

# NEXT STEPS KIT

YOUR PLAN FOR  
A BRAND NEW LIFE



**RESONATE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Welcome to God's family! You have made the most important decision of your life, choosing to follow Jesus. You may or may not feel different, but as a new believer, you can expect to have new attitudes and desires. Something spiritual that you can't really explain has just happened to you. In God's eyes, you are a totally new person!

***Because you decided to follow Christ, you have been CHANGED.***

As the Bible puts it, *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

Growth takes time, but it begins—right now—where you are. Your relationship with God is just that—it's a relationship. It's not about a list of do's and don'ts; it's about making God the focus of your life and spending time with Him.

As you get to know God better, your love for Him will grow. Just like there are ways to get to know another human better, there are some things you can do to deepen your relationship with God...

**Read the Bible**

God has written us a letter, telling us about Himself. The Bible will tell you everything you need to know in order to grow in your spiritual life. God speaks through the Bible and guides us. As you begin to understand the Bible, you will grow stronger in your faith and begin to see positive changes in your life.

**Pray**

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges we have as a child of God. God, our Father, loves us, and, like any good father, he wants to spend time with us. When we pray, God speaks to us, changes us, and helps us. And, if we don't know what to say, God helps us with that as well. Just think, the God of all creation wants to hear from you!

**Be part of a church**

Church plays a vital role in your spiritual growth. Of course, we'd love for your church to be at Resonate, but the important thing is to find a church where you can connect with

others and get involved. Spending time with other Christians will give encouragement and support. Church provides you with instruction from the Bible, helps you meet people who also want to follow Jesus, and gives you the training and opportunity to use your God-given gifts and abilities.

### **Start Living for God**

A sure sign of a changed heart is the desire to live for God. What does this mean? It means that you want to please God and to obey Him as best as you know how. You will begin to filter your thoughts and actions through the Bible in order to become a reflection of Jesus Christ. As you pray and study the Bible, you will see change happening in your heart and mind.

### **Be Baptized as a Believer, and Share Your Faith**

Good news is hard to keep to yourself! God wants you to share your newfound faith with others. You don't have to wait until you're an expert in the Bible to tell people what God is doing in your life. You can share what you know—your own story of what Jesus has done for you. Being baptized is the way new believers signaled to others that their lives and their priorities had changed. The Bible says, “For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.” Galatians 3:26-27. If you want to take this important step, tell a Pastor or write it on your Connection Card.

## **READ THE BIBLE**

Answering these three basic questions will help to explain a Bible passage.

**What does the passage say?** - Who was involved? What happened? When did it take place? Where did it occur? Why did it happen? What words seem important and unclear?

**What does the passage mean?** - What does it tell you about God? About people? About the world?

**What will I do?** - Celebrate what you learned about God. Admit that you have sin to confess. Request help from God. Engage in what God is doing in, around and through you.

## PRAY

Always remember, prayer is simply communicating with God. You don't pray to impress God or anyone else who's listening. Your prayers are the spoken thoughts--your heart, put in words--for God to hear. Psalm 5:1-2 says, "*O Lord, hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you.*"

### HOW do we pray?

**Faithfully** - Pray believing. In Mark 11:24, Jesus said that when we ask for something, we are to pray believing that we have received it.

**Freely** - Talk with God naturally. We do not need special language or set formulas. In Genesis 3:8 and following, we see that prayer is like a conversation with a trusted friend.

**Focused** - Listen to God speak. In John 10:27 Jesus said that his followers hear his voice, recognize it, and follow him. We literally pause when praying to listen for God's voice. It may be as quiet as an urging or a memory.

**Frequently** - Above all, pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says to never stop praying. In Matthew 6:11, as Jesus was teaching his followers how to pray, he asked God for enough bread of provisions for today. We should talk to God every day.

**With Others** - Join with other people. While we frequently pray alone, prayer with other followers of Jesus has special power. See Matthew 18:19-20 where Jesus instructs us to pray together.

### WHAT do we pray?

These are some themes we can use when studying the Bible. They form an easy acronym, CARE (Celebrate, Admit, Request, Engage)

**Celebrate** - Honor God for who he is, what he has done, and what he will do.

**Admit** - Tell the truth about sin and accept forgiveness.

**Request** - Ask God to help you and others.

**Engage** - Commit yourself to join what God is doing.

## **BE PART OF A CHURCH**

God wants you to be part of a community of people who follow Him so that you can grow in relationship with Him, so that you can bless others, and help more people follow Jesus.

### **Learn and Grow**

If you join the community at Resonate, check out Growth Track 101-401 where you'll learn how to grow in your faith and where to use your gifts and skills for God's glory. Also, you'll want to be part of a Life Group that meets to pray together, study God's Word together, and to grow together as friends.

### **Give Generously**

The Bible repeatedly addresses the topic of money. Over and over again, it affirms the importance of focusing our time, talents, and treasures in ways that honor and glorify God. Why? Because they impact every area of our lives. Remember, the resources you have and the wealth you have are all from God. Use them for His glory and He promises to bless your life in return.

### ***What do we give?***

**Time** - Our time belongs to God. Our time is for the purposes of God.

**Talents**- God has given each of us specific talents for specific reasons. Our talents are to be used to build up the Church.

**Treasures-** We give generously of our money to make worship possible, to help needy people, and to secure God's mission of reaching the world.

***How do we give?***

**Worshipfully** - Giving generously honors God and is an act of true worship.

Matthew 2:11

**Habitually** - Giving regularly creates a habit that honors God. Exodus 22:31

**Proportionately-** Giving should be done intentionally with a desire to honor God.

Asking God for the percentage of your time, talents and treasure that God is asking you to give back is important. Matthew 23:23

**Cheerfully-** Giving should be done with joy because it produces many rewards. 2

Corinthians 9:7

**Generously** - Generosity trumps obligation. God honors generous giving. Luke

21:1-4

**Participate in Baptism**

Why is baptism important? Baptism signifies that we are identifying with Jesus Christ.

As a follower of Jesus, it's important that we publicly stand with him in celebrating our new life. That makes baptism a great first step for a new follower of Christ to take.

In the New Testament, "baptize" means to wash, dip, immerse, plunge under, or submerge.

*"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." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17 NIV 84*

If you haven't been baptized as a way to signify that you have a new life in Christ, email [info@resonatechurchmn.com](mailto:info@resonatechurchmn.com).

## **WRAPPING UP**

When you commit your life to God, you are a brand new person in His eyes. Even though you might feel the same, you have a new family because God has adopted you into His! Don't expect perfection, but do pursue a relationship with God. He will help you to grow in Him and to understand Him more.

So just get started. Read and study your Bible. Talk with God. And get involved with other followers of Jesus in a church. God will do the rest!

At Resonate, start your journey by attending Growth Track 101-401. It will give you a good base for launching your brand new life!

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[1]All references to the Bible are to the New Living Translation (NLT) version and the New International Version (NIV). There are many good English translations of the Bible. The NLT and NIV are two good translations that are also fairly easy to read.