

Following Jesus

CHRISTIANITY ——— 101

EXPLORING THE BASICS OF YOUR FAITH



essentials

Following Jesus

CHRISTIANITY ——— 101

WEEK

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Following Jesus

Christianity 101

Getting Started

1) When did you first start coming to Rocky Peak – and why did you keep coming back?

2) How would you complete the following sentence?

When I was growing up, I...

- a) *always* went to church.
- b) *occasionally* went to church.
- c) *seldom* went to church.
- d) *never* went to church.

3) One thing I hope to learn from this class is...



Following Jesus

The Big Picture

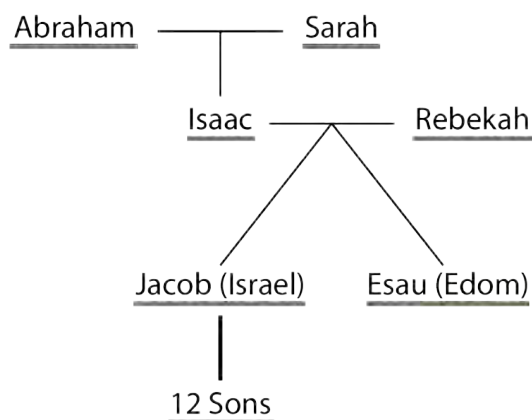
⇒ *Act I: Creation & Rebellion (The Fall)*
Genesis 1-11

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

⇒ *Act II: The Call Of Abraham & The Birth Of A Nation*

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)

Abraham Family Tree





⇒ *Act III: The Exodus . . . And The Covenant*

⇒ *Act IV: The Rise & Fall Of Israel*

⇒ *Act V: The Promise Of Messiah . . . And The New Covenant*

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7)



“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the Lord.
“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people. . . .
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

⇒ *Act VI: The Return to Israel . . . And The Hope of the Kingdom*



⇒ *Act VII: The Coming of The King . . . And The New Covenant*

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15)

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. (Luke 22:20)

⇒ *Act VIII: The New Community . . . And The New Creation*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away . . . I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:1-5)



Following Jesus

The Kingdom of God

1) Jesus _____ ...To _____ The _____.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
(Mark 1:15)

2) Jesus ... _____ His _____ for His _____.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
(Mark 10:45)

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
(Ephesians 2:8–10)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

3) We _____ the _____ ...

By _____ & _____ The _____.

Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
(Mark 1:14-15)



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The Gifts of The Kingdom

1) A Fresh Start: The _____ of _____

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)

2) A New Power: The _____

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

3) A Bright Future: The _____ of _____

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24)



Following Jesus

The Priority of the Kingdom

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

(Matthew 22:36-40)

Our Vision:

To Unleash A Movement Of Passionate

Christ-Followers ...

... Pursuing God

... Loving People

... Serving Sacrificially

... Sharing Christ



Following Jesus

Kingdom Celebrations

⇒ _____

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. . . (Matthew 28:18-20)

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)

⇒ The _____

He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:19-20)



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More Resources

⇒ **YouVersion Bible App or Bible.com**
Introduction To The Christian Faith (<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/28162>)

⇒ **The Bible Project**

⇒ **RP Essential:**

- **The Message. . . *The Story of The Bible***
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/themessage>

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ISAIAH 36

10 ¹Lit., overtake
4s. 1:27; 51:11 b1s.
25:8; 30:19; 65:19; Rev.
7:17; 21:4

1 ²Kin. 18:13
²Chr. 32:1

2 ¹i.e., launderer's
²Kin. 18:17, 20-11;
³Chr. 32:9-24, Is. 36:2-
38:8 ⁴Is. 7:3

N
S
cit

Je
by
er

he
re

T

concerning His Servant

CHAPTER 42

whom I ¹uphold;
My ^dsoul delights
in Him;
the ²nations.
voice,
street.

ISAIAH 38

31 ¹Is. 42: 10-20 ²Is.
37:4 ³Is. 37:9

32 ¹i.e., those who
murder
33: 37:4 ²Kin. 19:35
Is. 37: 38:17; Jer. 2:18
Zech. 1:14

34 ¹Is. 42: 10-20
35: 37:4

36 ¹Is. 42: 10-20
37:4



Following Jesus

Christianity 101

Following Jesus

Getting Started

Following Jesus

What Is A Disciple?

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:16-18)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. (Matthew 5:1-2)

The mission of a rabbi was to become a living example of what it means to apply God's Word to one's life. A disciple apprenticed himself to a rabbi because the rabbi had saturated his life with Scripture and had become a true follower of God. The disciple sought to study the text, not only of Scripture but of the rabbi's life, for it was there that he would learn how to live out the Torah. Even more than acquiring his master's knowledge, he wanted to acquire his master's character, his internal grasp of God's law.

(Sitting at the Feet of Jesus, Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg)

The student is not above the teacher but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. (Luke 6:40)



Following Jesus

The Word of God

1) The _____ Of _____ ... _____ .

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

(Psalm 33:6)

You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

(1 Peter 1:23)

2) The _____ Of _____ ... Is Our _____ .

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

(Matthew 4:4)

3) The _____ Of _____ ... _____ To _____ & _____ .

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(John 10:10)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

(John 8:31-32)

I run in the path of your commands,
for you have set my heart free.

(Psalm 119:32, NIV84)



4) The _____ Of _____ ...

Is The _____ God _____ To _____.

5) The _____ Of _____ ...

Is _____

and _____.

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:15-16)

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (Matthew 5:17-18)

If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside. (John 10:35)

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures." (Luke 24:44-45)



Following Jesus

The Reliability of Scripture

1) The Quality . . . _____ & _____

The Bible was written over a period of about 1,500 years in various places stretching all the way from Babylon to Rome. The human authors included over 40 persons from various stations of life: kings, peasants, poets, herdsmen, fishermen, scientists, farmers, priests, pastors, tentmakers and governors. It was written in a wilderness, a dungeon, inside palaces and prisons, on lonely islands and in military battles. Yet it speaks with agreement and reliability on hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet it tells one story from beginning to end, God's salvation of man through Jesus Christ. NO PERSON could have possibly conceived of or written such a work! (Josh McDowell)

2) The Quality . . . Of _____

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.
(John 1:14 & 21:24)



For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain." (2 Peter 1:16–18)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched —this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. (1 John 1:1-4)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. (Acts 1:1-2)

3) The Quality . . . Of _____

For the New Testament the evidence is overwhelming. There are 5,366 manuscripts to compare and draw information from, and some of these date from the second or third centuries. To put that in perspective, there are only 643 copies of Homer's Iliad, and that is the most famous book of ancient Greece! No one doubts the existence of Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars, but we only have 10 copies of it and the earliest of those was made 1,000 years after it was written. To have such an abundance of copies of the New Testament from dates within 70 years after their writing is amazing.

(Norman Geisler & Ron Brooks - *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook of Christian Evidences*)

The Dead Sea Scrolls provide a basis of comparison from 1,000 years before our manuscripts were written. That comparison shows an astonishing reliability in transmission of the text. One scholar observed that the two copies of Isaiah found in the Qumran caves, "proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent of variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling." The main reason for all of this consistency is that the scribes who made the copies had a profound reverence for the text. Jewish traditions laid out every aspect of copying



texts as if it were law, from the kind of materials to be used to how many columns and lines were to be on every page. Nothing was to be written from memory. There was even a religious ceremony to perform each time the name of God was written. Any copy with just one mistake in it was destroyed. This guarantees us that there has been no substantial change in the text of the Old Testament in the last 2,000 years and evidence that there was probably very little change before that.

(Norman Geisler & Ron Brooks – *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook of Christian Evidences*)

With all those manuscripts, there are a lot of little differences. But it is very misleading for some to claim there may be 400,000 errors in the Bible, as does skeptic Bart Ehrman. He claims that “these [New Testament manuscript] copies all differ from one another, in many thousands of places... These copies differ from each other in so many places that we don’t even know how many differences there are.” First of all, there are not really “errors”; there are “variants”. Second, they are not in 400,000 different places. For example, if one word is spelled differently in 3,000 copies, that is counted as 3,000 variants. By this count there are 1.6 million errors in the first printing of Ehrman’s book since someone counted 16 typos and there were 100,000 printed! Further, variant readings do not affect the central message of the Bible. Consider this message: “Y#u have won 25 million dollars.” There is one error in it, but 100 percent of the message comes through! The same is true of the essential message of the Bible.

(Norman Geisler & Ron Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook of Christian Evidences*)

Following Jesus

The Canon: How Do We Know We Have The Right Books?

Old Testament Canon

1) Jesus Endorsed . . . The _____

This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. (Luke 24:44)

2) Jews Endorsed . . . The _____

For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another [as the Greeks have], but only twenty-two books, which contain the records of all the past times; which are justly believed to be divine. (Josephus)

New Testament Canon

1) Peter Endorsed . . . _____ As _____



Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

(2 Peter 3:15-16)

2) _____ ... Of _____

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

(2 Peter 1:19-21)

3) _____ ... _____ The _____

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed.

(Galatians 1:8)

4) _____ ... _____ The _____

Following Jesus

The Divine Library

The Old Testament (39 Books)



HISTORY (17)		POETS (5)		PROPHETS (17)	
PENTATEUCH (5)	Genesis	Job	Isaiah	MAJOR (5)	
	Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah		
	Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations		
	Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel		
	Deuteronomy	Song Of Solomon	Daniel		
HISTORICAL (12)	Joshua		Hosea	MINOR (12)	
	Judges		Joel		
	Ruth		Amos		
	First Samuel		Obadiah		
	Second Samuel		Jonah		
	First Kings		Micah		
	Second Kings		Nahum		
	First Chronicles		Habakkuk		
	Second Chronicles		Zephaniah		
	Ezra		Haggai		
	Nehemiah		Zechariah		
	Esther		Malachi		

The New Testament (27 Books)

HISTORY (5)		LETTERS (21)		PROPHETS (1)	
GOSPELS (4)	Matthew	Romans	PAUL (13)	Revelation	
	Mark	1 Corinthians			
	Luke	2 Corinthians			
	John	Galatians			
	Acts	Ephesians			
	Philippians	GENERAL (8)			
	Colossians				
	1 Thessalonians				
	2 Thessalonians				
	1 Timothy				
	2 Timothy				
	Titus				
	Philemon				
	Hebrews				
	James				
	1 Peter				
	2 Peter				
	1 John				
	2 John				
	3 John				
	Jude				

Following Jesus
More Resources



⇒ Apologetics

- "The Bible Translated, Retranslated, and...Changed? No Chance." Greg Koukl
<https://www.str.org/w/the-bible-translated-retranslated-and-changed-no-chance>
- Stand to Reason
www.str.org
- Sean McDowell
www.seanmcdowell.org
- William Lane Craig
www.reasonablefaith.org
- Rocky Peak Apologetic Seminars
 - 2023: <https://www.rockypeak.org/reasonablefaith/>
 - 2024: <https://www.rockypeak.org/summer-apologetics-2024/>
 - Upcoming 2025: <https://www.rockypeak.org/worldview/>

⇒ RP Essentials:

- The Message. . . *The Story of The Bible*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/themessage>
- Reasons to Believe. . . *Apologetics 101*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/reasonstobelieve>

⇒ Weekend Teaching Series

<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/>

- Disciple . . . *The Call To Follow*
<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/disciple-the-call-to-follow/disciple-the-call-to-follow/>
- Hearing God . . . *Discerning His Voice*
<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/hearing-god/hearing-god-discerning-his-voice/>

Following Jesus

CHRISTIANITY ——— 101

WEEK

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Following Jesus

Christianity 101

Following Jesus

Getting Started

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How To Study The Bible

1) _____ ... With A _____.

- The New International Version (NIV)
- The English Standard Version (ESV)
- The New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- The New Living Translation (NLT)

2) _____ ... In A _____.

- The NIV Study Bible
- The NIV Life Application Bible
- The ESV Study Bible



3) _____ The _____ ... To _____.

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

(Psalm 119:18)

Then he opened their mind so they could understand the Scriptures.

(Luke 24:45)

4) _____ ... A _____ of _____.

Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers,
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither
Whatever he does prospers.

(Psalm 1:1-3, NIV84)

The general rule is this: The best time is when you are at your best. Give God the best time of your day—when you are freshest and most alert. Don't try to serve God with your leftover time. ... Whatever time you set, be consistent in it. Schedule it on your calendar; make an appointment with God as you would with anyone else.
(Rick Warren, *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods*)

5) _____ The _____ ... _____ Any Other _____.



6) _____ ... Different _____.

7) _____ ... _____.

- ⇒ YouVersion Bible App
- ⇒ The Bible Project
- ⇒ Bible Software Programs (Logos.com)

8) _____ ... _____ You _____!

We will be spiritually safe in our use of the Bible if we follow a simple rule: Read with a submissive attitude. Read with a readiness to surrender all you are—all your plans, opinions, possessions, positions. Study as intelligently as possible, with all available means, but never study merely to find the truth and especially not just to prove something. Subordinate your desire to find the truth to your desire to do it, to act it out!
(Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)



Following Jesus

The Place of Prayer

1) _____ . . . Is _____ With _____.

2) _____ . . . Is A _____.

The news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:15-16)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

3) _____ . . . Is _____ We _____ Things _____.

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.”

(Matthew 6:9-10)

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:12-14)



Following Jesus

Growing In Prayer

1) _____ .

When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

(Matthew 6:7-8)

2) _____ It . . . _____ .

O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.
You hem me in-behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain. . . .
How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand. . .

(Psalm 139:1-6 & 17-18)

The LORD is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.

(Psalm 23:1)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

(Psalm 22:1)



3) _____ ...

A _____ Of _____.

Find a comfortable, peaceful place as your habitual place of prayer. Having a pleasant and familiar environment will bring you more quickly and naturally into an attitude of prayer. To help you relax, take a cup of coffee or a glass of juice with you. There is nothing wrong with feeling good while you are praying. (C. Peter Wagner, *Warfare Prayer*)

I agree ... that a reasonable long-range goal for a daily prayer time is one hour. I also understand that for many this will be a lifelong goal that may never be reached on a regular basis. If you are starting from scratch, use short-range goals and plan to increase your time gradually. If this sounds quite demanding to you, try starting with 5 minutes, then increase it to 10. In my opinion, 5 minutes every day is much more valuable than 15 minutes every 3 days, even though I would consider either clearly inadequate for strategic-level spiritual warfare. (C. Peter Wagner, *Spiritual Warfare*)

4) _____ ... For _____ and _____.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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)

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

5) _____ ... With _____.



6) Learn . . . To _____.

So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" (1 Samuel 3:9)

I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me. (Psalm 16:7)

7) _____ . . . _____ .

The Enemy will try to jam communications with Headquarters. Commit yourself to prayer every morning for two weeks and just watch what'll happen. You won't want to get up; an important meeting will be called that interferes; you'll catch a cold; or, if you do get to your prayers, your mind will wander to what you'll have for breakfast and how much you should pay for the water heater repair and what color socks would look best with your gray suit. Many, many times I've simply come under a cloak of confusion so thick I suddenly find myself wondering why I ever believed in Jesus in the first place.

(John Eldredge, *Wild At Heart*)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)



Following Jesus

More Resources

⇒ Bible Reading Plans

- Five Day Reading Plan (also located in the back of Week 3)
https://www.fivedaybiblereading.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-5-Day-Bible-Reading_BnW.pdf
- The Full Story Bible Plan
<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/22704-the-full-story-from-the-beginning-to-the-amen>

⇒ Weekend Teaching Series

<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/>

- Hearing God. . . *Discerning His Voice*
 - Week 9: The Keystone Habit
<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/hearing-god/the-keystone-habit/>
 - Week 10: Designing Your Plan
<https://www.rockypeak.org/watch/hearing-god/designing-your-plan/>

⇒ RP Essential:

- Pursuing God. . . *One-On-One*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/pursuinggod>

Following Jesus

CHRISTIANITY ——— 101

WEEK

4





Following Jesus

Christianity 101

Following Jesus
Getting Started

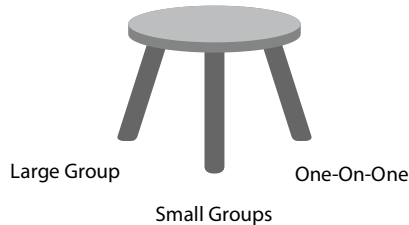
Following Jesus
Created For Community



Following Jesus

The Three-Legged Stool

1) _____



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. (Acts 2:42, 46)

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

2) _____

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (Acts 2:42-46)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)

Serve one another humbly in love. (Galatians 5:13)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16)



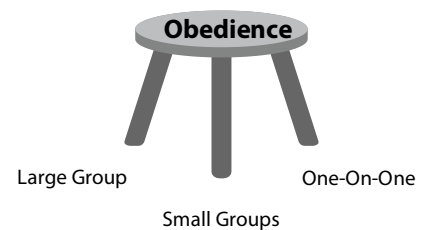
3) _____ On _____

Following Jesus

The Role of Obedience

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (John 14:15-16, NIV84)

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. (John 14:22-24, NIV84)





1) _____ ... Is A _____.

2) _____ ... Is The _____ of A _____.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6)

3) _____ ... Is The _____ to _____.

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

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:10-11)



4) _____ Is _____ ...

For _____.

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

(1 Samuel 15:22)

5) _____ ... Is The _____ to Our _____.

Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." (Mark 4:24-25)

Obey God in the thing He shows you, and instantly the next thing is opened up. . . God will never reveal more truth about Himself until you have obeyed what you know already. (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*, October 10th)



Following Jesus *Serving Sacrificially*

Our Vision:

To Unleash A Movement Of Passionate

Christ-Followers ...

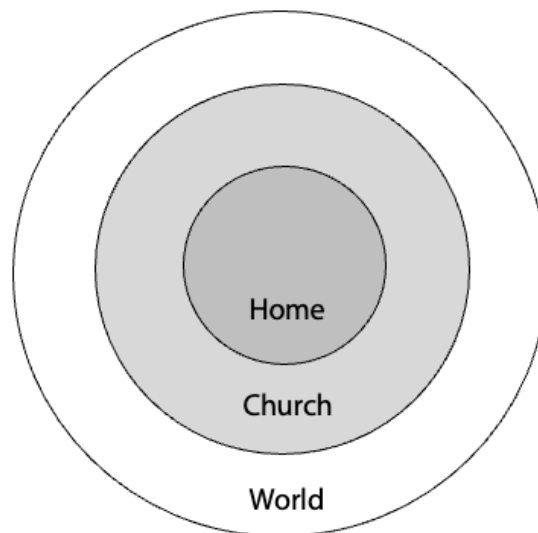
... Pursuing God

... Loving People

... Serving Sacrificially

... Sharing Christ

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)





Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

From him the whole body . . . grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:16)

Following Jesus

Sharing Christ

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)

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders ; make the most of every opportunity . Let your conversation be always full of grace , seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15-16)



Following Jesus

More Resources

⇒ RP Essential Courses:

- Loving People . . . *Doing Relationships A Whole New Way*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/lovingpeople>
- Serving Sacrificially . . . *Discovering Your Purpose*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/servingsacrificially>
- Sharing Christ. . . *Increasing Your Influence*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/sharingchrist>

⇒ Books:

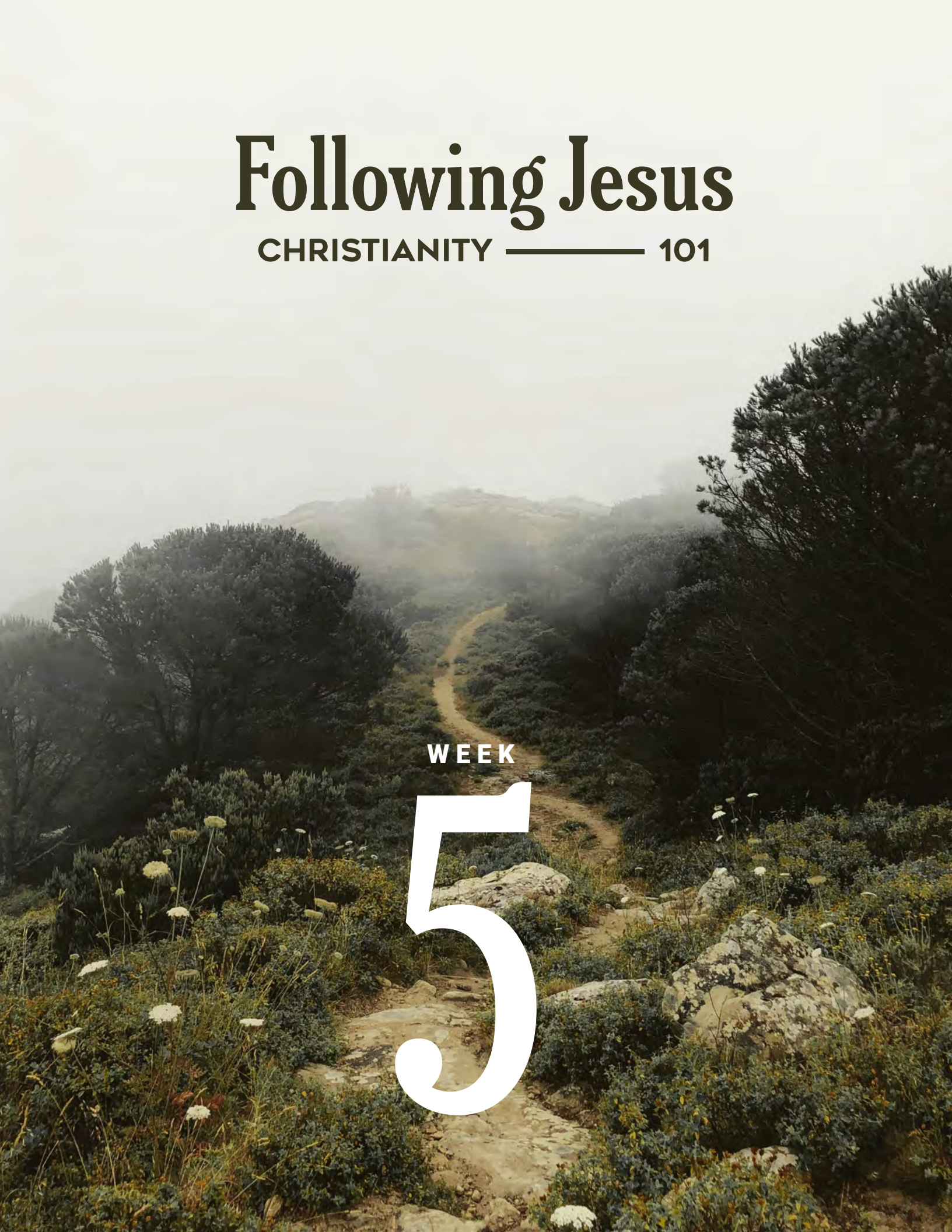
- *The Emotionally Healthy Church* by Peter Scazzero (Community)
- *Everybody's Normal Until You Get To Know Them* by John Ortberg (Community)
- *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren (Serving)
- *Tactics* by Greg Koukl (Sharing Christ)
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel (Sharing Christ)

Following Jesus

CHRISTIANITY ——— 101

WEEK

5





Following Jesus

Christianity 101

Following Jesus

Getting Started

Following Jesus

Spiritual Warfare

1) _____ . . . Is _____ .

Job 1-2/Isaiah 14:12-15 & Ezekiel 28:12-17

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

(1 John 3:8)

If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

(Matthew 12:28)

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

(Luke 10:17-18)

He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Colossians 1:13-14)

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

(Ephesians 6:10-13)



2) This _____ Is _____ ...

The _____, The _____, The _____.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, 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 2:1-5)

3) Satan's _____ ... Is The _____.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)

4) We _____ ... The _____ To _____.

Matthew 4:1-11/Galatians 5:16-26/Romans 6-8/Philippians 1:6 & 2:12-13/1 Thessalonians 5:23-24/2 Thessalonians 3:3/Hebrews 13:20-21/1 John 4.4

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ... Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:15 & 17)

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. . . Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-17)

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)



Following Jesus

The Power of Confession

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)

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

No amount of falls will really undo us if we keep on picking ourselves up each time. We shall of course be very muddy and tattered children by the time we reach home. But the bathrooms are all ready, the towels put out, and the clean clothes are in the airing cupboard. The only fatal thing is to lose one's temper and give it up. It is when we notice the dirt that God is most present to us: it is the very sign of His presence.
(Letter to Mary Neylan (January 20, 1942) in *The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis*, Volume II)

Following Christ

What We Believe

There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)



1) _____

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, perfect, and eternal, who lives in a loving unity of three equally divine and eternal Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is infinitely brilliant, powerful, creative, and good, a God who loves beauty and order. Out of his limitless knowledge and sovereign power, he has chosen from eternity to rescue and redeem a people for Himself and to make all creation new for His glory. (Gen. 1:1-31, 14:19; Ex. 34:5-7; Lev. 11:45; Deut. 6:4; Ecc. 3:11; Is. 6:3, 33:17, 40:21-31; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 17:24; Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Cor. 8:6, 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Tim. 1:17; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 4:11, 21-22)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. (Genesis 1:1, 31)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Deuteronomy 6:4)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1-2)

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. (Matthew 28:18-19)

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17:24)



2) The _____

We believe that God has spoken in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority for all of life. The Word reveals the path of life and the truth that sets us free. (Deut. 6:6-9, 8:1-6; Ps. 19:7-8, 119:1-176; Matt. 4:4, 5:18-19; Luke 24:44-45; John 8:31-32, 10:35, 15:3, 17:17; Rom. 1:2, 3:2, 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11, 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1, 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21, 3:15-16)

The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

(Psalm 19:7-18)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
(John 8:31-32)

... and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:15-17)



3) The _____

We believe God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, in his image—to be like him, to experience relationship with him, and to rule over creation for him. However, when they rebelled and followed Satan, the result was death at every level: spiritual, psychological, moral, social, and physical. On top of this, all creation became subject to bondage and decay.

Because of our union with Adam, every human being is a sinner by nature and choice, alienated from God and under his judgment. Only through God's saving work in Christ and the supernatural work of the Spirit can we be rescued, reconciled, renewed, and transformed. (Gen. 1:27-28, 3:1-19; John 8:44; Rom. 1:18-32, 3:9-26, 5:1-19, 8:1-22; 2 Cor. 3:3-6, 16-18; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 2:1-10, 4:17-19; Col. 1:13-14; 1 John 3:8, 5:19-20)

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
(Genesis 1:27-28)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy...
(Ephesians 2:1-4)

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

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.
(Galatians 5:26)



4) _____

We believe every person is created in the image of God, wonderfully and immutably, as male or female. These two distinct and complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. Sexual intimacy is designed only for a man and a woman who are committed to one another in the covenant of marriage. All sexual relationships outside of this marriage relationship are both contrary to God's will and ultimately destructive for both the individuals and human society. This relationship of marriage is also a unique reflection of Christ's relationship with His church. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18-24; Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 1:18-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 6:18-20, 7:2-5; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:8-10; Heb. 13:4)

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. . . . That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."
(Genesis 2:18, 24)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."
(Matthew 19:4-6)

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . . Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Romans 1:21, 24-27)

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)



5) _____

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person with two natures. Jesus–Israel's promised Messiah–was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father where he now rules over all creation and serves as our High Priest and Advocate. Jesus came to give us new life, life to the full—to show us how to live, love, and thrive. (Gen. 3:15, 12:1-3; 1 Chron. 17:10-14; Is. 11:1-3, 52:13-53:12; Matt. 1:1-25; Luke 1:28-35; John 1:1, 14, 18, 5:16-18, 10:10, 10:30-33, 14:6-11; Luke 23-24; Acts 1:9-11, 2:22-36; 1 Cor. 15:3-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20, 2:9, 3:1-4; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:18, 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2)

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:19-21)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
(John 1:1, 14)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
(John 10:10)

Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
(Philippians 2:5-11)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.
(Colossians 2:9)



6) The _____ of _____

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. United with Christ in his death and resurrection, we now have the power to put to death old actions, attitudes, and emotions—and rise with him to the new lives we were created to live. When Christ died, he stripped Satan and his demonic forces of their power and authority over the lives of Christ-followers. (Mark 10:45; Rom. 3:21-26, 5:1-21, 6:1-23; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Eph. 2:1-10, 4:17-5:14; Col. 2:9-15; Titus 3:4-17; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 2:1-2, 3:7-10, 5:18-20)

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished. (Romans 3:23-25)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 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 6:1-4)

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)



7) The _____

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God and that his work is to manifest the presence of God in the world and especially in the church. He hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation, and he continues to renew it with his power and presence. The Holy Spirit indwells, fills, reveals, guides, equips, gifts, and empowers believers to follow Jesus, to be transformed to be like Him, and to live a life of love worthy of their high calling. The Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, convicts the world of its sin and opens our eyes to see who Christ is. He regenerates sinners, and through Him we are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. As a result, we are a new creation in Christ and have the power to rise with him to a new life. (Gen. 1:2; Ex. 31:1-5, 35:30-35; Ps. 104:30, 139:7; Is. 44:3, 63:10-11; Ez. 35:25-27; Joel 2:28-29; Matt. 28:18-20; John 3:5-8, 7:38-39, 14:15-26, 16:7-11, 13-15, 20:21-22; Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 5:3-4; Rom. 8:1-16; 1 Cor. 2:12, 14, 3:16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 3:1-6, 16-18, 13:14; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 1:13-14, 17-23, 3:16-18; 1 Thess. 7:7-8; 2 Tim. 1:7; Titus 3:4-7; Rev. 2:7)

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (Genesis 1:2)

When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground. (Psalm 104:30)

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Galatians 5:26)



8) The _____

We believe that the true church is comprised of all who have been saved by God's grace through faith in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus prescribed two ordinances, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which visibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ceremonies confirm, strengthen, and nourish the believer. (Matt. 16:13-18, 28:18-20; Luke 22:13-22; Acts 2:1-47; 1 Cor. 3:16, 11:23-26, 12:1-31; Eph. 2:1-22, 4:11-16, 5:23-32; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 1:5-6, 1:18-2:1)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:13-18)

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)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)



9) The _____

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him above all else and to live out a life of love by pursuing God, loving others, serving sacrificially, and sharing Christ. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil and advance the Kingdom of God while growing in righteousness. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always living out the gospel in word and deed. (Matt. 5:13-16, 6:33, 7:21-27, 22:36-40, 28:9-10; Luke 10:25-37, 14:25-27; John 14:13-27, 15:1-8, 16:7-10, 9-15, 13-14; Acts 1:8; Rom. 6:1-14, 8:1-13, 10:8-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 15:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:15-2; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:11-16, 5:1-2, 6:10-18; Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 2:1-6, 3:14-18; Rev. 12:10-11)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:13-16)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

(Matthew 6:33)

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

(John 14:23)

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 5:1-2)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

(Ephesians 6:10-12)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

(1 John 2:3-6)



10) _____

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, requires constant expectancy and motivates Christ-followers to righteous living, sacrificial service, and passionate mission. (Matt. 24-25; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:8-11; 1 Cor. 15:21-28; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-7; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Titus 2:13; Rev. 1:7, 19:1-21)

Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. . . . But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Matthew 24:30-31, 36)

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:3)

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)



11) _____ and _____

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to repent and believe the gospel by turning to Him and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to eternal separation from God and conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heavens and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen. (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30, 23:33, 25:30-48; Mark 1:15; Luke 12:5, 24:45-47; John 5:24-29, 6:44, 14:1-3; Acts 2:36-38; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15: 20-28, 45-55; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11-15, 21-22)

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15)

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:24-29)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:44)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)



Following Jesus

Tips For The Trail

1) _____ ... Are _____.

2) _____ ... May _____ You _____.

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. (Romans 15:1)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

(Ephesians 4:32)

3) _____ Never _____ ...

_____ All _____.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:12-13)



Following Jesus

More Resources

⇒ The Bible Project

- The Trinity
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAvYmE2YYIU>

⇒ RP Essential Course:

- Knowing God... *Theology 101*
<https://www.essentials.rockypeak.org/knowinggod>

⇒ Books:

- *The Bondage Breaker*, Neil T. Anderson (Spiritual Warfare)