

A person is walking across a city street, captured from the waist down. They are wearing a dark blue denim jacket, tan cargo pants with rolled-up cuffs, and dark blue boat shoes. The background shows a busy urban street with palm trees, parked cars, and buildings. A white van is visible on the right side of the road. The scene is framed by a white border with a filmstrip-like pattern. The text 'NEW BELIEVERS' is centered above 'NEXT STEPS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

NEW
BELIEVERS
NEXT
STEPS



**THE BIBLE SAYS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST,
GOD MADE YOU TRULY ALIVE!**



**Not only were you forgiven of your sins,
but you were actually transformed into a new creation**
(“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” – 2 Corinthians 5:17)
and made part of a new family.
(“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God – John 1:12)

**As you begin this new life, we want to share with you some
simple next steps to help you grow spiritually.**



ng better than You
better than You

STEP 1 | BE ASSURED

Through your faith in Jesus Christ, you have eternal life! However, the Devil is the “Father of lies” (John 8:44) and will try to convince you otherwise. Sin, difficulty and despair can cause some Christians to wonder whether God still loves them. Today, you may stand confidently on the promise of God’s salvation.

KEY VERSE

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. 1 John 5:13

READ

Next Step Discipleship (pp. 36-40) to learn why your salvation is secure.

CONSIDER

- * Why might a person have difficulty in truly believing they are saved?
- * Which of the 10 reasons for assurance is most meaningful to you? Why?
- * What can you do when the Devil puts doubt in your mind?

RESPOND

Memorize 1 John 5:13, or one of the verses from your reading, so that you can recall God’s truth when you feel doubtful about your salvation.



STEP 2 | BE BAPTIZED

From the first days of the early church, baptism was practiced as the first step of obedience of the new follower of Jesus. Baptism has been referred to as “the Christian’s press conference,” their public declaration of their faith and how Jesus Christ “won” new life for them.

KEY VERSE

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

READ

Next Step Discipleship (pp. 35-36) to learn about the symbolic significance of baptism.

CONSIDER

- * Why do you think the new Christian should be baptized?
- * Which of the 4 baptism symbols is most meaningful for you? Why?
- * Can you think of any reason why you should not be baptized?

RESPOND

Email newlife@wearecentral.org to learn more about this important next step and/or inquire about scheduling your baptism as soon as possible.



STEP 3 | DISCOVER THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's revelation to us! Unlike most books that are intended to be read and finished, the Bible offers a lifetime of discovery of God and His plan to continually transform our life. Spiritual maturity is based, in part, on the Christian's mining of the treasure in God's Word.

KEY VERSE

All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man/woman of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

READ

Next Step Discipleship (pp. 91-97) to learn about the Christian's commitment to their own personal, spiritual growth.

CONSIDER

- * Who is the "active agent" of spiritual change that God has put in you?
- * Which verse(s) from the list on pp. 96-97 is most significant to you?
- * Are you ready to join God in your continual life transformation?

RESPOND

Begin reading the Gospel of John in the New Testament. You may find it helpful to make a list of questions you have as you read.



STEP 4

LEARN TO PRAY

God talks to us through the Bible; the Christian talks to God through prayer. Because Jesus' friends asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray," we should not think that prayer is automatic to the Christian life. It is a learned discipline, just as people learn to communicate with each other as their friendship grows deeper.



KEY VERSES

Pray then like this:

*“Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in
heaven.*

*Give us this day 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 evil.”
Matthew 6:9-13*

CONSIDER

- * What does it mean to you that you can call God, “Father”?
- * Draw a line between verses 10 and 11. What do you notice about the focus of the first 2 verses from that of the last 3 verses?
- * How would you rewrite vv. 11-13 in your own words?
- * Why is it important for us to forgive others?
- * What have you learned about prayer?

RESPOND

Begin a daily discipline of prayer. Start by “talking to God about God” and then “talk to God about you.” Remember, prayer doesn’t need to be eloquent. It is communication between friends.



STEP 5 | BELONG TO COMMUNITY

The Christian life was never designed to be lived alone. We gather with other followers of Christ because it encourages our faith and helps us to experience God in deeper ways.

KEY VERSE

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

READ *Next Step Discipleship* (chapter 3).

CONSIDER

- * Why do you think connecting in community is difficult for people today?
- * Of the 4 principles (pp. 48-52), which is most important to you? Why?
- * Who are—or could be—your lifelong, spiritual friends?

RESPOND

At Central Bible Church, we strongly encourage God's people to BELONG to community. You can learn more by attending our next Guest Brunch. You can get connected by attending our next Connect Sunday or emailing your desire to connect to connect@wearecentral.org.



STEP 6 | WRITE YOUR STORY

Think about this: You are a living miracle! Jesus brought you out of death and into life! Therefore, you have an amazing story to tell. When you share your story, you honor God and help others discover how they might receive new life as well.

KEY VERSE

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... 1 Peter 3:15

READ

Next Step Discipleship (pp. 32-34).

CONSIDER

- * How would you describe your life before you trusted in Jesus Christ?
- * Where did you first hear about Jesus? Who told you?
- * What difference does Jesus make in your life today?

RESPOND

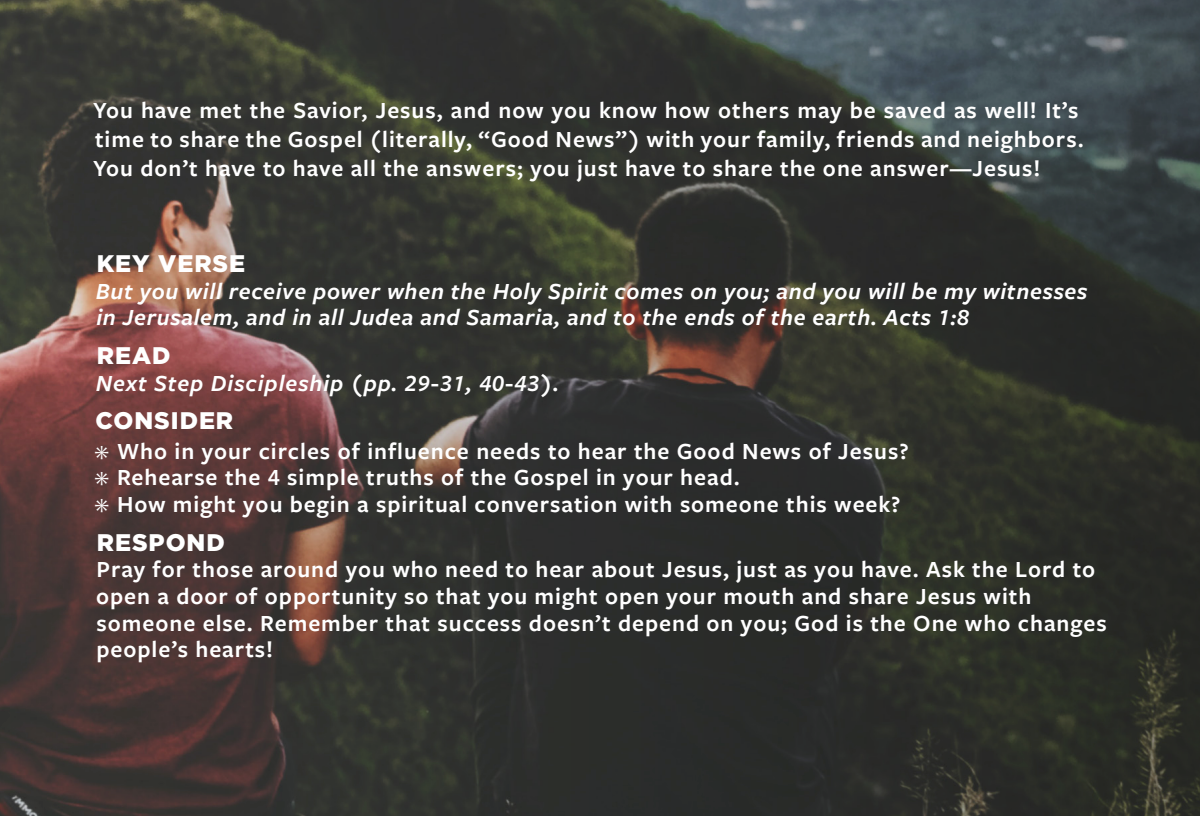
Take time to write your personal testimony, dividing it into three movements: Before, How and After. Keep your story to 1 page and memorize it. Then, share it with a friend for practice.

A photograph of two men in light blue t-shirts standing outdoors, looking towards the right. The man on the right is smiling and has his arm around the man on the left. The background is a dark, textured wall.

STEP 7

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS



A photograph of two men from behind, looking out over a vast, green mountain range under a clear blue sky. The man on the left is wearing a maroon t-shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt. The text is overlaid on the image.

You have met the Savior, Jesus, and now you know how others may be saved as well! It's time to share the Gospel (literally, "Good News") with your family, friends and neighbors. You don't have to have all the answers; you just have to share the one answer—Jesus!

KEY VERSE

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. Acts 1:8

READ

Next Step Discipleship (pp. 29-31, 40-43).

CONSIDER

- * Who in your circles of influence needs to hear the Good News of Jesus?
- * Rehearse the 4 simple truths of the Gospel in your head.
- * How might you begin a spiritual conversation with someone this week?

RESPOND

Pray for those around you who need to hear about Jesus, just as you have. Ask the Lord to open a door of opportunity so that you might open your mouth and share Jesus with someone else. Remember that success doesn't depend on you; God is the One who changes people's hearts!



YOUR NEXT STEPS



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