

## WHAT NEXT?

If you have made this decision...

What steps could you take to grow in your relationship with God?

We'd love to continue to help you grow by meeting together to learn more from the Bible about your relationship with God.

If you're not yet ready to ask Jesus into your life, that's okay! Are there any questions you would still like answered? It may be helpful to continue to read about Jesus in the Bible and attend a local church.

### FURTHER READING...

Continue reading the Book of John  
Knowing Jesus Personally magazine  
The Father's Love Letter

Read through the end of Knowing God Personally Booklet now

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# OUR RESPONSE

WE MUST EACH RESPOND TO JESUS BY PLACING OUR TRUST IN HIM  
AS OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD. ONLY THEN CAN WE KNOW GOD PERSONALLY.

Exploring spiritual questions such as "Is there a God?", "Am I sinful?" and "Who is Jesus?" is of limited value until we take the next step and ask questions that relate these issues to our own lives.

Questions like:

- What does it mean to know God?
- How can we respond to God?
- How will knowing God affect my life?

## TRUST IS THE BASIS OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

// How would you define trust?

// What are some things you put your trust in each day?

Another word for trusting in God is "faith".

Imagine people walking across a frozen lake. The ice could be thick or thin. One person could be very confident to walk across the ice that turns out to be too thin to hold their weight. Someone else may *lack* confidence, but step cautiously onto ice thick enough to hold many people. The most important factor is the strength of the ice to hold them up, not the amount of confidence a person may have in the ice.

In the same way, the *amount* of trust we have is not as important as the reliability of the thing we put it in. We can have trust and faith in God because He's already shown his love for us (as seen in the last 3 lessons).

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## A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS A FREE GIFT

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." | Ephesians 2:8, 9

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us new birth and new life." | Titus 3:5

// What are we saved from?

// What is grace?

*Imagine your best friend stole your laptop and smashed it with a hammer. Instead of getting angry (and perhaps calling the police) you decide to forgive them and take them out to lunch.*

// Do they deserve this kind act?

*Similarly we do not deserve God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life, but he offers it to us anyway out of his love. It is an act of grace, which means a free gift. There is nothing that we can do to earn this gift of forgiveness.*

It's not enough to know or feel that these things are true, we have a choice to make.

## WE HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." | John 1:12

// What does it mean to believe in Christ?

// What does it mean to receive Christ?

// What do you think it means to be a child of God?

### To respond to God involves:

- Agreeing that we are sinful and deciding to turn from our sin.
- Trusting God to forgive us completely because Jesus died for our sins.
- Choosing to follow Jesus: Putting him first in our lives.

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These circles describe two types of people:



Self-directed person

Self is in control. People like this have never received Jesus into their lives. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin.

// Which circle best describes you right now?

// Which circle would you like to describe you?



Jesus-directed person

Jesus is in the centre and self is following Jesus as Lord. People like this have received Jesus into their lives. They have been forgiven and experience God's love.

To begin a relationship with God, you must give Jesus everything.

Below is a suggested prayer. Prayer is simply talking with God. God is not so concerned with your words as he is with the attitude of your heart.

*"Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally.*

*I'm sorry for going my own way.*

*Please forgive me for all my sin.*

*Thank you for dying on cross to pay for my sin.*

*I agree to turn from my old ways and follow you as my Saviour and Lord.*

*Please come and take first place in my life. Amen."*

// What is this prayer asking Jesus to do?

// Could you pray this prayer and mean it? Is there anything stopping you from saying this right now?

// Would you like to pray this right now?

Because we know that God wants us to know Him personally and has made a way for it to be possible, we can be confident that He will come into our lives if we ask Him.

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