:9

“C” IS FOR CONFESSION.

Confess means “to admit our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.” When we trusted Jesus, we received not only forgiveness of all our sins, but also eternal life that started immediately and will last forever. This does not mean we will never sin again. It is important when we sin as Christians to come to God and admit (confess) our sin and ask for His forgiveness.

Our unconfessed sins are obstacles to open communication with God. God never changes in His love and care for us when we sin. We are the ones who turn away from Him. When we confess our sin, we turn back to God who never changed in His love toward us. Confessing our sin restores our free and open communication with God again. We confess by admitting to God that we sinned and ask for forgiveness.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

“T” IS FOR THANKSGIVING.

ACCORDING TO THIS VERSE, IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE GIVE THANKS?

Thanksgiving is “an expression of gratitude for a benefit received.” Thanksgiving is simply telling God what you are grateful for. Most of the time we express gratitude when good things happen to us, but keep in mind that we can also be thankful for difficulties in our lives because God can use them to help us grow deeper in our relationship with Him.

WHAT ARE THREE THINGS YOU CAN THANK GOD FOR RIGHT NOW?

1. I AM THANKFUL FOR:

2. I AM THANKFUL FOR:

3. I AM THANKFUL FOR:

READ MATTHEW 6:9-14

“S” IS FOR SUPPLICATION.

Supplication is “respectfully asking God for the needs and wants of others and myself.” God cares about everything that is important to us. Things like food, clothing, and a place to live are examples of needs that we all have. Notice in verse 5 Jesus says, *“When you pray”*. He is teaching us how to pray.

AS YOU READ VERSES 9-14, WHAT PHRASES DID YOU SEE THAT REFLECTED MAKING A REQUEST? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ show us
 - ☐ give us
 - ☐ help us
 - ☐ forgive us
 - ☐ lead us
-

ACTION STEPS

WHERE - I WILL PRAY HERE:

WHEN - I WILL PRAY AT THIS TIME:

MY PLAN

- **I WILL PRAY AS SOON AS I WAKE UP.**
- **I WILL SET MY PHONE ALARM TO REMIND ME TO PRAY.**
- **I WILL ASK SOMEONE TO BE MY PRAYER PARTNER.**

This is who I will ask:

This is another time or activity I will use as a reminder to pray:

Other thoughts for MY PLAN:

Start your own prayer list by writing three things you can pray to God about:

1. I CAN PRAY TO GOD ABOUT:

2. I CAN PRAY TO GOD ABOUT:

3. I CAN PRAY TO GOD ABOUT:

THE BEST SOCIAL NETWORK - THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

Social networks are designed to connect you with other people who have similar interests, to share ideas, and to hang out with people who like what you like. When you trusted Christ as your Saviour, you were added to another “network” called the church, but we are not talking about a physical building. This network is the worldwide group of people who call themselves Christians.

You are probably more familiar with the local church, the buildings you drive by in your town. This is where youth groups and church services happen. Getting connected to a local church will give you some amazing benefits that will help you grow in your new relationship with God. You will also be able to contribute your unique gifts as you serve others.

There are many different types of churches, and it can be confusing to determine which one would be best for you. As you are considering which church you should make your church, look for these three key characteristics:

1. THE CHURCH TEACHES THE BIBLE.

For you to grow in your new faith, good Bible teaching is vital. You will learn each week from a pastor who has spent years studying God's Word. To get the most out of your visit, seek to attend weekly, get a copy of the Bible (digital or book), go expecting to learn, take notes, and plan to put into practice what you learn. Also, find out when the church's youth group meets and make that meeting a priority as well. This meeting will be customised for you as a student.

READ ACTS 2:42

WHAT DID THE PEOPLE REFERRED TO IN THIS VERSE COMMIT TO? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ They learned from the Apostles' teaching.
- ☐ They did group icebreakers.
- ☐ They prayed together.

2. THE CHURCH HELPS PEOPLE GROW SPIRITUALLY.

If you were on a team, you would expect each member to encourage one another in order to make the team the best it could be. The same is true of a church. Find a church where students and adults are serious about growing in their personal relationship with Jesus.

A church youth group is a great place to interact with Christian students and adults who love Jesus, love students, and want to encourage you to grow. Make weekly attendance at your church's Sunday service and youth group a priority in your schedule.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25

WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS ENCOURAGED TO DO IN THIS VERSE? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Encourage each other to do good works.
- ☐ Continue to meet together.
- ☐ Make sure they give money to the church.

One way the church can help people grow is by encouraging each other. This is one of the key reasons we are encouraged to regularly attend a local church.

3. THE CHURCH MAKES THE GOSPEL A PRIORITY.

Find a church that is focused on getting the Gospel to others who do not know Jesus. Look for a church that regularly encourages members to share the Gospel. See if church leaders are setting the example in sharing the Gospel. Now that you are a follower of Jesus, God desires to use your words to share the Gospel with your friends. Being a part of a church that makes the Gospel a priority means you will be reminded about your need to get the Gospel to your friends.

READ MARK 1:17

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE SAY JESUS WOULD DO FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM?

- ☐ He would make them a better person.
- ☐ He would protect them.
- ☐ He would make them into someone who shares the Gospel with others (fishers of men).

ACTION STEPS

Talk through the following questions to determine your plan to get connected to a great church.

Where do you currently attend church?

Are you free to attend another church if necessary?

Do you need transportation to get to youth group and Sunday worship service?

IDENTIFY WITH JESUS - BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

When you are excited about a sports team, you might wear things that show you are proud to be a fan. In a similar way, baptism is your way to say, “I identify with Jesus.” In your baptism, you are preaching a message without using any words at all.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

BAPTISM SHOWS OBEDIENCE.

Notice the logical progression of this passage; go and spread the Gospel, then disciples are made, those disciples are to be baptised, and then taught to obey the words of Jesus. Notice the key part baptism has in this process. Baptism is a clear command of Jesus Christ. So, if you are a follower of Jesus, and you want to be obedient, you will be baptised.

ROMANS 6:4-6

BAPTISM IDENTIFIES YOU WITH THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

Being submerged in baptism is symbolic of dying to our old lives and being buried. Emerging up out of the waters of baptism is symbolic of being raised with Christ to a brand-new life.

When you become a Christian, baptism is one of the ways you can show others that you have put your faith in Jesus Christ. You are saying, “I identify with Jesus.” It shows you have a new life, the life Jesus gave you.

ILLUSTRATION

A person should be baptised as soon as possible after putting their trust in Christ. Some people were baptised or sprinkled as infants. Being baptised as an infant is not the infant's decision but someone else's. If you have come to faith in Christ, baptism is a statement of your personal identification with Jesus Christ. You alone must make the decision to say, “I identify with Jesus” for yourself. No one can do that for you.

SHOULD I INVITE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO MY BAPTISM?

Absolutely! Nothing could be more appropriate. Remember, baptism is a public testimony of your faith in Christ. It is also a visual re-enactment of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. At your baptism you are given an opportunity to share your story of how you came to put your faith in Jesus. This is a great way to get the Gospel to non-Christian friends and family.

WHAT IF YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS DON'T WANT YOU TO BE BAPTISED?

This is something that you should speak to a trusted pastor about. These situations can be complicated, but they are also important opportunities for you to grow. Sometimes following Jesus can be challenging, but in this challenge, He will give you wisdom. Talking to a pastor about your particular situation will help you as you seek to be obedient. At times what God asks of you as a believer might conflict with what your parents, teachers, or the government says. This is a place to learn when to, *"Obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29).

ACTION STEPS

IS BAPTISM SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, but later
- ☐ No

IF NOT, WHAT IS YOUR HESITATION?

WHEN WILL YOU SET A MEETING WITH YOUR PASTOR TO TALK ABOUT THIS?

DATE: _____

YOUR CONTROL CENTRE - SCRIPTURE MEMORY

INTRODUCTION

"I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorising Scripture... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends!"

- Pastor Chuck Swindoll

PROVERBS 4:23

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE WORD 'HEART' MEANS IN THIS VERSE?

- o The physical organ
- o The inner person
- o The heart emoji

To understand this verse, you must have a biblical definition for the heart: the control centre of man. This verse places a high value on what is going on in our heart, or control centre. We could conclude from this verse that we are where we are in our lives today because of what is going on in our control centre.

If you think of the heart as your life's control centre, that means that every thought you have originates there. So, what you think about will ultimately shape your life since your thoughts drive your control centre.

JOSHUA 1:8

CHECK THE STATEMENT BELOW THAT YOU THINK IS BEST REFLECTED IN THIS VERSE.

- o God promises that I will always be happy.
- o Meditation on God's Word will give success in life.
- o Meditation of any kind is needed.

God gave Joshua instructions to follow and promised that if he followed them, he would have success in life. The instructions and promises found throughout the Bible, when followed, will make you successful as a Christian.

The success we are talking about here is skill in living, not necessarily making tons of money or getting your way. The key to this success comes when we meditate on and live out God's Word. The best way to meditate on Scripture is to memorise it.

HEBREWS 4:12

A good paraphrase of this verse would be God's Word is alive and powerful, it exposes our deepest thoughts, motives and desires. The Scripture has the power to expose our thoughts. This means Scripture can show us where our thinking and actions are off and can help us to get back on the right path. Memorising Scripture is a great way to put the power of the Word of God in our thoughts so God can use it to change our thinking to be in line with His.

Committing Scripture to memory is not just a good idea, it is essential for us if we are to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and have the successful life He desires for us.

YOUR SCRIPTURE MEMORY PLAN

The Bible has thousands of verses so you might be thinking, "Where do I start?" Word of Life has put together verses on topics designed for today's student. There is no cost for these and you can access them through the free Quizlet app. Once you have the Quizlet app, click on the magnifying glass and search for "WOLLCM-student." Scroll to the topic you desire and tap the translation you want (ESV, NASB, NIV, NKJ, or KJV).

DOWNLOAD THE QUIZLET APP VIA THE QR CODE



As you begin to memorise, make sure you also learn the meaning of the verse. Look up the words in an online Bible tool, in a study Bible, or simply ask your youth leader or pastor. Learning the meaning of the verse will allow you to live it, which is the goal.

Many people think they don't have the ability to memorise verses, but we memorise things all the time: locker combinations, class schedules, and information for tests. It comes down to this: "How much do you want your life to change?" If you really want to memorise something, you can do it because your mind is powerful.

Give the following plan a try. You will be amazed by how much you can learn. You will not only be able to learn, but you will also be able to remember verses for years.

LEARNING

From Monday through Friday, say the verse out loud 10 times each day.

DAILY

Then for the next 3 weeks just say the verse once a day. At this point you know the verse and need little help to recall it.

WEEKLY

After this, commit to reviewing and saying the verse once a week for two months. Now the verse is locked into your mind.

MONTHLY

Now you could review the verse just once a month to keep it fresh for the rest of your life.

ACTION STEPS

I CHOOSE TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE TO MEMORISE A FEW VERSES THIS YEAR!

- ☐ Yes, starting this week.
- ☐ Yes, but later.
- ☐ No

THE TOPIC I WILL BEGIN TO MEMORISE IS:

MY FIRST VERSE TO MEMORISE IS:

I WILL HAVE THIS VERSE MEMORISED BY:

YOUR IDENTITY - NEW LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever secretly wished that you could start your life all over again? The good news is that spiritually, it already happened when you put your faith in Christ!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

ACCORDING TO THIS VERSE, WHAT IS SAID TO BE NEW?

- o the day
- o someone in or belonging to Christ
- o the Word of God, the Bible

One of the most powerful statements in Scripture about our identity after we begin our journey of following Jesus is found in this verse. Though you might not feel like it, God says that every person who puts their faith in Jesus has become a new creation. This verse states that Jesus has given us a completely new identity. It's true, you really do have a new life!

YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO A NEW LIFE!

ROMANS 6:5-12

The Bible also uses the word picture of dying and being resurrected with Christ to show we have a new life. In the following verses, take note of the words that relate to death and dying and those words that relate to life or living.

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. 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—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Notice that we become a completely different person after we put our trust in Jesus. This isn't speaking of an upgrade or improvement, but it is talking about the death of one person and the creation of a completely new person. This new life is one that is free from slavery to sin. It's a life of being connected to, accepted by, and adopted by God! It's a life of freedom from sin and the death and destruction it brings!

Now the challenge is, you must believe and live out this new identity. Notice that the Scriptures tell us to "count ourselves dead to sin."

The word count means *"to keep a mental record, or to hold in regard."* Because of this new life you have in Christ, you are told to regularly rehearse that this is true for you. This new identity will have its greatest impact as you choose daily to meditate on it, believe it, and act on it. This is something you can do every morning when you wake up and every night before you go to bed.

ACTION STEPS

Invest 5 minutes to review the identity statements below every morning when you wake up and every night before you go to bed.

GOD LOVES ME MORE THAN I CAN EVER UNDERSTAND. HE EVEN LOVED ME WHEN I WAS NOT LOVEABLE, WHEN I WAS A SINNER.

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

IN CHRIST, THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO THAT WOULD MAKE GOD LOVE ME MORE AND NOTHING I HAVE DONE THAT WOULD MAKE GOD LOVE ME LESS.

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

YOUR IDENTITY - ADOPTED

INTRODUCTION

Adoption is a wonderful part of our society. It is hard to imagine a more loving act than parents welcoming a child into their family. There is a special love that these parents have for the child even before the adoption takes place.

Just as an adopted child had a need for a physical home, every person has a spiritual need to be adopted. Before we put our faith in Jesus, we were lost in our sin and on a path of physical and spiritual destruction. Even in that condition, God loved us. Jesus died to rescue us from our sin and give us a new life.

This new life in Christ is completely opposite of the old one. We are no longer controlled by the bondage of sin. We have been adopted by God and are now His children through spiritual adoption. This means we are dearly loved children with an intimate and personal relationship with God, once broken but now restored.

YOU ARE ADOPTED BY GOD! GALATIANS 4:5-7

IN THESE VERSES, WHAT WORDS OR PHRASES DID YOU SEE RELATED TO BEING FREE? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Freedom
- ☐ Kindness
- ☐ No longer a slave

WHAT PHRASE DID YOU SEE RELATED TO AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

- ☐ Adopted
- ☐ Love
- ☐ Abba Father

Do you see the words “Abba, Father” in these verses? Abba means “Daddy.” It is very personal and intimate. Jesus used this word when pouring His heart out to God (His Father) in prayer. This shows us that because of our faith in Jesus we are brought into the same father-child relationship that Jesus shares with God.

If your relationship with your parents is not great, this might not bring the best thoughts to mind, but keep in mind we are talking about God as our father, the perfect and holy one who rescued us from sin.

CHECK THE CIRCLES BELOW THAT MIGHT MAKE UP AN IDEAL RELATIONSHIP:

- o Joy when you are with them
- o Wanting the best for them
- o Selfless love
- o Seeking our own desires
- o Complete trust
- o A listening ear
- o Disinterest

The characteristics that make up an ideal relationship are true of your relationship with God. This is possible NOT because you are so loveable, but because God is so loving. We have been brought into an intimate relationship with God through Jesus’ death on the cross!

Now, through Jesus, we are true sons and daughters of God! Unlike our human parents, God is the perfect father. God will never get angry or annoyed with you. He will never make mistakes as He cares for you. God always wants to hear from you, whatever is on your mind, and He will never give up on you. This is an amazing truth. You have been adopted by God, you are now His dearly loved child, and He will never leave you or forsake you.

ACTION STEPS

AFTER READING THE VERSES BELOW, WRITE A PRAYER TO GOD EXPRESSING YOUR GRATITUDE FOR ADOPTING YOU AS HIS DEARLY LOVED CHILD.

EPHESIANS 1:5-8

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

WRITE OUT YOUR OWN PRAYER:

NOTES

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small gaps between them. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



@WOL.LCM.AU

EMAIL: office@wol.org.au

PHONE: (02) 6559 6775

SUITE 3/60 BOLD ST, LAURIETON NSW 2443

WWW.WOL.ORG.AU

ABN: 29 000 987 717

OUR MISSION

"Word of Life is dedicated to sharing the message of Christ to students in every corner of the globe."



ABN: 29 000 987 717