

THE VISION CHURCH

23 Day Journey

**The Next Step
for
Your Journey**

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THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR JOURNEY

*To all of you who are just beginning your journey,
May you grow to be fully developing followers of Jesus.*

CONGRATULATIONS

The decision you've made to become a follower of Jesus Christ is the most important decision of your life. God created you with a purpose and that purpose begins with knowing Him. You may not be completely sure what happens when you decide to follow Jesus or what you should do now. There are probably a million questions running through your mind. This book will answer some of those questions and help you get on the right track in your new Christian life.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

—2 Corinthians 5:17

Following Jesus is both a one-time decision and a life-long process. God wants you to have a meaningful life in relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus.

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Pastor

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Day 1

When we place our faith in Christ for salvation, we trust that our salvation is guaranteed through Christ. As a result, we don't ever have to worry about His presence leaving us, and we are certain that we will spend eternity in heaven when we die. Nothing in this world can take this assurance away from us.

Scriptures: Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:28-39; John 10:28-29

Application: You don't have to ask God for salvation again and again because His salvation is assured for you once you place your faith in Him.

Activities: Pray and thank God for the assurance that you will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

GET YOUR BIBLE AND
READ THE SCRIPTURES ABOVE
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HAVING A QUIET TIME

Day 2

It is important to set aside time each day to spend with God. We spend time with the people we love, and we enjoy simply being with them. This time alone with God in a quiet place for prayer and Bible study is valuable for us as we grow in our relationship with God.

Scriptures: Psalm 5:3; Luke 10:38-42

Application: Make it a habit to set aside time each day, even if it is just a few moments, to spend in prayer and reading the Bible.

Activities: Each day go to a quiet place and talk to God in prayer about anything.

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VICTORY OVER SIN

Day 3

Before you became a Christian, you were a slave to sin, unable to honor God. But now you have been set free from sin and you have victory over sin's power, including death.

Scriptures: Romans 6:3-10; 8:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:11-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Application: When you are tempted to sin, you have victory over that sin because Christ is in you.

Activities: Make a list of your sins that you are struggling with. Then pray through each of these areas to help you realize that Christ gives you victory over these sins.

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GOD THE FATHER

Day 4

As Christians, we worship only one God. But God is made up of three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Therefore, God is three Persons, but He is only one God.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Genesis 1:1; 1:26 (“us”); Isaiah 6:8 (“us”); 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Application: Even though the trinity is impossible to understand completely, we know it is true because it is what the Bible teaches us. God is too great for our minds to comprehend completely.

Activities: Spend time in prayer simply praising God for His greatness.

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GOD THE SON

Day 5

Jesus is fully God and fully man. When He came to the earth, He was God in the flesh.

Scriptures: John 1:1-14; 8:58; 10:30; 20:28; Philippians 2:5-11

Application: Jesus was not just another good religious teacher; He was God in the flesh. This is the only way He could pay the price for our sins.

Activities: Jesus' divinity and humanity makes our Christian life possible. For example, because of His humanity, He knows how we feel and he is familiar with the struggles we experience. Because of His divinity, we know that He had the power to give us victory over our sins.

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GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Day 6

The Holy Spirit is fully God, also. He is the presence of God living in us.

Scriptures: Acts 5:3-4; John 16:13-14; see others below.

Application: The Holy Spirit lives in you now . He speaks to our hearts (Acts 28:25), He teaches us God's Word (John 14:26), He gives us power to witness (Acts 1:8), He intercedes for us when we pray (Romans 8:26-27), He gives us gifts for ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4-11), and He convicts us of sin (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Activities: Keep a journal about how the Holy Spirit is working in your life each day. Spend time at the end of the day thinking about how the Holy Spirit has led you and spoken to you during the day.

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THE CHURCH

Day 7

When we place our faith in Christ, we become a part of God's family. We are children of God and we belong to God's household, which the Bible calls the church. Our involvement in the church, therefore, is extremely important in our Christian lives.

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:25-28; Hebrews 10:23-35; 1 Peter 5:2-4

Application: We encourage be faithfully involved in a church.

Activities: We invite you to one of our weekly worship opportunities.

Sunday Early Worship 8:30AM
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Tuesday Prayer 7:00PM
Tuesday Transformation Tuesday Bible Study 7:15PM

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THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Day 8

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two sacraments Jesus commands us to celebrate in the church. Therefore, we need to be faithful to God by participating in these sacraments. You do not save us, but you are a celebration of our salvation. The Lord's Supper is a way to remember Christ's death for our sins and to celebrate the fact that He is coming back again one day. Baptism is a public symbol by which we identify with Christ and with the church through immersion in water.

Scriptures: Lord's Supper—Matthew 26:17-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
Baptism—Matthew 3:16-18; Acts 2:37-41; Romans 6:1-4

Application: We encourage you to participate in the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of Every Month. If you have not been baptized, we encourage you to set up a time where you will be baptized.

Activities: Take the Lord's Supper for the first time on the First Sunday of the month. You can talk with a church leader about scheduling your baptism.

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THE BIBLE: THE WORD OF GOD

Day 9

The Bible is the perfect Word of God. Every word was written by a human author but inspired by the Spirit of God. It is completely true and contains everything we need to grow in our Christian lives.

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 4:12

Application: We encourage you to trust the Bible as the foundation for your faith.

Activities: Make sure you have your own Bible. Begin reading it (beginning in the book of John). If you don't have a Bible we will provide one for you.

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HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Day 10

The more we hear and know God's Word, the more we know God. This is why personal Bible study and gathering with the church to learn the Word of God is so important.

Scriptures: Psalm 119:34; Romans 10:17

Application: You can purchase CD's of the sermon and bible study at our media center. If you are going to grow you will have to change what you listen to.

Activities: As you come to church, it's important to bring your Bible and also take notes when the Bible is taught.

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STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD

Day 11

We need to study God's Word in order to understand it. The Holy Spirit will help us to know God and understand His Word as we study the Bible each day.

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:15

Application: We encourage you to have a time of Bible study each day in you quiet time.

Activities: Choose a passage of Scripture to study. After reading the passage, ask four main questions:

What does this passage say?

What does this passage mean?

1. Look at the purpose of the human author...
2. Look at the purpose of the Spirit...

Is this passage telling me to do anything?

1. To praise God for something?
2. To pray a prayer?
3. To claim a promise?
4. To obey a commandment?
5. To avoid a sin?
6. To follow an example?

What will you do as a result of studying the passage?

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MEMORIZING THE WORD OF GOD

Day 12

The Bible commands us to hide God's Word in our hearts. As we memorize God's Word, we will find strength to overcome sin. Bible memorization will also help us in our prayer lives and our daily habits.

Scriptures: Psalm 19:10; 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11

Application: We encourage you to make a Bible memorization plan. You might start by committing to memorize one verse per week and then progress from there. At bible study each week you will be given a memory scripture.

Activities: Begin memorizing verses of Scripture. You might start with a verse that was helpful to you when you first became a Christian.

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PRAYER

Day 12

Truth to Teach: Prayer is the avenue we use to talk to God and listen to His Spirit. Anyone who has placed their faith in Christ can pray directly to God because of what Jesus did on the cross. We can pray anywhere and everywhere because we are in a relationship with God. Prayer is seeking God's face, His will, His heart, His hand, and His strength.

Scriptures: Matthew 6:5-11; Luke 11:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Application: We encourage you to have quiet time in prayer every day, but also to pray as you go throughout your day so that prayer becomes a lifestyle.

Activities: You might even go on a prayer walk so you can learn how to pray "as you go."

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SHARING YOUR STORY

Day 13

One of the best ways we can tell others about God's love for them is by sharing our own personal story of what Jesus has done in our lives. When we share our testimony, we share about our life before Christ, how we came to faith in Christ, and our life since we placed our faith in Christ. Every Christian has a testimony you can share.

Scriptures: Acts 26:9-23 (see how Paul shared about his life before Christ – 9-12; how Paul came to faith in Christ – 13-15; and how Jesus made Paul's life meaningful – 16-23).

Application: Find three/five people this week to share your testimony with.

Activities: Write out your testimony. Then look for an opportunity to share your testimony with someone else, remember your story is unique and God will use it for His glory.

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THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Day 14

When we trust Jesus to save us from our sins, we surrender our lives to follow Him as our Lord and King. Because Jesus is Lord of our lives, we repent of our sins and we obey Him with all of our hearts.

Scriptures: Romans 10:9-10; Luke 9:57-62

Application: Think of ways you can obey Jesus as Lord and King in your daily lives.

Activities: Make a list of things in your life that changed when you became a Christian.

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FAITH

Day 15

Faith is not a blind leap; faith is stepping out on the dependable, proven, always trustworthy promises of God. As we know God's Word more, the foundation for our faith strengthens. Faith is trusting that God will do what He says He will do.

Scriptures: Hebrews 11; Jeremiah 9:24; Romans 10:17

Application: Think about areas of your life where you can trust God more.

Activities: Make a list of promises from God in Scripture that apply to your life. Your faith can grow as you trust in these promises; you can locate the promises in a Bible Promise Book.

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LOVE AND SERVICE

Day 15

The two greatest commandments are to love God and to love each other. Our love for God will be reflected in the way we love and show others. We show God's love most clearly when we are serving others.

Scriptures: Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:1-17, 34-35; 1 Corinthians 13

Application: Think about ways you can show God's love by serving the people around you. How can you serve in your community? How can you serve in your church?

Activities: A good place to begin would be by going out of your way to serve a person you don't know.

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THE WILL OF GOD

Day 16

God's will for our lives is to make us more and more like Jesus every day. The majority of God's will for us is revealed in Scripture. As we obey God's Word and seek Him, His Spirit will guide us to make decisions according to His will.

Scriptures: Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:9, 33

Application: Pray about the major decisions you make in your life. As you seek God and obey His Word, God will not let you go astray.

Activities: Make a list of verses from Scripture that demonstrate God's will for your life. For example, we know from Matthew 28:19-20 that God's will for our lives is to make disciples of all nations. We also know from 1 Peter 1:16 that God's will for our lives is to be pure and holy.

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WORSHIP

Day 17

Our lives were created to worship God through obedience and holiness. Though we gather together as a church corporately for worship, we don't have to come to a place in order to worship. Instead, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and so everything we do to honor God is an act of worship.

Scriptures: Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Nehemiah 12:27-47

Application: Think about ways you can worship God on a daily basis, not just in times of prayer or Bible study, but in your everyday actions.

Activities: Join us at church for corporate worship, and then after you leave talk with others after worship about your experience. Worship doesn't stop when we leave church; it continues with the way we live our lives.

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KNOW YOUR ENEMY, SATAN

Day 18

As Christians, we are involved in a battle with spiritual forces of evil. Demons, led by Satan (the devil), are active in the world, trying to thwart the will of God and steal the glory that is due His Name. These spiritual forces of evil are the source of our temptations to sin.

Scriptures: Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:1-11; Job 1:6

Application: We must know the strategies of Satan—temptation, deception, etc. We encourage you to put on the armor of God mentioned in Ephesians 6:10-13. This is the armor we have as believers, not some mystical armor that we have to put on every day.

Activities: Learn to identify how the spiritual forces of evil that are at work around you. Do not become intrigued by Satan just know that he is around and will try to deter you on your new life in Christ.

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OVERCOMING SIN

Day 19

As we grow in our Christian life, we overcome sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. The more we overcome sin, the more holy we become, which means we begin to look more like Jesus. We have battles every day with sin, and God has given us the power to overcome.

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:16; Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 7:7-25; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Matthew 4:1-11

Application: Follow Jesus' example in Matthew 4:1-11 by being able to quote Scripture when tempted to sin. Make a list of sins that you might struggle with and then list verses beside each sin that will help you in your fight against that temptation.

Activities: Just because you are saved does not mean that you will not sin again, make sure that you are honest about your temptation and ask God to help you to overcome them.

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THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Day 20

The New Testament teaches that Jesus Christ is going to come back one day in glory. His coming will be visible and triumphant, and he will come to raise the dead and judge the world. Only God the Father knows when this may happen, but the church is eagerly awaiting His return.

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 5:1-4; Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:44

Application: Anticipating the second coming of Christ affects the way we live every day. If we knew he was coming back tomorrow, how would that change how we live today?

Activities: Make a list of things we might do if we were expecting a guest to come to our home. Think about the spiritual things you can do to prepare for Christ's coming.

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PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Day 21

Our actions are a reflection of our faith. As we read the Bible, we see commands to use our tongue wisely, use our time wisely, give our tithes to the church, and give thanks in all circumstances. We show our faith by the way we live.

Scriptures: James 2:14-26; Tongue – James 3:1-12 and Ephesians 4:29-32; Time – Ephesians 5:15-20 and Colossians 4:2-6; Tithes – Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Thanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Psalm 136

Application: Think of ways you can obey God in these different areas of their lives.

Activities: learn to obey God by showing your faith in following God's instructions.

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SHARING THE GOSPEL

Day 22

We are commanded to share the Gospel with other people so that you will place their faith in Christ. When we share the Gospel, we share about five main truths: (1) the character of God; (2) the sinfulness of man; (3) the gift of Christ; (4) the necessity of faith; and (5) the urgency of eternity. The Holy Spirit gives each of us power to share the Gospel and lead others to salvation in Christ.

Scriptures: Philemon 1:6; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15

Application: We encourage you to share the Gospel with three people this week.

Activities: Join our outreach team as we go out and share our faith, also you can ask about sharing your faith training.

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REPRODUCING YOUR FAITH

Day 23

God commands all Christians to be involved in a global plan of making disciples in all nations. This means that we are commanded to reproduce our faith into the lives of those around us, leading them to know the love of Christ and follow Him as the Lord of their lives. Making disciples involves sharing the Gospel, leading people to be baptized in the church, and then teaching them to obey everything Christ commands us.

Scriptures: Matthew 28:16-20

Application: Try to Lead three people to Christ and then teach those people how to follow Christ.

Activities: Use the prayer below to lead them to Christ!!

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, Thank you for dying on the cross and shedding your precious blood for my sins. I am sorry for all my sins. I believe that you died , you were buried and you rose from the dead. I ask you to come into my heart and forgive all my sins; I receive you as my Lord and my Savior.

Spiritual Birth Certificate

Name:

Date Saved:

Date Baptized:

Date you Joined Church:

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www.visionministrieschurch.org

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