

New Believer's Handbook

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“The Seven Commands of Christ,” by George Patterson.

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English Standard Version (ESV)

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New International Version (NIV)

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Chapter 1

The Seven Commands of Christ

The 'Seven Commands of Christ' is a teaching initiated by George Patterson. This teaching has been used in countries around the world for developing and discipling new believers. The seven commands are emphatic instructional statements made by Jesus to His disciples. Anyone can become a disciple of Jesus, firmly established in His ways, by following these simple instructions.

1st Command: *Repent and Believe*

"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

- Mark 1:14-15 (ESV)

Repenting is not confessing; repenting is **changing** your course of life, by walking away from a life of sin into a life of serving God.

This command is the first statement of Jesus recorded in the Bible after beginning His public ministry and is one He reiterated often. There are two instructions in this command, *repent* and *believe*.

The word *repent* literally means to 'do an about face, or turn and walk in the opposite direction.' In the military, an officer commands his soldiers, "about face...forward...march!" Upon hearing this command, every soldier will turn 180 degrees and begin marching in the opposite direction. Repenting is not confessing; repenting is *changing* your course of life, by walking away from a life of sin into a life of serving God. Turning one's life over to Jesus makes it necessary to walk away from things, places and habits which lead to sin. The definition of sin and its consequences will be discussed further in the next chapter.

The word *believe* in its most literal sense means 'to trust Jesus and follow His teachings.' Because He was dealing with the customs and issues of His day, Jesus' teachings may seem confusing. Jesus lived in an agricultural society so many of His illustrations were about farming, shepherding and doing business. To 1st century Jews living under Roman authority, these illustrations provided practical insight and application for applying spiritual principles to life. Worship had become a religious ritual, so Jesus addressed *personal worship* instead of religious rites and rituals.

When coming across Scriptures which seem unclear, the following can be done to gain clarity:

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your understanding. Scripture records He is your Teacher and will guide you into all truth (John 14:26; Ephesians 1:17-21).
- Join a small group at church and discuss your concerns with the group. Small groups are invaluable in helping to shape, transform and edify a believer's faith (Ephesians 4:11-16).

- Research a few good commentaries, concordances and Bible dictionaries. Many can be found online for free and provide great insight to what scholars have discovered regarding difficult passages of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV).
- Make a commitment to become a student of God’s Word. Jesus promised those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. When we seek to know God with our whole heart He reveals Himself to us (Matthew 5:6; Jeremiah 29:13).

2nd Command: Be Baptized

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:19-20

This passage is called the ‘Great Commission.’ Embodied in these verses are several commands, but the command to ‘be baptized’ is primary to the new believer.

Reasons Believers Should be Baptized	
Symbolic of “ washing away ” sins	Acts 22:16
Following Jesus’ example	Matthew 3:16
A commandment of the faith	Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
A public confession of faith	Romans 10:10
Symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus	Romans 6:3-5

Christian baptism is practiced in numerous ways and varies with country, denomination and culture. Since Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, it is believed He experienced an immersion baptism. *Immersion baptism* means a person submerges completely under the water and rises again. This type of baptism best explains what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, ‘we are buried with him in baptism’ in Romans 6:3-5. Churches practicing immersion baptism celebrate when a person rises from the water because it is a symbol of being resurrected into new life in Christ. The Bible confirms in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

3rd Command: Love

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

- Matthew 22:37-40

Loving others begins with loving God first. There are many people who are difficult to love, but knowing God loves them helps us strive to love them. Knowing God loves us, flaws and all, gives us

the grace to love others. Receiving the love of God and knowing He loves us so much that Jesus died to save us, fills our hearts with a supernatural love. Supernatural love far supersedes love based on behaviors, circumstances and biases.

4th Command: *Take Communion (Remember)*

“And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, ‘Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And, likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’”

- Luke 22:17-20

Luke 22:17-20 tells the story of Jesus sharing a meal with His disciples before He was crucified. This is referred to as the ‘Last Supper’ or ‘Holy Communion.’ While there were several courses served in this meal, Jesus only mentioned two things, the bread and the wine. First, He held up the bread, broke it in half and said to them, “This is my body which is broken for you.” None of them understood that evening what He meant. As He hung on the cross the very next day, however, His disciples gained understanding.

He, then, lifted the cup of wine (or juice) and said, “This is My blood which is shed for you, drink all of it.” They lifted their cups and drank, not understanding why He called it, ‘His blood.’ Again, when He hung on the cross for the sins of the world, they understood. It was at the Last Supper where Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Therefore, Holy Communion is taken in church. It focuses on sins having been forgiven and removed because of what Jesus did on the cross.

5th Command: *Pray*

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

*‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.’”*

- Matthew 6:5-13

Prayer is essential to spiritual growth. It can easily become a ritual, but is intended to be a conversation. When praying do not just spend time *talking to* God, but take time *to listen* for God to speak. This may feel perplexing at first, because God does not often use an audible voice when He speaks to us. He speaks to the spirit instead of the ears. To understand how to hear God's voice, here are some practical things to do when praying:

- Pray at the same time every day
- Choose a place to pray. This place will become your meeting place with God. (It can be almost anywhere: a chair, a room, a garden, a backyard, a prayer closet, etc.)
- Listen to worship music for a while during your prayer time. (At least 1 song)
- Read your Bible, even if it's just a few verses. The Psalms are great for this.
- Spend a little time just being quiet and waiting on God.

These practices will help your spirit grow and allow you to begin hearing God speak. He often will speak through the Scriptures, the songs or in a 'still, small' voice.

6th Command: *Give*

"Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them...But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

- Luke 6:30-36

Jesus taught about giving because He knew how dependent mankind is on material goods. Giving generously from the heart pleases God (2 Corinthians 9:7). It takes a measure of trust and is an open demonstration of our reliance upon Him to supply for not only our needs but also the needs of others.

The Bible teaches us that the 'love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.' (1 Timothy 6:10). Money itself is neither good nor evil, but rather our love of it leads to all types of evil. Therefore, Jesus taught a lot on the principles of money, stewardship and giving. He knew if we could learn the principle of giving, God would be able to bless us with greater things.

There is a saying, 'If God can get it through you, He can give it to you.' The principle has its roots in Genesis 12:2 when God tells Abraham (then Abram), "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." God wants to meet our needs, but there is a greater purpose in blessing us. When we are a blessing to others, it brings attention and glory to our heavenly Father. Be intentional in giving to others and watch how God begins to bless you. You cannot out-give God.

7th Command: *Go and Make Disciples*

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:19-20

Once again, here is the passage known as the Great Commission. One of the commands given here is to 'go and make disciples.' One of the primary responsibilities of a Christian is to lead other people to Jesus. Chapter 4 explains a simple method for evangelism. Evangelism is the act of sharing the gospel through public preaching or personal witness and is the first step in making disciples.

Chapter 2

What Is Sin?

The Hebrew (Old Testament) word for sin means ‘an offense.’ It refers to offending God by disobeying His Word and commands. The Greek (New Testament) word for sin literally means ‘to miss the mark.’ The best illustration is when an archer is shooting his arrow toward a target and misses. The target of a Christian is to be close to God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

Sin in life causes us to miss the mark and it separates us from God. God wants a relationship with us. He wants to sit with us, talk with us, walk with us and surround us with His love. Sin prohibits closeness with God; therefore, we must walk away from sin.

There are many commands in the Bible identifying sin, but sin can also vary from person to person. Anything which hinders closeness with God or distracts us from relationship with Him should be avoided. For example, I avoid watching horror movies. Many Christians who watch these feel they are okay to watch because they view it as meaningless, fictional entertainment. Some like the adrenaline rush from the emotion of fear. Personally, I feel they are inspired by evil and I choose not to watch them. For me this would be a sin, but for someone else it might not. Watching horror movies would cause me to feel dirty, separated from God and guilty. (Psalm 101:3) On that note, there are things other people cannot do which are perfectly fine for me.

There are many things the Bible says to do and not do. To disobey these commands is sin. The most well-known list is called the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments **Exodus 20:3-17 (paraphrased)**

1. Do not have any gods before Me. (Put God first in life.)
2. Do not worship idols.
3. Do not use God’s name in vain. (As in cursing or using God’s name in foolish gestures. His name is holy and should be revered, not spoken as a casual or jovial gesture.)
4. Keep the Sabbath Day holy. (It is a day of worship and rest.)
5. Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord gives you.
6. Do not commit murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not bring false accusations against your friends and neighbors.
10. Do not covet. (This means to not desire what others have to the point of becoming jealous or judging them.)

Chapter 3

Three Keys to Personal Evangelism

As a believer in Jesus, it is good to share one's faith with other people. It is one of the things Jesus commanded in the Great Commission. As a new believer, you may have a circle of influence with many people who are not yet believers in Jesus. The next few weeks and months will be your best opportunity to share your new faith with them. Since you already know them, you have a trust factor with them that other believers do not have. These are people you care deeply for and want to help find eternal life, just like you have found it.

There are three essential components of one-on-one evangelism:
Listen to their story; share your story; and, share Jesus' story.

Essential Components of One-on-One Evangelism

- Listen to their story
- Share your story
- Share Jesus' story

1. Listen to their story.

Listening to their story will help you understand their felt needs, beliefs, worldviews and the challenges they are facing. This will open a door to share your story and the gospel, the story of Jesus. Start the conversation with a statement like, "Tell me your story" or "What do you want out of life?"

2. Share your story.

It is a good idea to write down your story and rehearse it a few times to ensure you can give them the key details. It should have three essential elements in it:

- What your life was like before believing in Jesus Christ.
- How you heard the gospel and became a believer.
- What happened after coming to believe in Jesus Christ.

3. Tell them Jesus' Story.

It is important to be able to tell a quick and precise version of the story of Jesus.

Summary of Jesus' Story:

God has always existed; but He wanted offspring, a family. He created angels, but wanted sons and daughters created in His own image. God is a Trinity-being made up of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He made mankind very much the same way. He gave mankind a body, soul and spirit.

God also gave mankind a will and the ability to choose. Over time, man made the wrong choices and started sinning. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and did the very thing He told them not to do. This act brought sin to humanity. Sin separated them from the Father who made them.

The only way to bring them home was to remove their sins, because God is holy and no sin can exist in His presence. Therefore, God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus, to be offered as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The Holy Spirit caused a virgin named Mary to conceive the holy seed of God, and Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a man. He still had the power of God in Him, but lived and died as a man. He lived His entire life without sin, so He was the first man ever to die unnecessarily. Those who sin deserve death, but Jesus did not deserve death. His death became the sacrifice accepted by God to remove the sins of all mankind.

Now all a person must do is believe on Jesus and invite Him into their heart (soul), and He becomes a part of them. This is what is known as being 'born again.' The first time we are born in the flesh from our parents, but the second birth is being born in the spirit. Being born again removes sins and allows us to join the family of God. John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Being born again happens with a simple prayer and a commitment to live life for God.

The Prayer:

"Father, I admit I have sinned. I believe Jesus died for my sins and I want Him to come into my heart. Please forgive my sins and come into my life so I may be born again. I now confess Jesus is the Lord of my life and I will follow the path He gives to me. I will live for you and develop a relationship with you through prayer, the Holy Bible and the fellowship of other believers. Amen."

Chapter 4

Key Bible Narratives and Verses

This section of the book is a reading guide and provides a good overview of the Bible. Many new believers do not know where to begin reading to understand the Bible. To explain this chapter, let's look at the human body for a moment. It is made up of many organs, thousands of nerves, major and minor systems, brain functions, heart functions, etc. If a person wanted to learn everything about the human body, it would take years to fully understand all of it. However, it is all held up by a skeletal structure. Without the skeleton, the body would not be able to live. It supports all the other systems.

The Bible reading guide in this chapter is designed to provide the skeleton of the Bible. It does not cover every major doctrine or theology of the Bible. However, it does give a framework to start building an understanding of the Bible. This is a great place to begin, but be patient because it will take time. For some, it may be weeks; for others, it may take months. Do not become frustrated if it takes a while to learn the theme, story and concepts of Christianity. The Holy Spirit will help you on the journey. He will comfort and guide you into the truths of God's Word (John 14:26). It is also good to know as a believer you have a guardian angel who watches over you.

1. Read the account of Creation.

The Creation of the earth and mankind is found in the first book of the Bible: Genesis, chapters 1 and 2.

2. Read about the life of Abraham.

Abraham was the man God used to birth the nation of Israel. This is important because God used the lineage of Abraham to bring the Messiah to the world. God preserves a righteous seed in every family, beginning with Abraham. Some of the sons and daughters have strayed from God's ways and truths, but He promises to preserve the righteous seed in every generation. This account is found in Genesis, chapters 17 through 29.

3. Read about the life of Joseph.

Joseph was the man God used to preserve the descendants of Abraham during times of trouble and famine. The accounting of his life can be found in Genesis, chapters 30 through 50.

4. Read about the life of King David.

The nation of Israel went into slavery, but God sent Moses to lead them out. They spent many years in the wilderness and several more under the leadership of Joshua before conquering the land God gave to them. All of this is recorded in the books of Exodus and Joshua.

After Israel entered the Promised Land, they felt they needed a new leader. Instead of depending on God to be their leader, they demanded a king for themselves. His name was

Saul and he was the first king of Israel. Initially, Saul's reign seemed good; however, power corrupted him and he became an evil king who led Israel away from God.

In response, God sent a prophet by the name of Samuel to anoint a young shepherd boy with a pure heart to become the next king of Israel. King David went down in history as the greatest king in Israel. His life story and songs are still a part of Jewish culture to this day. David was the one who gave us much of the book of Psalms. The life of King David can be read in 1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings 1-2.

5. Read selected Psalms.

The book of Psalms is a collection of songs. Several of the songs had original melodies and were sang with instruments; others were recited as poems. David was the main contributor to the book of Psalms, but there were other contributors as well.

The psalms are very encouraging because many of them were written by David when he was fleeing from King Saul. These are known as the 'cave songs of David.' They are easy to recognize because David was lamenting, crying out to God and openly expressing his fears and anxiety.

In reading through the psalms, you will see David's fears turn into praise and thanksgiving as the Lord delivered him from the hands of his enemies. Certain psalms are about battles and failures, but many are about victories. Some psalms recount stories of the Israelites, like Moses and the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea. Others are prophetic and foretell the coming Messiah, Jesus.

There are 150 psalms in all. It is a good idea to read at least one psalm from each group of 10. Pick a psalm from 1-10, pick one from 10-20, then 20-30 and so forth. Consequently, you will read 15 psalms in all. You may find them so encouraging you want to read them all.

6. Read the Proverbs of King Solomon.

King Solomon was David's son and succeeded him on the throne of Israel. God gave him a supernatural gift of wisdom allowing him to rule the kingdom well and obtain enormous wealth.

The book of Proverbs has 31 chapters. Many people like to take a month and read the entire book by reading the proverb for the day of the month. If it is the 15th day of the month, read Proverbs 15, and so forth. Keep in mind, while Psalms is a book filled with emotional songs and poems, Proverbs is very different. It is a collection of the wise sayings of King Solomon.

Most of the chapters are not themed, but rather it is a collection of wisdom and advise on various subjects. There are instructions Solomon gave to his children and advice on business, relationships, borrowing money, self-discipline, sleep habits, health and much more. The book of Proverbs gives a wealth of knowledge and practical advice about life.

7. Read the book of Esther.

This is a book about a young orphan girl God raised up to become a Queen. She is a key person used in the Bible to set the nation of Israel free from a nation which had conquered and held them captive. Esther's story will inspire and help you realize with God's help you can become the person He designed you to be.

8. Read the book of Mark.

Now move to the New Testament. The first four books in the New Testament are called the Gospels. Each contains an account of Jesus' life: His birth, ministry, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of the Father as the Advocate and Intercessor of all mankind.

Luke is the most detailed of the Gospels, but Mark is the shortest summary and is easy to read. After reading Mark, it is a good idea to go back and read all four Gospels. Each of the Gospels are individual accounts of the life of Jesus, recording details and events from different individual's perspectives.

9. Read the book of Acts.

The book of Acts records the events of the early church; the struggles and victories of the first Christians. Imagine the world hearing about Christianity for the first time. Israel is waiting for their Messiah, but when He comes, they reject Him and ask the Roman government to kill Him. But after the resurrection and the giving of the Holy Spirit in the upper room, a new bold group of people arise and begin to spread the gospel around the world. And this narrative continues today.

The book is called Acts, because it is about the "acts" of early Christians, the early church and the apostles of Jesus. Even though the book of Acts ends in 28 chapters, we are still living the book of Acts today. The acts of the church continue. This inspiring narrative tells about the price paid to introduce the message of Jesus, God's Son, to the world.

10. Read the book of 1 Corinthians.

This book gives an overview of concepts the first Christians struggled with. The Apostle Paul wrote letters to help them deal with the questions they had. Many of them had been rejected by their families, kicked out of synagogues and were worshipping in the homes of believers.

They depended upon the spiritual gifts of each person to help guide the church. Because each was used by the Holy Spirit in separate giftings, it created an interdependence and kept the church united. It took the gifts of everyone to make them complete. They protected one another, loved one another and cherished their fellowship and brotherhood.

11. The Beatitudes

“And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- Matthew 5:2-12

12. The Great Commission

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

- Matthew 28:18-20

Chapter 5

Finding Community

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

- Acts 2:42-47

Christianity is founded upon relationships. God created man because He wanted a family. The verses we just read in Acts 2 record how early Christians grew in community. In their case, many of them were disowned by family because they were breaking tradition, culture and religious beliefs. Many of them had to sell possessions and pool resources to survive.

God is not asking us to sell everything and give it away to follow Him, but it became necessary for the early church to survive. However, there is a pattern in this passage which allows each new believer to grow. We call this model “small group ministry.” Many churches use names like Connect Groups, Life Groups, Community Groups, etc., but the model for these groups is found in the verses we just read. We will break down this passage in easy-to-understand steps.

Pattern for Growing in a Small Group - Acts 2:42-47
They attended church together (went to the temple).
They ate together in their homes.
They discussed the Scriptures in homes together while sharing a meal.
They praised God together (worshipped in homes).
They found favor with one another (they made new friends).
They grew (God added to the church with this model).

There may be challenges in life which cause us to wander from faith in Jesus. He commands us to ‘abide in Him.’ It is difficult to walk any path alone; therefore, we need the support of others. You are now part of a family - the family of God. You are part of a community - the community of Christians. You are part of a kingdom- the kingdom of God.

Small group ministry is the quickest and easiest way to find support as a new believer. If you are attending a church that does not offer small group ministry, you may need join a class until a small group is available. Classrooms are great for teaching and giving instruction, but small groups are much better for building relationships, asking questions and having deeper conversations.

The key to small group ministry is ‘conversation’ which happens when people get together. Many people join a class to learn. Classes are great, but many times it is difficult to make friends, share concerns and ask questions. Small groups are *not* about teaching lessons; they are about *having conversations*. Classes are taught in rows, while small groups are about meeting in circles.

Small groups meet in living rooms, restaurants, dining rooms, coffee houses and parks. They meet to discuss things. Sometimes they discuss the sermon they heard at church. Other times they watch a short video or read a book and then discuss it. The bottom line is small groups are about conversations, not teaching lessons.

Small groups usually have between 4 to 12 people in them. In fact, 12 is a little large for great conversations. Classes have great momentum when they are large. Small groups should not be large because they are about building relationships and having conversations while eating or enjoying coffee. Joining a small group is one of the best things a person can do as new believer. Christians grow and mature faster in community. Life is better together.

Joining a small group is one of the best things a person can do as new believer... Life is better together.

Think of it this way. If a person needs warmth, it can be found in a candle, bonfire, or a campfire. Each flame is intended for a different size group. If twenty people try to gather around a candle they would get no light or warmth, but two people can gather around a candle easily. Candles are for intimacy. Candles create an ambience perfect for two. Your candle is you and God. The bonfire is great for large groups. There is light and warmth, but it is impossible to talk to everyone around a bonfire. Your bonfire is your worship at church.

A campfire is made for a small group of people. A handful of people (4-8) can easily gather around a campfire, finding light and warmth. We need a campfire. Campfires are where great conversations take place. Campfires are where we can easily see the face of each person in the group. We really get to know people, ourselves and hear a lot of the best stories around a campfire. A campfire is a place to grow as a new believer in Jesus.

Chapter 6

Scriptures to Memorize

In this section, there are 25 Bible verses to learn. These verses help with spiritual growth. It is a good idea to memorize one Scripture per week for the next 25 weeks. Write or type the Scripture and post it where it can be read over and over. Do this for one week, or until you have memorized it, before moving on to the next one.

Memory Verse 1:

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

- Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

Memory Verse 2:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

Memory Verse 3:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

Memory Verse 4:

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

Memory Verse 5

“‘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.’”

- Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Memory Verse 6

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

- Esther 4:14 (ESV)

Memory Verse 7

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (ESV)

Memory Verse 8

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- John 13:35 (ESV)

Memory Verse 9

“But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

- Matthew 19:26 (ESV)

Memory Verse 10

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

Memory Verse 11

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

- Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

Memory Verse 12

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

- Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)

Memory Verse 13

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

- 1 John 4:4 (ESV)

Memory Verse 14

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

- 1 John 4:7-8 (ESV)

Memory Verse 15

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

- John 3:16-17 (ESV)

Memory Verse 16

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...”

- Isaiah 61:1-2 (ESV)

Memory Verse 17

“‘For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’”

- Matthew 25:42-45 (ESV)

Memory Verse 18

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

- Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)

Memory Verse 19

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!”

- Psalm 103:1 (ESV)

Memory Verse 20

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

- Psalm 91:1-2 (ESV)

Memory Verse 21

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

- Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV)

Memory Verse 22

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.”

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (ESV)

Memory Verse 23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

- Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

Memory Verse 24

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

Memory Verse 25

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

Chapter 7

Resources

When a baby is born it is essential he first learns to eat. Within the first hour of birth, the baby is learning how to receive food. Several months later, the baby will learn to talk and walk. Within the lifetime of the child, he will grow through adolescence into a teenager and eventually become an adult who can be independent. The same is true of anyone who is born again.

The first thing a believer must do is ‘eat’ in order to grow. The Bible teaches, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4) There are many sermons, stories and lessons that simply will not make any sense at first. The reason for writing this book is to equip you with the basics and help you grow in spiritual maturity.

One thing that can help is an audio book series called, ‘The Bible Experience.’ This audio Bible can be purchased on iTunes, Amazon.com or in CD format. This unique Bible is filled with sound effects, songs and different voices helping to visualize the Bible while listening. If the Bible is telling a life-story, each character in the story is narrated individually by different actors. If it talks about rain, the sound effect of rain is heard. The book of Psalms is set with music and melodies, so they can be experienced as real songs. The entire collection allows a person to **experience** the Bible. It is good to begin with only one book, perhaps the book of Psalms. It can be listened to while driving, getting dressed or just before bedtime. It is amazing how quickly the Bible comes alive!

Another great tool is subscribing to the podcast of a speaker. Most can be found by typing in the name of the speaker from the iTunes store, in the section marked ‘podcasts.’ There is a plethora of speakers from which to choose. You may wish to ask a pastor or someone in small group to recommend a podcast speaker for you.

Christian music is a powerful way to feed the soul and grow as a new believer in Jesus. There are many genres of Christian music ranging from classical, country, southern gospel, contemporary and even rap. Almost every genre of music is represented in the Christian community by many amazingly talented and anointed artists. It is easy to search the web for Christian music. Simply type in the word “Christian” before the type of music you prefer (i.e.: Christian Classical). Or type in ‘worship music’ and surf until you find one that speaks to you.

Websites

Bible Gateway
Strong’s Concordance
The Bible Experience

Songs

Amazing Grace
Here as in Heaven
It is Well with My Soul
Nothing but the Blood
O Come to the Altar

O the Blood
Psalm 23
Victory in Jesus
What a Beautiful Name
Wonderful Merciful Savior

Podcasts

Bryan Cutshall

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/bryan-cutshall-ministries/id1038759169?mt=2>

Jentezen Franklin

<https://www.jentezenfranklin.org/podcast>

Perry Stone

<https://www.podbean.com/podcast-detail/xvyqu-35dc4/Perry-Stone---Media-Podcast>

Robert Madu

https://www.podbean.com/site/search/index?sourceid=navbar_search&v=robert%20madu