



A New Heart!
what it means to believe

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone,
the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

written by Jaye Martin and Tracy Jones

Scripture quotation(s) marked NIV is taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*.
Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission.

Copyright 2004.



4200 North Point Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176

A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie
Armstrong Easter Offering

For general information, call (770) 410-6000, or visit www.namb.net; to order materials, call
Customer Service Center, 1-866-407-6262.

INTRODUCTION

You may have just had a **HeartTalk** with God. If not, our prayer is that this study will help you to understand the most important decision you can make – the decision to place your hope and trust in Jesus Christ. If you have just done this, our prayer is that this will help you to understand your decision just a little bit better.

The topics covered in the "**HeartTalk**" booklet will be your outline. You will begin with **Hope, Believe, Turn** and **Call** which should help you know how to accept Christ or understand the commitment you just made. Then you will look at **Share, Church, Prayer** and the **Bible**. You will want to grow in your relationship with Christ.

You will need a New International Version of the Bible for **HeartCall: A New Heart!** You can use another version but you may not be able to figure out some of the blanks. Most of the verses will come from the New Testament (or the second part) of the Bible. You should find a table of contents in the front that will help you to locate the books where the verses are found. Once you have located the book (i.e. John), then the first number following will be the chapter and the next one will be the verse number (i.e. John 3:16). This study is designed for you to do in eight days but feel free to spend more time if needed or even go over the whole study in a few sittings. Just work at your own pace and don't hesitate to ask questions of others who you know have a relationship with Christ. If they don't know the answers, they can help you find them. That's the way you learn!

About the writers

Jaye Martin leads **HeartCall Women's Evangelism**. She accepted Christ at the age of seven and felt God's call in the area of evangelism at the age of 28. She has a Masters in Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is working on her dissertation for an EdD in Leadership from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She lives in Houston, Texas with her husband, Dana, and their daughter, Kelli. As a speaker and author, Jaye travels and consults in women's evangelism. She has written the first part of **HeartCall: A New Heart!** on the steps of salvation found in the “**HeartTalk**” witnessing booklet: **Hope, Believe, Turn** and **Call**. She will help you to understand what it means to accept Christ.

Tracy Jones is the **HeartCall National Coordinator** and lives in Longview, Texas with her husband Marshall. They have four children. She serves in ministry to women and teenage girls as a Sunday School teacher, retreat speaker, and praying friend. She has earned a Certificate in Women's Ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Tracy has a unique testimony of being a first generation committed Christian that began as an adult and God has used to bring many to Christ. Tracy's conversion to Christ was so dramatic that she has never forgotten what it was like to be lost and the first steps she took as a new believer. She has written the second part and will help new believers understand the basic concepts of **Share, Church, Pray**, and **Bible**.

CONTENTS	PAGE
Copyright	2
Introduction	3
About the writers	4
Contents	5
Record of Spiritual Birthday	6
Part 1 - Let's have a HeartTalk	7
Session One – Hope	8
Session Two – Believe	13
Session Three – Turn	18
Session Four – Call	22
Part 2 - The Next Step	27
Session Five – Share	28
Session Six – Church	34
Session Seven – Pray	38
Session Eight – Bible	44
In Closing	50
Leaders Section	51
HeartCall Resources	53

Record of Spiritual Birthday



A New Heart!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear God, I know You have great plans for me, and I want to place my **hope** in You. I **believe** You love me and sent Jesus to die on the cross for me. Please forgive me and help me **turn** from my wrongdoings. I **call** on You to lead my life. Amen.

I prayed this prayer on _____ (date)
with _____ (witness).

Since I made this decision asking Jesus to be my Lord and Savior and meant it, I now know that I am a new creation with a new heart.

I know that God will help lead me every day and that when I die, that I will go to heaven to live with Him forever.

"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

Signed _____ Date _____

Part 1 - Let's have a HeartTalk

The first part of *HeartCall: A New Heart!* is designed to help you understand or have a relationship with your Creator God. God loves you and has a great plan for your life. He desires for you to understand His plan. If you have made a decision to follow God's only Son, Jesus Christ, then this will help you as you begin your new life in Christ. If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior yet, we pray that this book will provide some insights into what that decision is all about.

You may want to sit down and read through Part 1 in one setting or you may want to take it one day at a time. There are four sessions in each part so to work through the whole book will take eight days. If you need to spend more time on a session, that is fine. Some of you may even want to go through it with a friend. We hope that this information is helpful to you and give you a little more information about each topic that will help you understand the **"HeartTalk"** witnessing booklet.

This book uses the **"HeartTalk"** witnessing booklet. You will not need a booklet to work through this new believers guide; however, you may want to order some to share with your friends. Ordering information is in the back of this book in the resource section.

SESSION ONE -

HOPE

*“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. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your **heart**.” Jeremiah 29:11-13*

Life is hardly perfect, is it? Children die. Families are torn apart by all sorts of tragedies. People lose their jobs. And the list goes on. In the seemingly wild and fast paced world you probably live in, sometimes you might wonder, is there any hope?

Maybe things in your life are going pretty well right now. Your parents are seemingly great, your children are turning out even better than you planned; but you have this deep-seeded feeling that something is missing. You can't put your finger on it, but it is just an emptiness that never goes away. Do you every wonder if there is any hope or meaning in this life?

Hope. It's a little word but with big meaning. It can make all the difference in the world about your life. What is hope anyway? Maybe it is an expectancy of something better that's going to happen. Maybe it is a longing for a new day or a way out or even a way through. No matter how you view hope, God knows and understands. No matter what kind of hope you need, God already knows that too.

Hope. It's what God wants you to know that you can have. He tells you in Jeremiah 29:11-13 (written above) that not only does His plan give hope; but that God is hope. Read these verses above. Then, you look at it piece by piece and see if you can figure out what God is trying to say to you.

God's plan gives hope

God made you and has a plan for your life

Can you even believe it? God has a plan for your life. It is not a plan that is the same for everyone. It is a separate plan that he designed for you alone. Oh, the plan that God has starts out with some basics, but each plan has a little different twist to it. Think about it this way, most of your neighbors probably go to the same few grocery stores. They will likely all come home with food in the basic food groups. Yet, if you were to look in each pantry, you'd see lots of different stuff. It's the same way with God's plan. There are some basics but it looks a little different and God knows the recipe that each one needs to make it a perfect plan for that person.

In your first verse, Jeremiah 29:11, God says that He knows the plans he has for you! Wow! To think that God has a plan for you might be a whole new thought! And, to make it even better, God says that his plan is to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future. So, throw out all those thoughts you may have had about God that make you think that He is out to get you. This verse clearly states that God wants the best for you. He wants you to do well. Now "prosper" can be a little confusing if you are thinking in physical terms because God is thinking in spiritual ones. Of course, He wants you to do well but this is not saying that He wants you to be rich. He knows there are much more important things in life than having things or lots of money. No, God desires that you have the best that He offers and does not want anyone or anything to harm you...His precious creation! He wants you to have hope! And what's more, He wants you to know that you have a future here on earth as well as in heaven. Not only does God love you, but He also adores you enough to help you with your life on a daily basis. Look at these verses in Psalms 139:13-16.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:13-16

Read that last line again. God has your days all planned out for you. That means that you still have choices with your life but that He has a direction planned out. He even knew you before you were born because He decided just how he would fashion you. So, it is no wonder that there is hope for you ...the Creator of the universe not only made you but also knows what will make you happy and desires that you have a wonderful hope-filled life.

Hope is found in God

Hope can come from a lot of different places. Hope can come from just anticipating an event or even from something much more important like finding hope in what your job will be.

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is your refuge. Selah." Psalm 62:5-8

When you acknowledge Him alone as your salvation, the Word of God says that He will be your hope and that you cannot be shaken. Oh, you may feel shaken and bounced around a bit, but the good news is that it won't have a lasting effect. You can depend on Him as your secure and mighty rock, your very foundation for all that this life on earth holds, as well as the life to come. The Bible says to pour out your heart to Him and trust in Him. When you do, He is your refuge and you can hide in Him.

Trust in Christ brings assurance

When you give him your heart and your trust, then you do have that assurance to know that He will always be there for you.

Trust in God brings hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

How do you trust in God, you say? You do this by placing your life in His hands. It means that you trust Him enough to be the boss of your life, as well as save you. Think of it this way, it's just like a little girl who jumps in a pool and trusts Daddy to catch her. She knows he will and won't let her drown. God wants you to trust Him. He knows what the best plan for your life is. It would be harder for an adult to jump in the pool and believe that someone would catch her. That's why the Bible says to come as little children.

"And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

Most of you still want to hold on. God tells you that He is the God of hope. When you trust in Him, He fills you with joy and peace. When He does, you then overflow with hope because of the Holy Spirit that is now living inside of you. Yes, trust in God brings hope to life.

Hope leads you to Christ

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

When you hope in God, he shows you what His Son, Jesus Christ, did for you on the cross. God sent Jesus to die for everything you ever did or will do wrong. He was the perfect sacrifice for your sins. And because of Christ, you can now come to God because you have been made right or clean or holy. Now that is hope! You can then have the peace and hope that is offered. And you can rejoice in the hope of the glory of God your father in heaven and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Christ brings assurance

And this is the testimony: God has given you eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 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 5:11-13

What an incredible passage this is that is found in 1 John. Because of Jesus, you have eternal life. That means that when you die that you will go to heaven and live forever. You can have everlasting life because of Christ. The writer, John, wants you to know that if you believe in the name of Jesus, that you can have this assurance. Basically, if you really trusted Him, then you never have to doubt your salvation. And certainly this gives you hope in life!

Call on Him

The real hope begins when you call on God through Christ. You call to God by talking or praying to Him. Look at what God says in the verse following:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Wow, what a promise. God wants you to call on him by praying and seeking Him. And when you do this, God hears your prayers.

Call on His personal name

Your God is a personal God. You call to Him by praying to the Father and through the Son. In other words, you pray to God and in the name of Jesus Christ. You see, God sent His personal Son to die on the cross for you and He has a personal plan for your life. Your name is important to you and to God. He wants you to call on His personal name.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Only in the name of Jesus is salvation found. No other name is the right name. Some have trouble understanding this but God's Word is clear. God sent Jesus to die on the cross, not someone else. And Jesus is still alive. Christ is the only way you can get to God.

Pray and talk to Him

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

Why do you have hope? You have hope because the God and Father of all desires to commune with you. He is waiting for you to call Him. His line is never busy, He never puts you on hold, the voice mail never picks up, and He is never out of the office. Not only is He always available, but when you take the time to call, He tells you great and mighty things that you would not know any other way. He gives you secrets to survival in this life. And my friend, that is hope!

LOOK:

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. What do you see in these verses that give you hope?

In Psalm 62:5-8, where does your hope come from? _____ In whom do you find rest? _____ Who is your rock and your salvation? _____ Who is your fortress? _____ Are you to be shaken? _____ What does your honor depend on? _____ Who is your refuge? _____ Complete the rest of this statement:
_____ in Him at _____ times, O people; _____ out your _____ to him, for God is your refuge.

When you trust in God, what happens according to Romans 15:13?

Look at Romans 5:1-2. When you trust in God, what does he give you?
_____ What does this peace mean to you?

Where is eternal life found according to 1 John 5:11-13? _____
Why is John telling this?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. How can you humble yourself before God?

Where is salvation found according to Acts 4:12? _____ Is there any other way you can be saved? _____

Write out John 14:6.

Pray and thank God that He alone brings hope and salvation through Christ. Thank Him for coming into your life or ask Him to do so now. You can use the prayer found on the Record of Spiritual Birthday in the front of this book or in the "HeartTalk" witnessing booklet. Fill in the information in the blanks provided.

TOOK: For further study, read 1 John. This little book is found near the back of the New Testament and is only five chapters long. It is about being sure that God loves you and has sent Jesus to die for you. It is about knowing that you are God's child and that He will continue to walk with you and forgive you when you do things wrong. Every time you see the word love, or a form of the word, circle it. God's love is the reason we have hope. The reason John writes this book is found in 1 John 5:13.

SESSION TWO -

BELIEVE

*"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 3:16*

Believe. It is a simple word; however, the subject is complex. To believe means to place confidence in, to entrust, or to place your faith in. And that's where it gets complex. It is easy to say that you believe in something yet harder to actually do it. To believe in God is to entrust Him with your very life. When you read John 3:16 above and it says to believe in Him (meaning Jesus Christ), it means that you believe with every part of your being by placing your complete faith in Him alone. When you know that Jesus died on the cross for you so that you could be forgiven and experience everlasting life in heaven, then it gets a little easier. Many will tell you that it is too simple. That one must work or earn her way to heaven. God loves you more than to think you could every get there on your own. Only those who are perfect can get to heaven...except for the death of Christ on the cross. God loved you so much that He sent His one and only Son to pay the penalty that you would owe.

God loves you

But because of his great love for you, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

It is only by God's grace that you can enter heaven. It's because He loves you so very much. Perfect love is hard to understand. Most people don't come close to experiencing it on this earth, because all are sinners. None is perfect. So you cannot show perfect love to another. God's love and mercy is so great that He forgave you and gave you a new life. God is just and fair. God is also full of mercy. It is a balance that no one fully understands. He knew that He would have to judge you and that you could not enter heaven because of your sin and wrongdoings. Because of His mercy, He provided a way. It is by grace that you are saved through Christ. What is grace? It is what is given when you don't deserve it. That's how much He loved you.

God sent Jesus to die for you

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:5-8

Of all the religions in the world, Christianity is the only one that involved the death of a righteous man. Who else died for you? No one. Oh, there may have been some good men with lots of great thoughts but there are none that gave up heaven and stepped onto earth to die just for you. That's what hope is all about. That's what love is all about. That's what grace is all about. Hope does not disappoint you because God poured out His love into your heart by allowing Christ to die for you. Then, God sent the Holy Spirit to be your guide and to help each day. Without God's help, you are powerless. Christ died for the powerless. God knew that you would never gain access to Him. God showed His love to you by sending Christ to die for you.

God wants you to believe in Jesus

What is believing in Jesus? It is putting your trust completely in Him. Look at it another way.

Believing is not...

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder. James 2:19

Believing is not just knowing something. James 2:19 says that even the demons know and believe that there is only one God. Think about it. Satan knows there is only one God and He knows the true God. Does that mean that He is in heaven with Christ? Certainly not. Believing is not just knowing something; it is placing faith in something. The demons have not placed their faith in God and God alone.

Knowing about God is not enough. Knowing that Jesus died on the cross for you is not enough. What is enough is placing your faith in Jesus to the extent that you are willing to turn from your wrongdoing and trust Him with your life.

Believing is...

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

To those who believe and place their trust in God, the Bible promises that God gave them the right to become children of God. It is the highest honor one can have, to be called a child of the most high God. You must receive Him by allowing Him to be a part of your life and trusting Him in every area. You must believe in Jesus to the extent that you allow Him to change your life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

God promises eternal life through Christ

God wants you to believe and place your faith in Him through Christ, but He also wants to grant to you the promise of a better life to come. Jesus was the only one who could do this because people are sinful and God is holy. You could not enter heaven if it were not for Christ.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... 1 Timothy 2:5

Only Jesus can be the go between. No one else. Not a mother. Not a priest. No one. Yes, the fact remains that Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. So no one can come to the Father except through Him.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast, For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

When you really believe in Jesus, you understand more that you could never have done what He did. It is God's gift to you. You cannot take the credit for it. You cannot do enough good works to ever earn your salvation. It is just a gift from God. And it is a gift that each person decides whether he or she will accept or reject.

If someone were to offer you a gift of an ink pen, you could decide if you wanted to take it or not. If you took it, you might appreciate it and therefore want to do something in return for the gift-giver. With God, He offers Jesus as a free gift. You either take it or you don't. And with many more consequences than accepting an ink pen or not. If you accept His free gift, you would hopefully appreciate it so much that you would want to serve God. You don't do things for God to earn your place in heaven; you do things to say thank you for allowing your Son Jesus to die on the cross for you.

Simply put, it is God's grace. It is not you. You are God's precious workmanship and you are recreated to live your life by honoring Christ. It is simple faith. It is simple trust. It is the blessed hope you have that not only will God be here to help you through this life, but that when you leave this earth, you can go to heaven and live eternally with Him.

Believe In Him. He sent Jesus to die for you.

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-- you and your household." Acts 16:31

Acts says that when you believe in the Lord Jesus, you will be saved. It goes on to say that your whole household will be saved. What this is saying is that salvation will be brought to the house (see Luke 19:9) because the same light of

Christ will be given to all in that home. Anyone who believes will be saved in the same way. When Christ is in your life, others in the household will certainly see it. They too, will have the same opportunity to make a personal commitment to Jesus.

Believe

So, how do you believe? You believe with all your being. You say it with your mouth, you believe it on the inside (in your heart) and you show it on the outside by everything you say and do. If you say you believe and do not live it out, then the question is, do you really believe? You believe to the point that you put your whole trust in Christ and place your faith in Him and in Him alone. He desires to give you hope and help in every area. He desires that you believe.

LOOK:

Go back and look at what you read. Write your own definition for what believing is and what it isn't:

Believing is...

Believing is not...

The writer of the book of John uses the word "Logos" or "Word" for Christ. According to John 1:1-5, how long has Jesus Christ been around?

Now read John 1:14 and complete the verse below:

"The Word became _____ and made his dwelling _____. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and _____, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

In your own words, rewrite what these verses in John 1:1-5, 14 mean to you.

Write out 1 John 3:1. You'll find 1 John toward the back of the New Testament.

Read 1 John 3:16. What does this verse say that you should do?

What is the command that God has given you in 1 John 3:23?

What does 1 John 4:9 say about how God showed you His love?

According to John 14:6, how do you get to know God and have a personal relationship with him?

Look up John 1:12 and complete the blanks:

Yet to _____ who received him, to those who _____ in his name, he gave the right to become _____ of God.

How can you (or anyone) become a child of God?

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

What was the purpose of Christ dying on the cross?

Bringing you to God was the reason that Christ died. For you. If you were the only one, He would still have done it just for you. God so desires that you have a personal relationship with Him. He made you, knows you and still loves you. No matter what course your life has taken, He wants you to be able to get to know Him. That's why He sent Jesus to die on the cross and raised Him from the dead...so that you could believe in Him and get to know Him.

Pray now and thank God that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for you. Tell Him if you believe in Him or if you need Him to help you to believe in Him. He already knows how you feel and can certainly handle whatever you need to tell Him. Ask Him to help you right now.

TOOK:

For further study: Read the fourth gospel, the book of John. The reason John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote this book is found in John 20:30-31. Write these verses in the space below. Then read through the book and circle every time you see the word "believe".

Pray and thank God that He offers you life in His name.

SESSION THREE -

TURN

“...Turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...” Acts 3:19

What does it mean to turn? You know the answer to that. It means to go the other direction. In Acts 3:19, the Bible says to turn to God. That must mean that you are to go another direction. In fact, if you are turning, it often means that you are headed in the wrong direction. Life without Christ is the wrong direction. Paul, who wrote Acts, was speaking here and telling the people that they needed to turn to God or to go toward Him. Isn't it wonderful that God never makes you accept Him but stands ready to receive you when you turn to Him? Look at the rest of the verse. When you turn to God, it says that your sins are wiped away and that refreshment is waiting for you. He forgives. He makes it easy. He just wants you to turn your face to His.

When you were a child, you may remember your parents or other adults wanting you to look at them when they spoke to you. God wants you to look His way. When you do, you see Him in all His glory. You see His heart and how much compassion He has and how much he loves and cares for you. He stands ready to make it all better. God wants to give you a new start by removing all the ugliness of wrongdoing. He wants you to be renewed, refreshed, and recreated if you will. He wants to give you a fresh start!

Everyone does wrong things

If God wants to give you a new start, you need to let Him. Remember the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3? Eve and Adam both do exactly what they were told not to do; they eat of the fruit of the one tree that they were not supposed to eat from. And then they hid. They hid because they were ashamed of what they had done. When you do wrong things (everyone does), you don't want to turn to God because you know you are guilty. Look at Proverbs 14:12 below.

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
Proverbs 14:12*

You might think you know what's good for you and your family. You might wonder how God could possibly have the whole picture. It is awesome that God knows you so well that He knew that He needed to add this verse to the Bible. There is a way that you think is right, but without God, it is not.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

Everyone has sinned and no one lives up to God's standard of perfection. All of you have turned the wrong way and need to make an about-face. God knows

when you are running from Him and yet still stands patiently waiting, willing to forgive you and give you hope and meaning in this life and in the life to come.

Some may think they are leading good and moral lives. The Bible says that you have still done wrong things. No one is perfect. If you are living your life without a growing relationship with Christ, then you are living in the sin of not allowing Him to be the Lord of your lives.

If you claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 1 John 1:8, 10

The payment for wrongdoing is death

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

What happens when you don't turn to God? The answer is clear. The answer is death. The payment for wrongdoing is death or eternal separation from God. However, the free gift from God is everlasting life through Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Someone had to pay for your sins. It is only through the grace of God that He sent Jesus to pay the penalty.

Death separates you from God

Your sins separate you from God. If each sin you commit is like a brick, then when you put these sins together, it is like building a brick wall between yourself and God. The more bricks or sins there are, the more you may feel separated from God. Even one brick or one sin separates you from God but the more sins you have in your life, the farther you feel from God. So, sin leads you to eternal death and eternal separation from God but even on this earth, the separation is there.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

In the verse above, the Bible says that your sins keep you from Him and that He will not even hear you. However, read the following great news:

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:17-18

This is why God sent Jesus - not to condemn you but to save you. If you believe, you are not condemned. If you don't believe, then you are condemned already.

The brick wall of sin is removed by accepting the fact that Jesus died on the cross for you. You make it a personal decision. Yes, He died for all but you must ask Him personally to come into your life. You accept the forgiveness that has already been provided for. When the wall is removed, that openness with God is there. You have been forgiven!

When you turn to God and away from sin, God cleanses you and wipes out your sin

When God wipes out your sin, He wipes it out for good.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:12

He removes your wrongdoing and all that is separating you from Him. Just think, the east and the west never meet. You may remember your sin but it is still gone. You may live with the consequences of your sin, but it has been forgiven and removed!

*"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."
Hebrews 8:12*

Not only are your sins removed and forgiven, but Hebrews 8:12 above says that God will not even remember them. God will never hold them against you. You have been forgiven and your sins have been wiped away. When you turn to God in repentance, He is faithful and just to forgive you and to cleanse you.

God sends refreshment

When you are faithful to tell or confess to God what you have done wrong, he is faithful and will do what He says. In the verse below, God clearly says that His is just or fair and will not only forgive you of your sins but will purify or cleanse you from anything that is unrighteous or unholy.

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

When He does this, you are refreshed. Look at Acts 3:19-20 printed below:

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you-- even Jesus. Acts 3:19-20

Refreshment comes when you are in a right relationship with God! So, repent, or be sorry to the point that you turn your life around, and give God your life so that you may experience the fullness of life with Christ on this earth and in the life to come.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10b

God stands ready to bring you a full and meaningful life with purpose. The decision is up to you.

LOOK:

Look up the word "repent" in a dictionary and write the definition here:

What are some areas of your life that you need to repent and turn in?
Ask God to show you if you are not sure.

We just looked at 1 John 1:8-10. Read this again and write it out in your own words. Make it personal by using "I" instead of "you".

Look up Acts 2:38-39. What is the promise that you have?

Fill in the blanks below:

"...And you will _____ the _____ of the _____."

Look at Acts 3:19-20. What happens when one repents and turns to God?

Are you willing to repent and turn so that Christ, the appointed one, will come?

Pray and confess or tell your wrongdoings to God right now. Thank Him for sending a way for you to know Him through His only Son, Jesus. Praise Him that death no longer separates you from God.

Read Hebrews 8:12 and 1 John 1:9.

Thank God that He forgives us when you confess our sins and remembers them no more. Pray and talk to God now. Thank Him that he makes us pure again.

TOOK:

For further study: Colossians (between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians) has some great teaching on how to live the Christian life. Read it and especially focus on Chapter 3:1-17. List all the things that this passage says that you need to do to live a holy and pure life. Ask God to speak to you as you read it.

SESSION FOUR -

CALL

*“That if you confess 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 confess and are saved...for, ‘Everyone who **calls** on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:9-10, 13*

Call on God. Basically, it is a simple process. To call on God is to talk to Him just like you would talk to anyone. He is your very best friend. He knows your needs. He knows your struggles. He knows your hearts. He stands ready to open up the resources of heaven. It all begins by you talking to him.

Confess with your mouth

Confess "Jesus is Lord"

As you talk to God, begin by confessing with your mouth and your voice that Jesus is Lord. Acknowledge that He is the ruler of the universe and that you welcome Him as the boss of your life.

Lordship sounds so easy but sometimes it can be a hard thing to do. God wants to be in the driver's seat.

Saved

The verses that you see above in Romans 10 also say that you call on God through Christ to be saved. You must call on Him as the Lord of your life but you must also confess and acknowledge that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave for you. He is your personal Savior.

Believe in your heart

Now saying all this is not enough. These verses also say that you must believe in your heart. The heart is the very core of your being. It is the depth of your emotion. The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is certainly based on fact, but it all begins in the heart. In your inner being, you must believe.

Believe that God raised Christ from the dead

First, you must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. If Jesus is not alive and in heaven with the Father, then where would the hope be? There is no hope without the resurrection of Christ. Some have tried to explain it away but the fact remains that Jesus did live on this earth and did die for your sins and did rise from the dead. People saw Him and even touched Him after the resurrection.

The Scriptures are clear and do not contradict historical evidence. Jesus is alive and your faith is based on it.

Justified

After you believe that Jesus is with the Father in heaven, you need to understand justification. It means, "just as if I'd never sinned". To justify is to declare just or to declare righteous. You can never be good enough and cannot be just in yourself. You are condemned but with Christ; you are reconciled to God. You access this reconciliation by faith and can therefore have hope. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, you can now stand before God as if you were Christ, because Christ stood before God as if he were you. That is a profound thought, that He actually took your place on the cross.

He was delivered over to death for your sins and was raised to life for your justification. Romans 4:25

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18

Have you ever been in a relationship that has gone bad? Maybe it was a family member or a spouse or even a boyfriend or a friend. Something happened and your relationship was hurt by it. Then, later, the relationship was restored. Often, it is just not the same again. Oh, it may seem okay on the outside but on the inside you know it will never really be the same again. The trust and openness is just not there. Without Jesus' death on the cross, your relationship with God is severed and broken. However, with His death and resurrection comes justification. Not only is the relationship made whole, but it is just as if you had never sinned. It is better than it ever could be.

There are many who think that they have a relationship with God. They talk to Him and even confide in Him. They pray when they have a need and are aware of His provision and protection in their lives. Yet, if they don't come to God through the cross, then they never experience the life-changing relationship with Christ that they could have. If you don't come to God through Jesus, then you are only fooling yourself. You just know about God and don't know Him in an intimate and personal way.

Call on the Lord

Call on Jesus by name

Remember at the beginning of Session One when you looked at Jeremiah 29:11-13? Let's look at it again:

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. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

When you call upon Jesus as Lord, then you know that He will listen to you. Many call upon God but not as Lord. God hears you when you come to Him in total submission to Him as Lord and Savior. That's when you can know and understand what He tells you and what He has planned for you. When you call upon His personal name, Jesus, then you can know that you will find Him when you seek Him with all of your heart.

Confess and believe Jesus is Lord

Look at Romans 10:9-10, 13 again.

*“That if you confess 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 confess and are saved...for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”
Romans 10:9-10, 13*

These verses are a promise that if you confess or say that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe it in your heart, you will be saved. It is true for everyone.

Salvation by faith

When you accept Christ as Lord and Savior, you do it on faith. Faith is an act of the heart, the mind, and the will. You are saved by believing in your heart, knowing it in your mind, and acting on it with your will. Salvation is not earned. Salvation is by faith alone.

Holy Spirit makes a new heart!

Dear friends, since God so loved you, you also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if you love one another, God lives in you and his love is made complete in you. You know that you live in him and he in you, because he has given you of his Spirit. And you have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so you know and rely on the love God has for you. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:11-16

God gives you the Holy Spirit

You would have a hard time trying to live up to God's standard alone. That's why He gives you the Holy Spirit. When you invite Christ to come into your life, He sends the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside you and helps you understand scripture and what God is trying to say to you. The Holy Spirit wants all glory to be given to the Father God. He becomes your Counselor and teaches you.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

To know that the Holy Spirit is there for you is wonderful news!

The Holy Spirit will teach you

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. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:26-27

Not only does the Holy Spirit become your Counselor, but the Holy Spirit teaches you and reminds you of what the Scriptures say. He is your ever-present guide. You do not need to be troubled or afraid because He is the constant companion who is always there for you.

LOOK:

You have looked at what it means to **hope, believe, turn,** and **call** on Christ. Review the prayer below. If you have not yet prayed the prayer and meant it, now would be a great time to commit your life to Christ.

Dear God,
Hope: I know You have great plans for me and I want to place my hope in You.
Believe: I believe You love me and sent Jesus to die on the cross for me.
Turn: Please forgive me and help me turn from my wrongdoings.
Call: I want You to lead my life.
Amen.

If you have just prayed this prayer, congratulations! You have a new heart! If you are still thinking about it, ask God to make Himself known to you. He will!

Look up the verses that you have been studying in the last four sessions. In the space below, write what these verses mean to you

Hope – Jeremiah 29:11-13

Believe – John 3:16

Turn – Acts 3:19

Call – Romans 10:9-10, 13

The Bible says that when you accept Christ, you are a new creation. You have a new heart.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

What have you learned in these sessions?

What commitments do you feel that God is calling you to make? Write them below.

TOOK: For further study: Read Philippians 2:1-18. Circle the words that tell you about Jesus. Underline the things in this passage that tell you how to live.

Part 2 -The Next Step

"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

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can know that He will help lead you every day and that when you die, you will go to heaven to live with Him forever. By faith you can take the next step in the Christian walk.

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

As a follower of Jesus, He is your wonderful leader and shows you everything to do. Jesus leads you by His example that is given through the Bible. The greatest step that you can take, as His follower, is the step of faith as you obey and trust His every leading. It is so exciting to begin walking with Jesus!

SESSION FIVE –

SHARE

Share HeartTalk with **others** and tell them of your decision to follow Christ. God will be pleased!

"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

One of the greatest privileges and passions of the Christian life is sharing your faith with others. As a Christian, you do this through the power of the Holy Spirit that has "come on you" the moment your life-changing decision is made to accept and follow Christ as Lord and Savior.

Share. A very special word that you have been encouraged to practice since childhood. "Share your toys, share your smile, share your time, share your food with those that may not have any..." Women generally love to share heart to heart. God has given believers a deep desire to connect with others through sharing. Now, as a Christian, you have the opportunity, joy, privilege, and ministry of sharing Christ and helping others receive Him as their Lord and Savior. Jesus is the greatest good news that you could ever share with someone.

What do you do when you have good news in your life? You share it! What a good news purpose you have when you are able to sit with someone and share your heart about what God has done in your life and what He wants to do in everyone's life. Don't be surprised if God also gives you the desire to go heart to heart and share with others what has happened to you. You probably won't be able to keep Jesus to yourself. As you share Christ with others, God is taking His salvation to the ends of the earth. Go God!

Thank God for the person shared Christ with you. They simply shared with you the greatest news of all time...Jesus! Now as a Christian, you have something to share. Pass Jesus on to someone today.

When you have a **HeartTalk** with others, you are sharing Christ. This session will help you learn about sharing Jesus with others, telling them of your decision to follow Christ, and encouraging them to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you do these things, God will be pleased.

God provides the power to share Christ

Everything you will need to share Christ comes from God and His Power. He provides the power through the Holy Spirit. When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you received His power to live as a Christian and share Him with others. What has God done in your life? When your life is changed and you

share the life-changing details with others, this is God's power at work. As the people you are sharing with hear and see the ways that God has changed your life, they will be able to experience Christ's power first hand. Thank God for His power.

*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.
I Corinthians 2:1-5*

What has Christ done for you? You have a powerful confident testimony to share with others. When you share what Christ has done for you, you can trust in God's power to work through you. God tells us in I Corinthians 2:1-5 (written above) that He wants you to be totally dependant on Him for everything you need. You don't need to be concerned with fancy speech or persuasive words. You only need to have God's power and the words that He will give you to share. As you share Christ through His power you can have confidence because... it is all up to God.

God will teach you how to share Christ with others

God promises to teach you how to share Christ with others. Are you teachable? If you are, God will teach you. He wants you to know how to share with others. How special it is to know that your teacher is not only teacher of the year; but, Teacher of all teachers! The more time you spend with your teacher in prayer and reading the Bible, the more you will learn how to be an effective witness for Him. God has so much He wants to share with you. It is an exciting purpose to get to know Christ and share Him with others.

God's plan for sharing Christ with those who need Christ is so awesome that there is not any room for worry. He takes care of every detail himself. He teaches you and gives you the words that you need to be His witness. He is looking for worry free followers of Christ that will trust Him for every word to say to those that need Christ.

God will lead you to the people that need Christ

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." Matthew 28:18-20

Your life is full of people that need Christ. A great question that you can ask God is, "Lord, who do you want me to share Christ with today?" As you walk with God, you will see the people He wants you to share Christ with. You have the

joy and privilege of going where the people are with the purpose of sharing Christ.

Until Jesus returns, God sends you on a mission, a great commission, to go with a great HeartTalk permission slip signed by the greatest authority that there is... Jesus Christ.

God provides the plan to share Christ

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.
Proverbs 19:20-21

God's Word provides the plan of salvation that you share with others

As God sends you to share Christ with others, God sends you with His plan. The plan of salvation is from His perfect Word, the Bible. This is one reason that it is exciting to read God's Word and get to know God personally. His plan will fill your heart with courage and confidence because God never makes a mistake and never makes His plan hard to understand. The Holy Spirit will help you understand God's Word as you read it and share it. Remember the small simple step of faith that you took to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior? Don't ever forget that God provides the plan to follow as you share Jesus with others.

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.
1 Thessalonians 2:13

The simple message of salvation that you offer to others is shared by faith. The plan of salvation is found in God's Word. As you read and memorize God's Word, you are being equipped to share Christ with others. This is the greatest joy-filled plan to follow. Begin today to make yourself familiar with and memorize the Scriptures in the "**HeartTalk**" witnessing booklet. You will be ready to share His plan of eternal life through Jesus using this wonderful plan.

God's Word provides powerful examples of His people sharing Christ with others

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus..." John 1:40-42a

God's Word is full of examples of His people witnessing. What a joy it is that God has given you these role models from His Word that encourage you to share Christ and cheers you on in many ways. Even though they followed Christ many years ago, their footprints are provided as examples for every believer to follow today. Get to know some of these biblical role models and let their lives be an inspiration and reminder that if they could be witnesses, you can too.

God's Spirit will draw people to Christ

"When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement..." John 16:8

When you share Christ, do not feel defeated if the person you share with doesn't say yes to Christ right away. Christians need to be careful that they don't fall into the trap of playing the Holy Spirit. That is not your role to fill. Your role is to pray, to share, and to leave the results to God. You may be planting a seed in the heart of someone who needs the Lord, watering a seed that someone else has planted, or picking the fruit of a life that was planted and watered by someone else. The results are all up to God. He is not willing for one person to perish.

God provides the path to share Christ

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Have you ever gone into a maze and tried to get out, or worked on a maze in a puzzle book? God's path is not like a maze. He has a straight path to follow. He wants you to look for His path in your life as you share Christ with others. Lean on the Lord for everything you need to walk this path.

God's path leads to open doors to share Christ

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:3-5

God opens every door for you to share Christ with others. Picture with me a door with only one doorknob on the door...the doorknob is on God's side of the door, not your side. As you pray, He opens each door of opportunity to share Christ with people who He puts in your pathway. The only thing that you need to do be ready to do is to walk through the doors that He opens and share His simple message. This is a lifestyle that is so exciting.

What are some of the doors that God may open up for you as a Christian to share Christ with others? For example: at your home, with your mail carrier, at the store, at school, at the ballgame, on vacation, on an airplane, at church...

The list goes on and on. When there are many open doors for His message, your life becomes a life with purpose.

God's path leads to open hearts that are ready to accept Christ

"God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us." Acts 17:27

"One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message." Acts 16:14

When you share Christ with someone, guess what? God has already prepared his/her heart to listen to what you are sharing! He/she is already searching for Christ. God wants to use you to bring the answer to this person who has been searching. God prepares the heart of each one to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. He is looking for obedient followers with open hearts who are ready to share Christ.

LOOK:

Start a list of people who need to know Christ. Pray and ask God to help you share Christ with each one. Use the verses in the first session of *HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart* to begin to know how to pray for yourself and others.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Look up Romans 1:16 and fill in the blanks:

"I am _____ of the gospel, because it is the _____ of God for the _____ of everyone who believes..."

John 6:44 says, Jesus said, *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day..."*

According to this verse, when you share Christ with others, who brings them to Christ?

Why is it important to pray and ask God to pour out His power through His Spirit never relying on your strength, before you share Christ with others?

One powerful path God has provided for you to share with is your own personal story of salvation. Using the three points below, write your brief personal testimony on a piece of paper. Be ready to share this testimony with people that God puts in the pathway of your life.

1. BEFORE I accepted Christ, I would describe my life like this:

2. HOW did I hear about Christ and accept Him as my Savior:

3. NOW that I am a Christian, how my life is different:

Pause right now. Ask God to open the doors to share and to help you depend on Him to be an effective witness for Christ.

Begin learning the verses in the **“HeartTalk”** witnessing booklet.

Practice sharing your personal testimony.

Share Christ with others and tell them of your decision to follow Christ by sharing your own personal testimony and the **“HeartTalk”** witnessing booklet.

Fill in the blanks of Isaiah 6:8:

*“Then I heard the voice of the _____ saying, “Whom shall I _____?
And who will _____ for us?” And _____ said, “Here am _____. Send
_____!”*

TOOK:

For further study:

Read I Corinthians 2:1-5. In this passage, Paul, a witness for Christ, shares the simple message about where the power and words to share Christ come from.

Write the important things you see from this passage here.

SESSION SIX –

CHURCH

Join a Bible-believing **church** and follow Christ's example of baptism. You will be blessed!

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day...All the believers were together and had everything in common...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:41, 44, 47

Church. A gift from God, your Christian community, and a wonderful worship plan as the family of God come together with one heart and one purpose - Jesus. The church is the body of all believers. This session will help you understand the importance of joining a Bible-believing church and following Christ's example of baptism as you find your place of service for Christ. You'll be blessed.

Join a Bible-believing Church

Make a public promise that you have accepted Christ as your Savior

Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32-33

How exciting it is to follow Christ and publicly declare allegiance to Him. When people accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, they want everyone to know about their life-changing commitment. This is one reason that people come forward at the end of a church service during the invitation. Jesus publicly stood for you in every way; therefore, you have the joy, privilege, and responsibility of making a public promise to Jesus. Joining a church is an important step to take as a new Christian. Rejoice and celebrate that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior by publicly promising to faithfully follow His example with all of your heart and life.

Make a habit of attending church regularly

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. Hebrews 10:25

When you love God, you love His Church. Faithful church attendance, involvement, and commitment, are some of the most important foundations of a new Christian's life. Church attendance is not an option but a necessity for every Christian. Through your local church and the study of God's Word, you will learn

how to grow in your relationship with God, fellowship with others, glorify God through worship, and share Christ with those who need Him.

It has been said that if a person will do the same thing at least 21 times then it will be a habit. It won't take 21 times with God. Because of Jesus, you will have the instant desire and enthusiasm to be faithful in your church attendance, worship, and service. Make up your mind right now to be faithful. You will experience God's blessings when you put Him first, especially on the Lord's day.

Follow Jesus' example of baptism

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11

In the New Testament, the public profession of faith was a person's baptism. God loves you and is pleased when you identify yourself with Jesus and follow His example. The first step of obedience for a believer is to be baptized into a local body of believers (the church).

Jesus' baptism gives you an example to follow

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3: 21-22

You will want God to be well pleased with you. As a new Christian it is very important to follow the example set for you by Jesus. Your new identity is found in Him. One of the reasons that Jesus gives you an example to follow is for you to identify with Him because He identifies with you. Because your perfect Savior, Jesus, was baptized, every Christian needs to be baptized. Baptism is a beautiful picture of the gospel.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4

Baptism is symbolic of death (we are all spiritually dead without Christ), burial (through baptism in the water), and resurrection of our new life in Christ (coming up out of the water and living for Christ).

Jesus' baptism gives you a picture of instant obedience

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." The John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. Matthew 3:13-16a

Baptism is instant obedience in action. You will want to obey our Lord and let others know that you have a new life in Christ. Not only are you obeying God, but you are also influencing and encouraging others through your baptism. Following the Lord through baptism is a testimony that will make an impact on those who are observing your baptism. As you are baptized, others will be examining their own hearts to see if they are also following Christ. The best way to follow Jesus is to trust and obey.

What to look for in a Bible-believing church

Find a church that is based on the principles of the New Testament. You might want to make an appointment with the Pastor or one of the staff members who can help you understand what the church believes and how to get involved. Make sure your new church is based on the Great Commission:

"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." Matthew 28:19-20

LOOK:

Look at Psalm 122:1 and fill in the blanks below:

"I _____ with those who said to me, "Let us _____ to the _____ of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

Describe the psalmist's attitude towards the house of the Lord:

Read Luke 4:14-16.

In verse 16, how often do you read that Jesus attended the services in Nazareth?

Because Jesus' example shows you that He attended services as was His custom, what should your church attendance commitment be?

As a Christ-follower, what church have you made a commitment to?

Read Psalm 69:9a ("a" means the first part of verse 9)

Pause right now and pray that you will have a zeal and excitement for God's house, just like what is written in Psalm 69:9a. Pray that God will show you exactly the church home that He wants you to join, with all of your heart. Praise God for the joy and privilege it is to follow Jesus' example.

Write out Luke 3:21-22 in the space provided:

Circle all of the words in Luke 3:21-22 that teach, or describe, Jesus' example that He set for every believer to follow.

I Corinthians 12:12-27. How unique and important is your place and purpose in the body of Christ?

Who is the church?

If you haven't joined a Bible-believing church and followed Christ's example of baptism, will you begin to search for your place this Sunday?

TOOK:

For Further Study: Read the book of Acts
Chapters 1-7: What elements were in the early church?
Chapters 8-12: How did the early church grow?

SESSION SEVEN –

PRAY

Pray daily. Prayer is simply talking to God just like you talk to another. Tell God why you love Him and about the things you need. He'll listen!

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1

When you talk to someone often you get to know him or her personally and intimately. As you begin your new Christian life, it is very important to make prayer a daily priority. Prayer is simply talking to God just like you talk to each other, and getting to know Him personally and intimately. Talk to Jesus all of the time. God is always there when you call on Him and He knows that you, as a new Christian, need to learn to pray. Be encouraged. God promises to teach you to pray.

Prayer is powerfully present in the lives of the faithful followers of God in both the Old and New Testaments. In the New Testament, the disciples that walked and talked face to face with Jesus set an important example for us. They saw Jesus praying and then asked Jesus to teach them to pray. It is very important that as a Christian you talk to God daily. This session will help you take your first steps in prayer and learn what it means to simply talk to God.

Jesus shares a pattern for prayer - A CALL to prayer

This, then, is how you should pray: "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. 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

The verses above give some specific steps you can take as you learn how to pray. Jesus is calling you to have a lifestyle of prayer as you share heart to heart with Him. Every Christian is called to prayer. He is always there to listen to your heart and share an answer to your prayers according to His perfect will. Don't you love to talk with someone that loves you and always has your best interest in mind? God is the one that loves you more than anyone else and He has a special plan for your life. Learn how to CALL on God through prayer and get to know our Lord using this acrostic as a pattern for prayer.

Confess your sins so God will hear your prayer

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matthew 6:12

Confessing your sins is simply admitting to God things that you have done that are not pleasing to Him. The Holy Spirit will whisper to your heart when you have

made a wrong choice. The important step you need to take is to be quick to confess your sin so your daily relationship with God will not be hindered.

You will have areas in your life that are debts and need God's forgiveness. When you admit to God that you have done something that was not right, you are confessing your sins (debts) to Him. It is important to be obedient by asking Him to forgive you. God forgives confessed sin and He promises to teach His followers how to live a life of holiness. Jesus gave a pattern for prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

A praying heart is a heart that is full of forgiveness. A clean forgiven heart will desire daily fellowship with God through prayer. As you talk to God and confess your sins to Him, accept His forgiveness. A life that accepts forgiveness will be a life that can rejoice because the hindrance of sin will not have a hold on you or keep your prayers from being heard and answered by your forgiving God!

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that you Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark 11:24-25

God wants to hear you when you talk to Him. Mark 11:24-25 says that whatever you ask for in prayer will be heard and answered according to His will, but only if you are walking in forgiveness. As you think about all of the sins that God has forgiven you of, forgiveness toward others should come quickly. Confession and forgiveness keep the communication open and clear between God and you, His child. When you are quick to confess and forgive, God will be quick to hear and answer your prayer according to His will.

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

Adore God for Who He is & praise Him

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." Matthew 6:9

"Our Father in heaven", is one of the greatest personal promises that will meet the deepest needs of every heart. This promise reveals God as majestic, holy, powerful, awesome, perfect, but also your personal Father, "Abba" daddy! He is loving, approachable, and always there for you. This promise should bring adoration, praise, and commitment from your life.

To adore is to praise, respect, love, cherish, honor, esteem highly, worship, idolize, and so much more. God is the only one that is worthy of our total adoration. He is Holy. As a new Christian, think about how your life has already been touched and changed by God. Dear Christian friend, God loves to hear His children adore Him for who He is. The reasons to adore God and praise Him are endless. Adoration will flow from your heart especially after you have confessed your sins and seek to fall deeper in love with your Father in heaven.

I will exalt you, my God my King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. Psalm 145:1-3

When you reflect on who God is and what He has done in your life, heartfelt adoration and praise will flow from your life. When you adore and praise God, everything else in your life will be put in the right perspective. Every day you need God's perspective. A day without praise and adoration toward God is just another day. Don't have just another day; adore and praise God forever.

Let go and trust God to provide for all your daily needs

"Give us today our daily bread." Matthew 6:11

God knows what you need and He wants you to turn to Him for your daily needs. Are you totally dependent on God? He is your daily provider in every area of your life. When you pray and ask Him to provide for your "daily bread", you are acknowledging that God is in control of your life. As you pray and communicate to God that you trust Him to provide what is best for you, you are letting go and letting God have control of your life. You can trust God totally. He will never leave you, forsake you, or let you down. Fall into His arms, let go, and let God provide for all your daily needs.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6: 25, 33-34

Doubt and worry are the opposite of trust and faith. Jesus shares with us that we are not to worry. As you talk to God through prayer, give Him your worry list. He will take care of all of your daily needs.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Lift up your requests to God, thanking Him for every answer to prayer

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...And lead us not into temptation, deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:10, 13

As you pray, God wants you to lift up your needs and ask Him for His will to be done in and through your life here on earth. God has a purpose for each one of His children. Ask God to show you His purpose for your life. He will. It is important to also ask God for help to live for Him and stay away from evil. When you are tempted by the evil one, God will provide the deliverance you need for

victory over temptation. You can live a victorious life that is dedicated to God through a prayer.

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. Philippians 4:6-7

When you lift up everything to God through prayer, you will have the peace of God ruling in your life. Prayer protects your heart and mind because you are guarding them with Jesus. Let God turn your worries into prayers. The more you pray, the less you will experience anxiety. This sounds like a prescription for peace. **Confess, Adore, Let-go, and Lift-up...CALL** on God through prayer!

Jesus teaches a priority for prayer

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35

The Scriptures show us Jesus' example of how He made prayer a priority in His life. The beginning of His day, very early in the morning, began with a priority of prayer. Before others were awake, before the responsibilities of the day had begun, before many choices could be made with His time.... This will be a great example and encouragement as you model your prayer life after Jesus.

Praying privately

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Mark 6:45-46

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Luke 6:12

You may not have a mountainside where you can go to spend time in prayer, but Jesus' example should encourage you to find a private place to spend time with God. It is important to see that Jesus took prayer very seriously. He took the needed time to go by Himself and pray. He prepared through private prayer for the decisions and events that He was publicly facing daily.

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6

Prayer should not draw attention to you; but, give full attention to God. There is a place in the Christian life for public prayer. Jesus taught His followers to not fall into the trap of only praying in public. Make sure that your prayer life

includes private prayer with God. You will receive many special blessings because of your private communication and closeness with God.

Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my request before you and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:2-3

Praying publicly

And as he (Jesus) taught them, he said, "Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." Mark 11:17

Jesus teaches about the importance of praying publicly. His house, the church, is called a house of prayer for all nations. What a privilege it is to gather with one another and intercede through prayer. When two or more believers gather and pray, this becomes a powerful prayer meeting. Public prayer may take place at church, the ball field, the grocery store, or wherever you spend time with other people; public prayer is a privilege. It is a privilege to intercede for others. Praying lives are caring lives for Christ.

"Give them joy in my house of prayer...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" Isaiah 56:7

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem...Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." Psalm 122:1-2, 6-7

A praying church is a powerful church filled with joy by God. There is a sweetness and strength when His people pray with one another. Praises are shared and problems are solved through prayer. God's people go forward together on their knees.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. So not be anxious about anything, but in 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. Philippians 4:4-7

The result of public prayer will be peace and security within the hearts of God's people and within the walls of God's building. Prayer focuses on our awesome God. When Christians come together in prayer, God breaks down walls and binds everyone together heart to heart. People that pray together stay together.

LOOK:

Confess your Sins so God will hear your prayer

Psalm 32:5 teaches confession, repentance, and forgiveness. Write this verse in your own words.

Read Psalm 103:3 & 8-12. According to the verses you just read, what does God do with your sin when you confess it to Him and turn away from it?

Adore God for who He is and praise Him

Read Psalm 63. Fill in the blanks of Psalm 63:3-4.

"Because your _____ is better than _____, my _____ will _____ you. I will _____ you as long as I _____, and in _____ I will lift up my hands." Psalm 63:3-4

Pause right now and pray a prayer of adoration and praise to God admiring Him for Who He Is. Write down some of the words of adoration and praise that you just shared with God in prayer.

Let go and trust God to provide for your daily needs

Make a list of all the burdens, cares, or concerns that are in your life today.

Write down a commitment to God, sharing with Him the 100% trust you have placed in Him. If there is a struggle with trusting God, pray and ask Him to help you and teach you how to trust Him. He will answer your prayer.

Lift up your requests to God, thanking Him for every answer to prayer

Read Psalm 141:1-2. Make a list of the prayer requests that you have.

According to these verses, how should you begin your day? Set a time and place that you can pray every day. Keep a record or journal of your prayer time with God. You may want to use a spiral notebook, blank book of paper, or a journal.

TOOK:

For Further Study:

Read Mark 11:20-25, Luke 11:1, Luke 18:9-14, and John 17.

SESSION EIGHT –

BIBLE

Read your **Bible** daily. A good place to start is 1 John. Then, read the gospel of John. Ask God to help you understand what you're reading. He will!

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

As you pray, you have the privilege of talking to God. As you read God's Word, you have the privilege of hearing God's still small voice speak to your heart through the written Word. The Bible is the number one best seller of all time. The most popular and powerful Word from God to His people about everything is the greatest book ever written. Please get a copy of God's Word. You might like to use the New International Version, the New American Standard, or the new Holman Christian Standard Bible. All are easy to read and understand. A good place to start reading is 1 John (toward the back of the New Testament) on assurance of salvation. Then read the gospel of John on Jesus' life. As you read, God will help you understand what you are reading, studying, and applying to your life.

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
Romans 15:4

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. **Acts 5:42**

Reading the Bible is a vital step toward intimacy with God and Christian maturity. Through the Bible, you are encouraged to do your best when it comes to reading and learning God's Word. A life-changing step and goal that you can take is to set aside time day after day to study and be eager when it comes to reading the Bible. The verses above emphasize the importance and exciting outcome that takes place in the life of any believer who reads the Bible. Ask God to give you a passion for His Word.

Reading your Bible

Observe - Examine what God says

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul was saying was true." **Acts 17:11**

As you examine what God is saying, you are discovering truths from God's Word for your personal walk with God. In the verse above, why were the Bereans

of more noble character? “They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul was saying was true.”

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand that Christians need the noble character mentioned in these verses. As you apply this verse to your life, grasp the importance and rewards that come from reading God’s Word everyday with eagerness.

Congratulations, you have just had a mini-Bible study by observing, understanding, and applying God’s Word to your life. It is so exciting to get started reading the Bible. God wants you to know Him and experience Him in every area of your life. You will get to know God personally and learn how to follow Him passionately as you study. Don’t be surprised if you desire to spend a lot of time reading your Bible. As a Christian, the more time you spend reading, understanding, and applying God’s Word to your life, the more time you will want to study. Pray for a great eagerness to read your Bible everyday. Pray for a great understanding as you read your Bible. Remember that the Holy Spirit will help you. God answers prayer.

Understand - Examine what God means

*“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”
Luke 24:45*

As you read the Bible, God opens your mind and helps you understand what you are reading. This is one of the mysteries of the Holy Spirit that lives in every believer. That still small voice will speak to your heart about what you are reading and will help you understand what to do next.

Apply - Examine how to live by what God says

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has learned, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

There is great joy in the life of a believer who applies God’s Word to her life. “Do what it says” is powerful and tremendous advice from God. Obedience leads to freedom and the blessings of God. To know God is to follow God and desire to do what He says. God’s way is always the best way because God knows everything that is best for His followers.

The Bible is God's inspired Word

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. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

God inspires every word in the Bible through love. Accept the Bible by faith. There will be many things that you read that you won't totally understand until you see Jesus face to face. God's Word is an inspired love letter given from His heart to your heart for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. It is a joy and privilege to read the Bible with a teachable heart and let it enrich your life. Before you read the Bible, pray, and ask God to breathe on you.

God shares words that encourage and equip

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4-6

God has so much that He wants to teach you. God's Word shares words that will encourage you and equip you in every area of your Christian life. He loves you so much that He filled the Scriptures with words that will help lift you up above your circumstances everyday. God knows your name and what you are going through. Be encouraged and equipped through God's Word.

God shares words that correct and convince

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

As you read the Bible, God lovingly corrects you and convinces you of any thoughts and attitudes that need to change. Everyone needs correction. God's Word is alive, active, and sharp to help anyone change and mature as a new Christian. God corrects His children because He loves His children. He loves you so much that He filled the Bible with words that will help ungodly attitudes and thoughts become Godly attitudes and thoughts. The Word of God is alive and powerful. Don't be afraid of being corrected and convinced by God through His Word. God always has your best interests in mind.

God shares words that instruct and inspire

When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you – they are life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 32:45-47

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Joshua 1:8

As you read the Bible, God will provide instruction for you that will inspire you to mature and walk with God through obedience. The words in the Bible are life. The Bible is the greatest inspirational instruction manual that has ever been written. When you ask yourself the question, “How do I live as a Christian?” you must turn to the Bible for the answers. When you obey God’s Word, your life will be blessed, as you become what God wants you to be for His Glory. The Bible is the only book ever written that gives the truth to life’s questions: What is the purpose of life? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Who am I? What is ahead for me? How does God want me to live as a Christian? God has given the answers to life’s questions through the instruction and inspiration in the Bible. Read, read, read!

God shares words that persuade and prepare

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

As you read the Bible, God is persuading and preparing you to follow and serve Him with your whole life. God promises to “equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” The Bible prepares you to know how to please God through your life (godly behavior). Just like our physical body needs nutrients through food to function well, our spirit needs food from God and the Bible to function well. When God calls you He will equip you. It’s not about your ability, but your availability. Prepare to be your best for Him by following His Word.

The Bible is personal

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 1 Peter 2:2

God's Word meets you where you are

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching."
1 Timothy 4:12-13

God's Word leads you where He wants you to go and grow

The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. Colossians 1:5-6

The Bible is permanent

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."
Matthew 24:35

God's Word will never pass away. You can put your trust in God and His Word. There is not anything greater that we can base our lives on. Only three things will last forever: God, People, and His Word. Put your trust and your time into the Bible; it is forever.

LOOK:

Look up 2 Timothy 2:15 and fill in the blanks:

"_____ to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

What attitude does God want you to have about reading your Bible?

Mark on the line where you feel you are at this moment in your life when it comes to the following: (10 being the highest level you can reach.)

Reading Your Bible Daily:

(_____)
0 10
Cold Hot

Let's pause right now and pray asking God for an attitude of diligence for His Word. God answers prayer.

Keep a journal of your journey with Jesus. A journal is more than a diary, it records our walk with God as we pray and read His Word. You can get an inexpensive spiral or a journal book to help you keep track of the steps you take in your exciting journey (adventure) with Jesus.

Write down a specific quiet time and place that is set aside for reading and studying your Bible every day.

Time: _____ Place: _____

Write a prayer to God thanking Him for His powerful Word!

TOOK:

For Further Study:

Read I John 2:12-14: God's Word is written to all ages all stages of life.

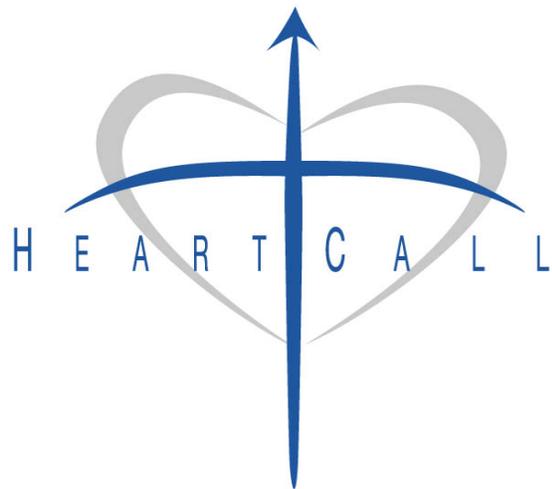
Read Revelation 22:18-19: God's Word is complete.

Read Matthew 7:24-27: God's Word is a Christian's firm foundation.

IN CLOSING—where to go from here

It is our prayer that you have had a **HeartTalk** with God. By that we mean that you have taken the suggested steps in the “**HeartTalk**” witnessing booklet. You have understood that...

Hope – **Jeremiah 29:11-13** – God loves you and has a plan for your life. You can symbolize this by drawing a heart in the space provided. Use the **HeartCall** logo below as your guide.



Believe – **John 3:16** – God sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for you. That’s how much He loves you. If you understand this and believe it, draw a cross over the top of the heart.

Turn – **Acts 3:19** – You can repent and turn to God and away from sin. He takes away your sin and makes you clean. Show this act of God by drawing an arrow at the top of the cross, pointing to God.

Call – **Romans 10:9-10, 13** – Believe in your heart and call on Him. If you have done that (or are ready to do it now), write HeartCall across the drawing to show that you have called from your heart to Him. You want Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life.

If you have not prayed to invite Jesus to be a part of your life, do so now. If you have done this, thank Him for your salvation. When you commit your life, you want to follow the steps of **Share, Church, Pray,** and **Bible** to make sure you are plugged into both the Lord and the church. Let us know if we can serve you in any way! To learn to more effectively share your faith, study the course, **HeartCall: Women Sharing God’s Heart.** To start a bible study in your community, use the study, **HeartCall: Freedom from Fear,** or other seeker friendly studies to share the word with others!

LEADERS SECTION

Use this study for new believers or as a basic discipleship study.

- **Individual study** (about 20-30 minutes per session)
- **One-on-one** for eight weeks (about 45-60 minutes per session)
- **New believers or non-believers small group** for eight weeks (60 minutes per session)
- **Retreat** (see suggested schedule on next page) –

Women **hear the plan of salvation on Friday evening** at the church; have a share and prayer time that evening in the homes; on **Saturday** return to the church to hear about the first steps for a new believer and have an **opportunity to commit to Christ**. Women are invited to **share their commitment on Sunday morning**.

Following the **HeartCall: A New Heart** retreat, the **seeker study, HeartCall: Freedom from Fear**, is offered in the home where they spent the night. The seeker study or another one can start the next week. Six weeks later, a **celebration brunch or celebration Sunday** is held to share what God has done and to follow-up on all the decisions that have been made.

The combination of these two (*HeartCall: A New Heart & HeartCall: Freedom from Fear* or other seeker study) accomplishes several goals:

1. It connects those who come to a retreat to the church.
2. It allows believers and church members to invite their friends to hear about how to have a new heart in a non-threatening way.
3. It encourages the believers and new believers to grow and to share their faith.
4. The new believers are immediately connected to the local church and are encouraged to make a public profession of faith and be baptized.
5. The seeker Bible study is connected back to the church.
6. Women are given accountability and support as they offer studies in their homes. Those not involved become their prayer support and they invite others to join them.
7. More women become interested in gaining further training in evangelism and thus being more effective witnesses for Christ.
8. **HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart** may be offered (four week study) to develop both believers and non-believers.

HeartCall: A New Heart! Retreat
(sleepover in homes, teaching at church)

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

Friday night - Part 1 - 7:00-9:30 PM

- 7:00 PM – Welcome, music, icebreakers, & introduction of study
- 7:20 PM – Session one – **Hope**
- 7:40 PM – Session two – **Believe**
- 8:00 PM – **HeartLink** groups – break into groups of 3-5 & cover LOOK reflection questions following sessions on Hope & Believe.
- 8:20 PM – break (10 minutes)
- 8:30 PM – Session three – **Turn**
- 8:50 PM – Session four – **Call**
- 9:10 PM – **HeartLink** groups – break into same groups & cover LOOK reflections question in sessions on Turn and Call. Pray as a group.
- 9:30 PM - Leave for homes

Saturday morning - Part 2 - 8:30-11:45 AM

- 8:30 AM – Good morning fun & music
- 8:50 AM – Session five – **Share**
- 9:10 AM – Session six – **Church**
- 9:30 AM – **HeartLink** groups (same) – using LOOK in Share & Church
- 10:00 AM – break - 20 minutes
- 10:20 AM – Session seven – **Pray**
- 10:40 AM – Session eight – **Bible**
- 11:00 AM – **HeartLink** groups (same) – using LOOK in Prayer & Bible
- 11:20 AM – Invitation to accept Christ; Announcement of ***HeartCall: Freedom from Fear*** seeker studies to start & locations
- 11:45 AM - close

SUGGESTED CHURCH CALENDAR SCHEDULE FOR HEARTCALL:

- September – teach 4 week course, ***HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart***
- October – 1st weekend – have ***HeartCall: A New Heart!*** retreat
- October – 3rd week – start seeker study in home, ***HeartCall: Freedom from Fear***
- December – 1st week – host a **HeartCall** Celebration! Celebrate those who have shared their faith through **HeartCall** as well as those who have come to Christ at the ***HeartCall: A New Heart!*** retreat or the ***HeartCall: Freedom from Fear*** seeker study! Announce new studies to start in January (use same schedule but with January for the course, February for the retreat – great with Valentine's, and April for the Celebration)!

HeartCall Resources

1-866-407-NAMB or www.namb.net/catalog

“HeartTalk” ISBN# 08400 85079, \$6.99 for pkg. of 50

Evangelism witnessing booklet for women

These witnessing booklets are designed especially for women and focus on the steps of salvation using the HeartCall logo including: Hope – Jeremiah 29:11-13, Believe – John 3:16, Turn – Acts 3:19 and Call – Romans 10:9-10, 13.

HeartCall: The Call to Prayer ISBN# 08400 85044, \$12.99

Women’s devotional book

This is a 366-day devotional book for women, written by more than 300 influential women in Southern Baptist life, focusing on praying for the lost. The book takes the reader from Matthew through Revelation and includes a place to write those being prayed for.

HeartCall: Women Sharing God’s Heart ISBN# 08400 85117, \$6.99

Training on prayer and lifestyle witnessing

This four-week study focuses on Colossians 4:2-6 and teaches women how to pray, to watch for opportunities to share the gospel, to make sure their walk and talk live up to each other, and to study the word of God so they will know how to answer all. The workbook includes a section for leaders to go along with the four sessions. A five-day, four-week study guide helps the student learn verses to present “HeartTalk” and also give the student a plan to pray for the unbelievers in her life.

HeartCall Video ISBN# 08400 96240, \$14.99

A companion to the HeartCall: Women Sharing God’s Heart course.

This dynamic video will impact women as the call of God is brought to life through personal testimonies. Video includes an introduction of HeartCall and an opener for each training session as well as the HeartCall dramas.

HeartCall Logo Pin ISBN# 06330 3472X, \$32

Supports the HeartTalk witnessing booklet and course.

This beautiful silver logo pin is about 1 1/4" high and is ready to wear as a pin or on a necklace to help you share Christ using the HeartCall logo. It comes in a blue velvet box and makes a very nice gift.

HeartCall Seeker Series: Freedom from Fear ISBN# 0633010634, \$5.99

A six-week study for almost believers for the market place.

Start a Bible study in your workplace, community or neighborhood with this brand new seeker study. The six-week course is designed for an hour a week and helps students to understand God’s plan for them to learn to depend on Him for the fears that come in their lives. Leader tips are included. This study also utilizes the “HeartTalk” witnessing booklet.

Soon to be on the web at www.namb.net/heartcall...

HeartCall: A New Heart!

eight day study for new believers on the first steps to new life in Christ

HeartCall: Close to His Heart

four-part empowered weekend study for women

*For more resources and information on **HeartCall**, please contact:*

Jaye Martin, Women's Evangelism Strategist

North American Mission Board

4200 North Point Parkway

Alpharetta, Georgia 30022-4176

770-410-6352 or 770-410-6000

www.namb.net/heartcall or heartcall@namb.net