

# A New Beginning: Setting a solid foundation for your new life in Christ



By Dave Quinn  
PASSION Australia  
[www.passionaustralia.org](http://www.passionaustralia.org)

## **Introduction**

This free booklet is designed to help you begin your new life in Christ and set a solid foundation for this new life. Each page has a simple study that will teach you about the Bible, prayer, church, serving God, sharing your faith, the role of the Holy Spirit and being assured of your salvation. It includes a number of Scriptures on each topic, some reflection questions, a simple prayer and some Bible memory verses.

For best use of this booklet you might like to work through it with a person who has been a Christian for some time. They may be able to answer some of the questions you may have.

## **Making sure of your salvation**

Before you begin the studies on the coming pages it is important that you make sure of your own personal salvation.

To be saved or to receive salvation means to be rescued from the penalty of sin - which is eternal separation from God - and to be assured that you are going to spend eternity with God when you die. In the present tense it also means that you are in relationship with God, He is with you wherever you go and He is able to guide you and help you in all situations.

The Bible tells us that salvation is found in Jesus Christ. John 14:6 says, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". This verse tells us that Jesus is the way to the Father. The Bible also tells us in Acts 4:12 that there is no other way to find salvation. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone.

Each of us must respond personally to God's plan for our salvation. God played His part by giving His Son to die on the cross for us to pay the price for our sin. Our part to receive what Jesus has done for us. God requires us to do three things to find salvation. They can be described as the A, B, C of salvation -

### **A - Admit.**

We need to admit to God that we have sinned and fallen short of His standards and to ask for His forgiveness.

### **B - Believe.**

We need to believe in Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sin.

### **C - Commit.**

We need to commit our lives to Jesus Christ and ask Him to come into our lives and guide and lead us in all we do.

Responding to God is as simple as praying a short prayer that expresses our thanks for what He has done, confessing your sin and asking Jesus into your life. You can pray this prayer right now.

### **Prayer to find salvation**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I thank You that Jesus came and died on the cross for my sin. Right now I ask for Your forgiveness for all of the wrong things I have done in my life. Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and I ask You to be a part of my life. Please come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. Please guide me and lead me in all I do and help me to live for You.*

*Amen.*

If you have sincerely prayed the prayer above it now means you are in relationship with God, that your sins are forgiven and that you will spend eternity with Him when you die. That is great news! Now you are ready for the study...

### **Copyright Information**

This booklet is copyright to the ministry of PASSION Australia ([www.passionaustralia.org](http://www.passionaustralia.org)). It can be downloaded and used freely and/or photocopied for group use. It is not to be placed on another website for downloading without express written permission from PASSION Australia. This item is not for sale.

### **Scripture Quotations**

All Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica.

## **Being assured of your salvation**

When we ask Jesus Christ into our lives and we become a Christian, it is a start of a whole new journey of faith and life. The Bible tells us the old life is gone and the new life has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). However, during our first few months of being a Christian it is quite normal to have periods of doubt about God or if we are really saved. In these times it is very important to seek reassurance from the Bible.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

John 3:16 - 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.

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 5:13 - I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 10:13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Hebrews 9:28 - Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

### **Reflection questions**

1. John 3:16 talks about God's great love for all mankind. What does it say we have as Christians if we believe in Jesus Christ?

2. When we receive Jesus Christ into our lives, what does the Bible tell us we become? (John 1:12)

3. Romans chapter 10 talks about salvation. Who according to Romans 10:13 who can be saved?

4. Hebrews 9:28 tells us that the first time Jesus it was to take away the sins of many people. What does it say Jesus will bring to those when He comes back again?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I pray that You will assure me of my salvation. Help me to remember that I am saved because of what Jesus has done for me. I pray that when I have doubts about Your existence or my salvation that I will read the Bible and find assurance in Your Word.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise John 3:16 for next week's lesson.

## **The Bible – God’s Word to all mankind.**

The Bible is God’s handbook for life. When we read the Bible it teaches us about God, about this world and about God’s great love for all mankind. We also learn how to live our lives and how we should relate to each other. It is important for us as Christians to read the Bible as it helps us to line our thinking up with God’s thinking and to live the life God wants us to live. It also helps to grow strong in our faith and belief in God.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

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

Psalm 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 1:2-3 - Blessed is the man...[when] his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

### **Reflection questions**

1. The Bible teaches us many things about life. What four things does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say the Bible is useful for?
2. Why is it important for us as Christians to keep God’s Word in our hearts? (Psalm 119:11)
3. What are some of the things Psalm 1:2-3 tells us will happen if we read and meditate on God’s Word?

4. What does James 1:22 tell us we are doing if we only listen to God's Word and not put it into practice?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*Please help me to read the Bible everyday. I pray that You will teach me all about You, about Your great love for me and how I should live my life. Please give me a real love for Your Word and a desire to study it and apply it to my life.*

*I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise 2 Timothy 3:16-17 for the next lesson.

## **Prayer – connecting with God**

Prayer is simply communicating with God. As you pray tell God your needs and pray that He will bless others too. Before long you will see the difference prayer makes in your life and in the lives of those around you. Remember to keep it simple - just like you are talking to a friend. As you pray remember to be open to God so He can speak to you or prompt you to do something. Like all good communication, prayer is a two way thing.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

John 14:13 – And I will do whatever you ask in my name [Jesus], so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

### **Reflection questions**

1. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us not to be anxious about anything, but to take our needs to God. What does God promise to give us when we do this?

2. Jeremiah 29:11-12 talks about calling upon God and praying to Him. What do these verses assure us about our prayers to God?

3. The Bible tells us that when we pray to the Father we should pray in someone's name. In whose name should we pray? (John 14:13)

4. 1 Peter 5:7 talks about praying to God and casting all of our worries on Him. Why do you think we should do this?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I thank You that love me and are concerned for me. Thank You that I can bring all of my prayers and petitions to You. I thank You that You always hear and answer my prayers.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise Philippians 4:6-7 for next week's lesson.

## **Church – meeting with other Christians**

God set up church so we could have be a part of a caring community, to have a support network and so we grow in our faith together. We can also learn more about the Bible, prayer, baptism, serving God and living in community. It is important for all Christians to meet together regularly as this helps to encourage each other as we wait for Jesus to return.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below.

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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

Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

John 13:34-35 – Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

### **Reflection questions**

1. Acts 2:42 talks about the early Christians and what their church was like. What four things does it say they devoted themselves to when they met together?

2. According to Hebrews 10:24 what two things should we encourage each other towards?

3. Hebrews 10:25 talks about meeting together as Christians. What does it say we should not do?

4. In John 13:34-35 Jesus talks about one thing that will show people that we are His disciples when we meet together. What is that thing?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I pray that You will help me find a church where I can meet with other Christians each week. I pray I can find a place where I can serve You, where I can make friends and a place where I can grow in my faith and trust in You.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise Hebrews 10:25 for the next lesson.

## **Serving God**

As Christians it is important for us to see ourselves as God's servants. The Bible says each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others (1 Peter 4:10). That means if we are good at something we should think of ways to use that gift to help others and make their lives better. In Mark chapter 10 the Bible tells us that Jesus came not to be served but to be a servant.

Please read the following verses and then answer the questions below.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each man [or woman] should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Mark 10:43-44 - Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

### **Reflection questions**

1. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God created us to do good works. When did He prepare these works for us to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Serving God is about being generous and giving in all we do and say. What sort of giver does God want us to be? (2 Corinthians 9:7)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to Colossians 3:23-24 who are we really serving when we do our work?

4. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to serve and not be served. What should we do if we want to be great in God's eyes? (Mark 10:43-44)

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I pray that You will help me to serve You everyday. I pray that all I do and all I say will bring honour and glory to You. I pray that You will help me to use my gifts for the good of those around me.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise Colossians 3:23-24 for the next lesson.

## Sharing your faith with others

For a Christian sharing our faith with others is very important. God wants us to be His witnesses and to tell people about His great love for them. In the Bible it tells us that God has given us the task of helping other people to know Him (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the questions below.

Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8 - 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."

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Romans 10:13-14 - "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

### Reflection Questions

1. Matthew 28:18-20 was Jesus' last words before He ascended to heaven. It is often called the Great Commission. What three things did Jesus tell His followers to do for Him?

2. God doesn't expect us to tell people about Him in our own strength. What does Acts 1:8 says we will receive to be His witnesses? Where does that help come from?

3. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always be prepared. What should we be prepared to do? What sort of attitude should we have as we do this?

4. In Romans 10:13-14 it says that preaching is important part of the Christian life. Why do you think this is so?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*Please help me to share my faith with my family, friends and neighbours. I pray that when the opportunity comes that You will give me the courage, power and right words to say.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise Matthew 28:18-20 for the next lesson.

## **The Holy Spirit – our helper in this life**

We see in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper as Christians. He helps us to live the Christian life effectively and helps us to become more like Christ in the way we think and live.

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the questions below.

Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

John 14:26 - But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 9:31 - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Acts 1:8 - 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."

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Romans 8:11 tells us that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and gives life to our bodies. Where does it say the Holy Spirit lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. John 14:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit will help do two things for us about the things that Jesus said. What two things are they?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Acts 1:8 says that the Holy Spirit will help us to be God's witnesses. What does it say we will receive from the Holy Spirit to do this?

4. What two things did the Holy Spirit do for the churches Judea, Galilee and Samaria as it enjoyed a time of peace and grew in numbers? (see Acts 9:31)

5. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us to live a good life and produce good fruit (good works). What nine things does it say the Holy Spirit helps us to do?

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father,*

*I thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit to help, teach, guide, encourage and strengthen us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will work in my life to produce good fruit and He will help me to live for You each and every day.*

*I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen*

### **Key Thought**

Record below one key thought that you will remember from this lesson.

### **Memory Verse**

Memorise Galatians 5:22-23

## **Answers to the reflection questions**

Following are the answers to the reflection questions. The answers are meant as a guide only. If you have words that mean similar things then that is ok. It is more about getting the general idea of the meanings we are trying to draw out of the passages.

### **Study 1 – Assurance of Salvation**

1. God promises us eternal life
2. We become children of God
3. Everyone who calls out to Jesus can be saved
4. Jesus will bring salvation to His followers next time He comes

### **Study 2 – The Bible**

1. Teaching, rebuking (reprimanding), correcting and training in righteousness
2. So we don't sin against God
3. We will prosper in all the things we do
4. We deceive ourselves

### **Study 3 – Prayer**

1. God promises to give us peace
2. That God will listen to us
3. We should pray in Jesus' name
4. Because He cares for us

### **Study 4 – Church**

1. Devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles, Fellowship or meeting together, Breaking bread (taking communion), and Prayer.
2. Love and good deeds
3. It says we should not give up meeting together with other Christians
4. People will know we are His disciples because of the way we love each other

### **Study 5 – Serving God**

1. God prepared our good works before He made the world
2. God wants us to be a cheerful happy giver
3. When we serve or work we are really serving the Lord
4. We need to become a servant of others to be great

### **Study 6 – Sharing your faith**

1. Make disciples, baptise them, teach them what Jesus taught
2. We will receive help and power from the Holy Spirit
3. We should be prepared to answer questions about our faith, we should do this with gentleness and respect

4. So people can hear about Jesus and salvation

### **Study 7 – The Holy Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us
2. The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of the things Jesus said
3. We will receive help and power from the Holy Spirit
4. The Holy Spirit strengthened and encouraged them
5. The Holy Spirit helps us to: love others, be joyful, have peace, be patient, show kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and be self-controlled

## **Setting a solid foundation for growth**

As a new Christian it is very important to build your life on a solid foundation. The best way to do this is by regularly reading your Bible, praying and meeting with other Christians at church. If you do this you will become a strong person of faith. Here are some tips to help with this.

### **A prayer journal**

A prayer journal is a place where you can write down all the things you have been praying for. This might include your own personal prayer needs and the things you have been praying for others too. A simple day to a page diary works really well for this. As time goes by you can look back over the journal and see the things you have been praying for and see how God has answered them. This is a great way to build faith!

### **Read the Bible each day**

As we have seen in the study, the Bible is God's Word to us. Reading the Bible each day helps to feed us as Christians. Just like we need food for our bodies each day to keep us healthy and strong, we need spiritual "food" to keep us strong too. One way to do this is by reading one chapter of the Bible each day. You can start at the New Testament book of Matthew and then work your way through the whole New Testament. This will take you about eight months if you read some everyday.

### **Meeting with other Christians**

It is very important for us to meet with other people who share our faith. The Bible says it is important to do this so we can encourage each other, support each other and so we can grow in our faith together. If you know someone who goes to church already you might be able to ask if you can go along with them. That way they can answer any questions you may have.

### **More free resources at PASSION Australia**

At [www.passionaustralia.org](http://www.passionaustralia.org) you can find more resources that will help and encourage you on your new journey of faith and life. There are sermons and articles, audio messages, tips to help you share your faith and there is also a contact page if you would like to contact us.

### **General Links**

There are also many good Christian websites that will help you too. Some of them are listed below...

Bible Gateway (A free online Bible) -  
<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Our Daily Bread (Daily Bible devotional) -  
<http://www.rbc.org/odb/odb.shtml>

ChristianCourses.com (Free Bible courses) -  
<http://www.christiancourses.com/>

eSword Bible Software (Free Bible software) -  
<http://www.e-sword.net/>

Kids4truth (Daily Bible devotions for kids) -  
<http://devos.kids4truth.com/>

Koorong Christian Bookstore -  
<http://www.koorong.com/>

Sonshine FM (Christian Radio Station) -  
<http://www.sonshinefm.ws>

## **Church Movements in Australia**

Here are links to some of the major church denominations in Australia. If you visit each of the websites you will be able to find some churches that meet near you.

Apostolic Church of Australia -  
<http://www.apostolic.org.au/>

Assembly of God Australia -  
<http://www.aogaustralia.com.au/>

Baptist Church of Australia -  
<http://www.baptist.org.au/>

Christian City Churches Australia -  
<http://www.ccc.org.au/>

Churches of Christ Australia -  
<http://www.churchesofchrist.org.au/>

Uniting Churches of Australia -  
<http://www.wa.uca.org.au/>