



LOVE YOUR LEGACY · MINI EDITION NO. 1

Following Jesus

You Said Yes to Jesus. Now What?

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

PSALM 119:105, NIV

PREPARED BY

Tay

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Chapter 1 — You Said Yes to Jesus

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

You may have prayed the prayer five minutes ago, in a church pew, at a kitchen table, in a car with the engine still running. You may have prayed it through tears. However it happened, heaven noticed.

This little book walks with you from here. One chapter at a time, no rushing. Jesus is not in a hurry with you, and neither are we.

THE TEACHING

Asking Jesus into your heart means you have turned toward Him the way a traveler turns toward home. It means you believe He is the Son of God, that He died for your wrongs and rose again, and that you are trusting Him with your life from this day forward.

It does not mean you will never struggle again. It means you will never face the struggle alone.

Here is the promise the Bible gives:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10, KJV)

You did not need perfect words to come to Jesus. You only needed an honest heart. The prayer below is a doorway, not a formula. If you have not prayed it yet, pray it now. Say it out loud if you can. Mean it in your heart for certain.

A Simple Prayer

Dear Jesus,

I believe You are the Son of God.

I believe You died for me, and I believe You rose again.

I am sorry for the wrong I have done. I turn away from it now.

Today I ask You into my heart. Be my Saviour. Be my Lord.

Walk with me from this day forward.

In Your name, Amen.

Something real just happened, even if your feelings have not caught up yet. Feelings change like weather. What God did for you stands like a mountain.

The Bible says: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12, KJV)

You received Him. You are now a child of God. That is not a feeling. That is a fact.

The Bible says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV)

Your past does not get the last word anymore. The old story is over. A new one has begun.

The Bible says: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1, KJV)

No condemnation. None. Not for the things you did before today, not for the person you used to be. You are forgiven, fully and freely.

If doubt whispers to you later, and it will, come back to these three verses. Read them out loud. Truth is stronger than feelings.

READ HIS WORD

Read Romans 10:9-13 slowly, out loud if you can.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" (Romans 10:9-13, NIV)

Everyone who calls. That includes you. It included you the moment you called.

SIT WITH THIS

What were you carrying when you came to Jesus? If it helps, start here: "Lord, You know I had been carrying..."

Which of the three verses in this chapter do you need most today, the child of God, the new creature, or no condemnation? Why that one?

Is there a part of you that still feels like the old story? What would you say to that part now, with the truth in front of you?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write the date you said yes to Jesus. Write where you were, and who was with you, or who you wish could have seen it. One day you will read this page back and marvel. Leave yourself the details while they are fresh.

LIVE IT

Tell one person today. It does not need to be a speech. "I gave my life to Jesus" is a whole testimony in seven words. Chapter 12 of this little book will help you tell more of your story when you are ready.

LET'S PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for hearing me when I called. Thank You that I am Yours, forgiven, made new, and not condemned. My feelings may run behind, but Your word stands. Teach me to walk with You one ordinary day at a time, starting with today. In Your name, Amen.

Chapter 2 — Knowing Jesus

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing them. You can learn every fact about a person and never once sit across a table from them. Jesus did not come to be studied from a distance. He came close, close enough to eat with people, close enough to be known the way you know the voice of someone you love calling from the next room.

Pull up a chair. The four books ahead are where the knowing begins.

THE TEACHING

Dear friend,

If you have finished "Beginning with Jesus," welcome to your next step. If this little book found you some other way, welcome anyway. You are in the right place.

The next thing to do is meet Him in the pages He left for you. There are four books in the Bible that tell His story, and they have names you may already know: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are called the Gospels, which means good news.

Here is the simplest way to think about them. Imagine four friends who sat around the same table and told you about the same person they loved, each from the chair only he could sit in. Same Jesus. Same cross. Same empty tomb. Four voices, each one letting you see something the others show you in a different light.

This booklet will walk you through all four. You will meet the King, the Servant, the Friend of the lost, and the Son of God. Four doors into the same house. Pick the first one, and begin.

READ HIS WORD

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14, NIV)

The Word became flesh. God did not stay far away and call out instructions from a safe distance. He came and lived among us, in a body that could be hugged and hands that could be held. He wanted to be known.

SIT WITH THIS

Which of the four portraits draws you most, the King, the Servant, the Friend of the lost, or the Son of God? If it helps, start here: "Jesus, the one I most need You to be for me right now is..."

What did you believe about Jesus before you met Him? What has already begun to change?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write one thing you already know is true about Jesus. Then write one thing you long to know about Him, and bring both with you as you read. He is not troubled by your questions. He has always welcomed them at His table.

LIVE IT

Sometime today, talk to Jesus the way you would talk to someone sitting in the room with you. Out loud, in your ordinary words, about ordinary things. Knowing Him grows the way every real closeness grows, a little time at a time, with nothing polished and nothing hidden.

LET'S PRAY

Jesus, I do not want only to know about You. I want to know You. Meet me in these pages, the way You met people at tables and wells and roadsides. Show me who You really are. I am in no hurry, and I am listening. In Your name, Amen.



Chapter 3 — Reading Your Bible

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

A Bible on the shelf is a house you have not walked through yet. A Bible open on the table, with a pen beside it and a cup of tea going cool because the words caught you, that is a home being made. This chapter is only a gentle map of the rooms. Wander as slowly as you like.

THE TEACHING

New believers often ask, "Where do I start?" Here is a gentle order, written for you. There is no wrong door into Scripture, and there is no deadline. Linger where your heart catches. You can always come back.

1. John: Meet Jesus and His love first. John's Gospel is the warmest place to begin, written so you may believe. 2. Mark: The story in motion, short and vivid. Sixteen chapters that move like a river. 3. Luke: The full journey, every lost one found. Take your time. Luke takes his time with you. 4. Matthew: Sit under His teaching. The Sermon on the Mount is worth your slow mornings. 5. Acts: See what the first believers did next. The story does not end with the Gospels. It continues, and you are in it. 6. Psalms: Learn to pray with God's own songbook. When you do not know what to say, the Psalms will say it for you. 7. Proverbs: Wisdom for ordinary days. One chapter a day will steady your steps. 8. Genesis: Go back to the beginning and see how it all starts. The garden, the promise, and the first whispers of the One who was coming.

Read at the pace of a life, not the pace of a deadline.

Keep a pen nearby. Underline the verses that stop you. Write the date next to the ones that make you cry. Those marks will become your map.

READ HIS WORD

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

Not a floodlight for the whole road. A lamp, the kind you carry close, that lights the next step and the one after. You never needed to see the whole journey at once. You only ever needed enough light for where your foot lands next.

SIT WITH THIS

Which book in the order above is your heart drawn to first, and why? If it helps, start here: "Lord, my heart keeps catching on..."

Is there a part of the Bible you have quietly been a little afraid of? What would it be like to tell Him so, honestly, instead of steering around those pages?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write today's date, and the first verse you underline in your own Bible. Years from now you may open to that page and tear up a little. These small marks become the story of how you found your way home.

LIVE IT

When the day settles tonight, read the first chapter of John. Slowly, out loud if you can. You do not need to understand all of it. You only need to meet Someone in it, and let Him keep the conversation going tomorrow.

LET'S PRAY

Lord, thank You for Your word, and for not leaving me to guess who You are. Open my eyes as I read, and let the verses that stop me be the very ones You set there for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 4 — Learning to Pray

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Almost every new believer carries the same quiet worry into prayer: what if I am doing it wrong? Set that worry down here, at the door. The disciples once came to Jesus and asked Him, teach us to pray. The men who watched Him pray every day still needed teaching. You are in the dearest company needing it too.

There is a whole little book coming in this series, No. 3, Prayer, that will take seven unhurried days over this. For now, this chapter is enough to begin.

THE TEACHING

Prayer is talking to God, and it is simpler than you think. These are Tay's own words from the ministry, and they are the best place to start:

"Come as you are. No fancy words needed. Talk to Him like a Father who loves you, and tell Him what is really going on, not the polished version. Listen too. Prayer is a conversation, not a speech. When you are done, just say Amen. That is it. You are praying."

Start today. Find a quiet spot, a chair or a corner, and tell Him what is on your heart. "Jesus slipped away to quiet places, and so can you."

READ HIS WORD

When Jesus taught His friends to pray, this is the prayer He gave them:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13, NIV)

Notice how short it is, and how much it holds. Pray it slowly, one line at a time, the way you would let a cup of tea steep. Pause wherever your heart catches. He is in no hurry, and the words will wait for you.

SIT WITH THIS

Which line of His prayer feels hardest to pray honestly right now? If it helps, start here: "Father, the line I stumble over is..."

When did you last sit quietly and simply listen, instead of only speaking? What might He say into a quiet you actually gave Him?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write a prayer to God in your own words, unpolished, the real version, the one you would say at the kitchen table at midnight. Nobody will grade it. This page is between you and your Father, and He already loves the sound of your voice.

LIVE IT

Give God five quiet minutes today. Set a timer if the silence feels long at first. Speak a little, listen a little, and notice, as the day goes on, how five honest minutes with Him can steady everything that follows.

LET'S PRAY

Father, teach me to pray the way Jesus taught His friends. Keep my words honest and my ears open. Thank You that You bend down to listen to me, every single time. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 5 — Grace

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Sooner or later, nearly every new believer tries to pay God back. We promise to be better, to read more, to fail less, as if heaven kept a ledger and we might one day balance it. This chapter exists so you can set the ledger down. Grace was never wages to be earned. Grace is a gift, wrapped and waiting, with your name on it.

THE TEACHING

Grace is the kindest word in the whole Bible, and some days the hardest one to believe. Grace means God gives you what you could never earn, simply because He loves you. Not because you had a good week. Not because you finally got your life in order. Because He is gracious, and because you are His.

Think of it this way. A wage is handed over because it is owed. A gift is handed over because the giver delights to give it. Everything Jesus did for you at the cross was a gift being prepared long before you knew to ask for it. Your part was never to pay for it. Your part is to receive it, the way you receive anything precious, with open hands and a grateful heart, and then to go on living like someone who has been given everything.

This is why the Christian life is not a ladder. You do not begin at the bottom, loved only a little, climbing toward being loved more. You begin fully loved, fully forgiven, fully His, and you spend the rest of your life learning to live from that beloved place instead of striving toward it.

Grace will change how you treat other people too, slowly and surely, the way light changes a room across a morning. Those who know

they have been forgiven much find it harder to hold grudges and easier to set a wider table. Let it do its gentle work in you. It will.

READ HIS WORD

"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, NIV)

Not from yourselves. The gift of God. Read it once more, slowly, and let it be as simple and as kind as it sounds.

SIT WITH THIS

Where have you caught yourself trying to earn God's love since you came to Him? If it helps, start here: "Lord, I notice I keep trying to pay You back by..."

What might this week feel like if you truly believed you are already, today, fully loved?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write down three things you used to believe you had to do to make God love you. Then, beside each one, in your own hand, write the words: a gift, not a wage.

LIVE IT

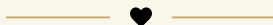
Today, receive one good thing without apologising for it or hurrying to repay it. A compliment, a kindness, an answered prayer arriving quietly. Just say thank You, out loud, to the One who gave it.

Receiving well is something grace teaches us, a little at a time.

LET'S PRAY

Father, thank You for grace. I could never have earned it, and You never once asked me to. Teach me to live from being loved instead

of striving to be. Make me gentle with others, the way You have been so gentle with me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 6 — Repentance and Forgiveness

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

You will still get things wrong. Not because your salvation failed, and not because God is disappointed in you, but because you are a person being made new, and being made new takes a lifetime. This chapter is about the first few minutes after you fail, because those few minutes, handled with Him, can turn a stumble into a homecoming.

THE TEACHING

Repentance sounds like a heavy word, but at its heart it is a homing word. To repent is to turn. You were walking one way, away from God, and you turn around and walk toward Him instead. It is the same turning you made the day you came to Jesus, and you will make smaller versions of it all your life long. That is not failure. That is the Christian life, one honest turn at a time, on a road that always leads back to a Father watching for you.

Here is the pattern of grace when a believer stumbles. You do not run from God. You run to Him. You tell Him the truth about what you did, in plain words, without dressing it up, the polished version left outside the door. You receive the forgiveness He promises as a fact, even before your feelings settle, because feelings are weather and His word is a mountain. Then, where someone else was hurt, you take the step that is yours to take. An apology. A repayment. A hard conversation held gently, with trembling hands if necessary. His forgiveness is instant. Repair with people can take longer, and both matter.

Notice what repentance is not. It is not beating yourself up until you feel you have suffered enough. There is no amount of your own sorrow that adds one drop to what Jesus carried. He took the punishment part, all of it. Yours is the turning part, and the receiving.

READ HIS WORD

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NIV)

Faithful and just. He forgives because that is who He is and what He promised, not because you confessed beautifully. Your plain honesty opens the door. His faithfulness does everything else.

SIT WITH THIS

Is there something you have been carrying quietly since you came to Jesus, a little afraid to bring it into the light? If it helps, start here: "Father, I have been afraid to tell You about..."

After you confess something, do you tend to keep punishing yourself for it? What might it mean, this week, to accept that He has already carried it, and carried it gladly?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write one thing you want to bring to God today, honestly and in plain words. Then write 1 John 1:9 beneath it, in your own handwriting, as His answer to you. Let your own hand be the one that records His mercy.

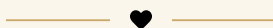
LIVE IT

Pray 1 John 1:9 out loud today about one specific thing. Then take one small step of repair that is yours to take, and leave the results,

gently, with God. You are responsible for the turning. He is responsible for what grows from it.

LET'S PRAY

Father, I turn toward You. I confess what You already know, and I receive the forgiveness You promised, because You are faithful. Wash me clean, and set my feet on the home road again. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 7 — When It Gets Hard

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Nobody may have warned you about this chapter, so let this little book do it with love. Hard days still come to people God loves. Some seasons, the long nights seem to find your house again and again. Dog-ear this chapter. Mark it. Come back to it on the days when nothing makes sense and the kettle feels far away. It will be here, and so will He.

THE TEACHING

Becoming a Christian does not mean the hard days stop coming. It means you never face them alone again.

Tay, the woman behind this ministry, walked through suffering, pain, hardship, abuse, and a broken family. She will tell you plainly that Jesus found her in the darkest place and never let go. He is the Shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. He will do the same for you.

On the hard days, hide under this promise: "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." (Psalm 91:4, KJV)

You are under His wings now. Nothing reaches you there without passing through His hands first.

Hold this one close: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10, KJV)

When you do not know what to pray, pray this: Jesus, hold me. He will. He always does.

READ HIS WORD

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4, NIV)

David did not say if. He said though, and he called it the darkest valley, and he was still not afraid. Not because the valley was small. Because the Shepherd was near, rod and staff in hand, walking the same ground at the same pace.

SIT WITH THIS

What is the hardest part of your life right now, said plainly? If it helps, start here: "Lord, if I am honest, the thing that hurts most is..."

Which promise in this chapter do you want to hide under this week, the feathers, the valley, or fear thou not? Why that one?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write the promise you chose, word for word, with today's date beside it. On some worse day than this one, and there may be one, this page will preach to you when you have no preaching left in you.

LIVE IT

Tell one trusted person that it is a hard season, and let them pray for you. Asking for prayer is not weakness, and it is not a burden to place on someone. It is one of the ways the Shepherd sends His help walking toward you on two feet, with a kind face.

LET'S PRAY

Jesus, hold me. I am not asking You to explain the valley. I am asking You to be in it with me, and You already are. Cover me with Your

feathers, tuck me close, and walk me through at whatever pace I can manage. In Your name, Amen.

Chapter 8 — Finding a Church

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

A coal alone on the hearth cools by morning. The same coal, resting in the middle of the fire, stays lit all night. God made His people to keep one another's faith warm, the way a family keeps a house warm just by living in it together. This chapter is about finding your fire, and the people who will help you tend it.

THE TEACHING

Do not try to do this alone. Jesus promised, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20, KJV)

Find a church that teaches the Bible plainly and loves people genuinely. Go more than once. Sit near the front if you are brave, near the back if you are not. Introduce yourself to one person. Let them know you are new in the faith. You will be surprised how many people have been waiting to welcome someone exactly like you.

READ HIS WORD

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV)

Not giving up meeting together. Somewhere in that room is a person who was sent to encourage you, and somewhere beside them sits a person who needs the very encouragement you carry. You were never meant to be a guest in God's house forever. In time, you become part of the welcome.

SIT WITH THIS

What has kept you from church until now, if anything? If it helps, start here: "Lord, if I am honest about church, I feel..."

What would you quietly hope to find there? A teacher you can trust, a friend who understands, a place where your gifts are needed? Name it plainly. He already knows.

WRITE IT DOWN

Write the names of two churches you could visit, and put a date beside each one. A hope with a date on it stops being a wish and becomes a plan, and plans have a way of walking us through doors.

LIVE IT

Go this Sunday. Not when you feel readier, not when life settles, because life seldom settles first. This Sunday. Sit where you are comfortable, stay for the whole service, and before you leave, shake one hand, and let one person learn your name.

LET'S PRAY

Lord, lead me to the people You have for me. Give me courage to walk through a church door as a beginner, and give that church a heart already glad to welcome me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 9 — Worship

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Worship is wider than the singing part of a service, though the singing is a beautiful doorway into it. Worship is what happens when a heart that knows it has been rescued turns toward the Rescuer. Sometimes that sounds like a song rising in a full room. Sometimes it sounds like a quiet thank You over a sink of warm dishes, and heaven leans just as close to both.

THE TEACHING

Here is a freeing truth to carry with you. Worship is a response, never a performance. You do not worship to win God's attention. You already have it, all of it, and you had it before you sang a note. You worship because you have seen who He is and what He has done for you, and something in you simply has to answer.

That means worship can wear many true faces. It is the song sung at full voice among God's people. It is also the gratitude whispered at a red light. It is obedience when obedience costs you something you wanted to keep. It is ordinary work, cooking, mending, building, creating, done deliberately for Him instead of merely done. The apostle Paul called even our everyday lives a living sacrifice, and he meant it in the most practical way. Nothing is too small to lay before God, and nothing laid before Him is ever wasted.

New believers sometimes worry that their worship is too small beside the lifelong believers around them. Hear this, and let it settle. God does not measure worship by volume or polish or years. The whispered thank You of a newly rescued heart is received in heaven

as treasure. Bring what you have, exactly as it is. He will receive it the way He receives everything you bring Him in love, gladly.

READ HIS WORD

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship." (Romans 12:1, NIV)

In view of God's mercy. Worship begins by looking, really looking, at what He has done, and then handing Him everything we are in return. When mercy is the view, the offering makes itself.

SIT WITH THIS

When have you felt your heart truly answer God, in a song, in a quiet place, at a table, out under the sky? If it helps, start here: "Lord, the time I felt closest to You was..."

What ordinary part of your day could quietly become an offering, if you began doing it for Him on purpose?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write three thanksgivings, and make them specific. Not a general thank You for everything, but names, moments, mercies with dates attached. Gratitude grows stronger the more specifically it is spoken, like a letter that finally says the real things.

LIVE IT

Sing one worship song out loud today, at home, like you mean it, because you do. Then choose one ordinary task, a meal made, a kindness done, a small thing mended, and do it slowly, deliberately, as an offering laid in His hands.

LET'S PRAY

Father, You rescued me, and my heart wants to answer. Teach me to worship You with songs and with ordinary days alike, with the polished moments and the plain ones. Everything I am is Yours, and I lay it gladly before You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 10 — Communion

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

One day soon, in the church you find, the bread will be passed along the row and the cup will come to you, and you may find yourself wondering what exactly you are holding. This chapter is here so that moment meets you ready, and glad, instead of nervous.

THE TEACHING

On the night before the cross, Jesus gathered His friends around a table, as He so often did, and He gave them a meal to remember Him by. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said it was His body, given for them. He took the cup and said it was His blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Then He told them to go on doing it, together, in remembrance of Him, until He comes again.

That is communion, also called the Lord's Supper, or the Lord's Table. It is a family meal with a meaning carried in every bite. The bread says His body was broken for you. The cup says His blood was shed for you. Receiving them says, with your whole heart, I belong to Him, and I belong to these people beside me who belong to Him too.

Churches keep this meal a little differently from one another. Some share it every week, some less often. Some pass the bread and cup along the rows, and some invite you to come forward. The differences are only in the serving. The heart of it never changes. If you are ever unsure what your church believes or how the meal is shared there, ask the pastor. That simple question has welcomed more new believers into the life of a church than almost any other.

Before you receive it, there is a gentle pause built into the meal. It is a moment for honesty, a quiet settling of the heart with God and,

where it is needed, with people. Do not let that pause frighten you away from the table. It is not a locked door. It is a kind Host wanting His guests to sit down with soft hearts and nothing hidden. Chapter 6 of this little book will walk you through that settling, any time, in five honest minutes.

READ HIS WORD

"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, NIV)

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim. Even in silence, even with trembling hands, sitting at that table is a sermon, and the sermon is the best news there is.

SIT WITH THIS

What do you most want to remember Jesus for, the next time the bread reaches your hands? If it helps, start here: "Lord, when I take the bread, I want to remember..."

Is there anything you would like to settle with God, or with a person, before you come to the table? Name it gently here. He is not rushing you.

WRITE IT DOWN

Write the words "do this in remembrance of me," and beneath them, the one moment of His kindness to you that you never, ever want to forget.

LIVE IT

At your next communion, come expectant instead of nervous. Hold the bread a moment before you eat, and thank Him quietly, by name, for the body that was broken for you. Some moments deserve to be received slowly, and this is one of them.

LET'S PRAY

Jesus, thank You for the table You set and the price You paid to set it. When I take the bread and the cup, help me remember You truly, and belong, gladly and completely, to Your family. In Your name, Amen.

Chapter II — Baptism, Your Next Step

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

If Chapter 1 was the day you came home, baptism is the day you stand on the porch and tell the whole street, with a glad heart, whose house it is now. It is the beautiful next step Jesus Himself laid out for those who believe. This chapter only opens the gate. A whole little book in this series, No. 2, Baptism, will walk the path with you slowly when you are ready.

THE TEACHING

Baptism is a picture you step into. When you are baptized, you are lowered under the water and lifted back up, and the whole thing tells the story of what Jesus did for you. Going under the water pictures His death and your old life being buried. Coming up out of the water pictures His resurrection and your new life beginning.

Baptism does not save you. The water cannot wash a heart. Only Jesus does that, and He already did it. Baptism is the outside picture of the inside change.

Why be baptized, then? Because Jesus asked for it. Because the first Christians did it. Because some moments deserve to be marked. One day you will look back at your baptism and remember it the way you remember a wedding day. It was the day you said it out loud, in front of everyone, that you were His.

READ HIS WORD

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children

and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39, NIV)

The promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off. Far off is where you were, and where so many you love still are. When the first believers asked what to do next, baptism was the answer that came first, and it still is.

SIT WITH THIS

How do you honestly feel about being baptized, eager, nervous, full of questions? If it helps, start here: "Lord, when I think about baptism, I feel..."

Who would you want standing nearby when you come up out of the water? Name them, and let the naming warm you a little.

WRITE IT DOWN

Write your questions about baptism here, all of them, even the small practical ones about water and clothes and who will be watching. No. 2 in this series takes them up one by one, gently, including the ones you think are too small to ask.

LIVE IT

This week, if you are ready, ask your pastor or one trusted believer at your church a simple question: "What would baptism look like for me here?" Then just listen. There is no pressure at the water's edge. There never has been. There is only an invitation, and a Saviour who went into the water first.

LET'S PRAY

Lord, thank You for marking the way so clearly, and for going into the water ahead of me. When my time comes, give me the courage

to step in and say out loud what You have already done inside me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 12 — Telling Your Story

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Somewhere, someone you love is standing exactly where you used to stand. Your story, told simply and without polish, may become the very bridge they one day cross. You do not need to be a preacher to tell it. You only need to be the person it happened to. In this ministry we gather stories like yours, because stories are how the rescued find each other.

THE TEACHING

Heaven knows what happened to you today. Tell one person on earth. It does not need to be polished. "I asked Jesus into my heart" is a complete testimony. Your story is a bridge. Someone you love may cross it one day.

When you want to say a little more, your story has a simple shape, three parts, like three stones across a stream. Where you were before Jesus. How you met Him, whether it was a single moment or a whole season of Him drawing near. What has changed since. Keep it short, keep it honest, and leave room for their questions. You are not arguing anyone into heaven. You are a witness, telling what you saw with your own eyes and what you know in your own heart.

READ HIS WORD

"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me." (Psalm 66:16, NIV)

Let me tell you what he has done for me. That is the whole assignment, and it belongs to the newest believer in the room as surely as to anyone. Your story does not need to be old to be powerful. It only needs to be true.

SIT WITH THIS

Who is the first person you hope will one day hear your story? If it helps, start here: "Lord, the one on my heart is..."

Is there a part of your story you are tempted to hide? What does the no condemnation you read in Chapter 1 say, tenderly, to that hidden part?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write your story in three short pieces. Before, two or three sentences. The meeting, what happened. Since, what is different. A single page is plenty. You are drafting a bridge here, and somebody, someday, will thank God that you did.

LIVE IT

Tell your story to one person this week, out loud, using what you wrote. Then keep adding to it in your journal as you grow, because your testimony gets longer and richer as your life with Him does.

LET'S PRAY

Lord, thank You for the story You are writing with my life, even the chapters I would not have chosen. Put the right person in front of me, give me simple and honest words, and let my story point always to You, and never to me. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Chapter 13 — Hearing God's Direction

A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

Sooner than you expect, you will face a decision that has no verse with your name written beside it. Which job. Which city. Which door, and whether to knock. This last chapter of our first little book is here so you can walk toward those choices without fear of missing Him. His children have been guided by Him for thousands of years, through deserts and oceans and ordinary Tuesdays, and He has not lost one of them yet.

THE TEACHING

God guides, first and fullest, through His word. The Bible will never lead you anywhere its own pages forbid, and it quietly lights far more of the road than we usually stop to read. When a choice sits in front of you, the first question is always the simplest one. What has God already said about this?

He also guides by His Spirit, that quiet inner knowing believers learn to recognise over time, an ease that settles, or an unease that will not leave you alone. He guides through wise people, those who know Him well and know you truly, and many a believer has been kept out of a ditch by the counsel of a friend who loved them enough to be honest. He guides through circumstances, doors opening and closing, though a door is only ever one sign among many, and never the whole message. Through it all runs His peace, settling in the heart like a hand laid gently on a shoulder. Where His peace is altogether absent, walk slowly, and wait with Him a while.

Here is what to do with an impression you believe may be from God. Test it against Scripture, always, for He never contradicts Himself. Sleep on it when you can, because morning has a clarity

that midnight does not. Say it out loud to a wise believer, and notice whether it stands in the daylight. Then take the next step you already know is right, however small it seems, and trust Him for the one after that. God seldom hands over the whole map at the beginning of a journey. He hands over a lamp, and a next step, and His own company on the road. It has always, always been enough.

READ HIS WORD

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8, NIV)

With my loving eye on you. You are not picking your way alone under a silent sky. You are being watched over, tenderly, by Someone who delights to guide His children home.

SIT WITH THIS

What decision are you carrying right now that you wish God would simply settle for you? If it helps, start here: "Lord, the choice in front of me is..."

Of the ways He guides, His word, His Spirit, wise people, circumstances, His peace, which one have you been quietly neglecting?

WRITE IT DOWN

Write the decision down, and beneath it, everything you already know God has said that touches it. Most believers find the answer was never as missing as it felt. It was scattered, and now, on this page, it is gathered.

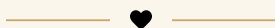
LIVE IT

Take the one step you already know is right, today or tomorrow, and leave the rest of the road in His hands. Guidance so often comes to

people who are already walking, lamp in hand, at a pace He can walk beside.

LET'S PRAY

Father, instruct me and teach me the way I should go. Thank You that Your eye rests on me with love. Give me ears for Your word, courage for the next step, and Your peace for the road I cannot yet see. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Closing Pages

MY DECISION

Write it down in ink. One day you will look back at this page and remember where the road began.

My name: _____

The day I asked Jesus into my heart:

The day I was baptized:

The place I was baptized:

The person who baptized me:

The verse I am holding onto:

A PRAYER FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

End where you began, still and close to Him. This prayer comes from the ministry, word for word, and it is our gift for your first days:

"Dear Heavenly Father,

Before I say anything else, I just want to be still with You.

No requests yet. No list. Just me, coming near, because You promised that if I come near to You, You will come near to me.

Quiet my heart. Settle the noise in my head. Let this be a safe place, where I do not need perfect words or polished prayers. You already know what I was going to say.

I am here, Lord. I am Yours. That is enough to begin.

In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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No. 3 · Prayer

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