

the next steps booklet.

what
next?



Life starts here.

In the Bible, Jesus said “...I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.” That abundant life began the moment you stepped over the line of faith and into a relationship with Christ.

But that is just the beginning. **You’ve taken the first step; now what?**

This book will give you an idea of what the Bible, God’s Word, says about the next steps in your relationship with God.

You probably still have questions about your decision. You may even have doubts. That’s okay! But don’t let those questions or doubts stop you from moving forward. Doubt your doubts and feed your faith by working through the things in this book. By doing so, we know you will continue to experience the abundant life – **one step at a time!**

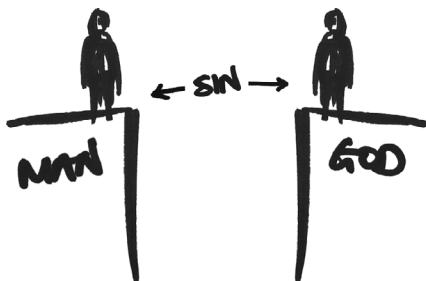
What just happened?



So you just made this life-changing decision to follow Jesus, but you're unsure what this means for you moving forward. We've provided a clearer picture below of what your decision today means for your tomorrow:

God loves you and has a plan for your life

"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

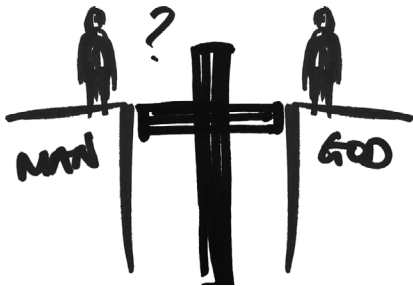


Your sin caused a cosmic chasm between you and God

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

**God sent Jesus Christ
to die on a cross to bridge
the gap once and for all**

*But God demonstrates His own love for
us in this; While we were still sinners,
Christ died for us – Romans 5:8*



**It's your decision
to receive or reject
God's gift of Jesus**

*If you confess with your mouth,
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your
heart that God raised Him from
the dead, you will be saved.*

*For it is with your heart that
you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth that you
confess and are saved.*

– Romans 10:9-10

*For the wages of sin is death
but the free gift of God is
eternal life in Jesus Christ.*



Baptism

Simply put, baptism is when **your old sinful and rebellious nature dies, and God gives you a brand new nature!** Your old self dies as you are united with Jesus in his death and burial through the immerseion in water; and, a new life begins as you are joined with Jesus in His resurrection as you are brought up out of the water again.

It's an act of obedience, a step of acknowledgment that we identify in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that we can have eternal life.

When you step into the water, you are making a public confession to the world that you have walked into a new life of faith in Jesus Christ and that you are committing to follow Him.

If you haven't yet made that decision, **baptism is your next step in your spiritual journey.**

We offer water baptism at all of our services so when you are ready to take this next step, simply let the person who brought you along know you are ready, talk to one of our Host Team members or let us know online at freedomcentre.net

Roots that go deep

When you stepped over the line of faith and chose to follow Jesus, you began a new journey. But it's a journey **that was never meant to be travelled alone**. Christianity is not a solo sport and that is why the local church exists.

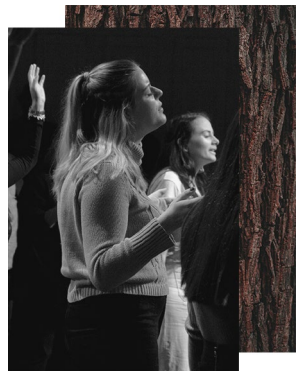
Each week, when we gather together as a church, we unite to worship God, discover His plan for our lives, and learn how to live out His priorities.

We are designed by God to be planted in His house in order for us to truly flourish. **Thus meeting together each week needs to be a priority if we are going to continue to grow.**

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God - Psalm 92:13

We are called to inspire one another to Encounter God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Lead in Life. Not only are these steps crucial for our growth, but they also empower us to be a force for change in our community and the world!

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching - Hebrews 10:25





ENCOUNTER GOD.

God wants you to have an encounter with Him. There are many ways this can happen, but one thing is for sure, an encounter with God will change your life forever!

We believe that **our gatherings each Sunday make space for people, like you, to Encounter God.** The whole purpose of our Sunday services are so that all people can gather together and meet with God.

The Bible is clear about how much God loves you and how He longs to have a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal - John 3:16

God's desire is that **these encounters would become something that we would expect and experience all the time.**



Find Freedom

God wants freedom for you! Freedom from the things in your life that hold you back from reaching your full potential in Jesus.

We believe **the best way to Find Freedom is through genuine relationships with other believers.** That's why belonging to a Group is just as important as attending the Sunday Services. It's in Groups that we are able **to foster meaningful friendships where we are free to live openly and honestly.**

Freedom Centre Groups are small groups of people meeting throughout each week at homes, cafes or a range of other settings. Their purpose is simple, to bring people together to forge valuable relationships and to build each other up in our faith in Jesus, through scripture, through prayer, through encouragement and through fellowship.

God created us to do life with others. We were created for community. It is only when we are living in community that we can experience the full life God intended for us.

Visit the Info Desk today and ask about how you can join a Group, or sign-up to a Group online at freedomcentre.net



Discover purpose

God has a calling that He has specifically designed just for you. God has given you special gifts and personality traits are unique and are within you **for the purpose of illustrating who God is to the world and helping the Church.**

The Bible compares these unique gifts to coins or talents that have been entrusted to us so that we might use them as tools to increase the influence of Jesus' Kingdom everywhere.

It is so important for us as people to find out what that purpose is exactly! What is inside of you that was placed there by God for his unique plan for your life?

A great place to discover your purpose is in the Freedom Centre Track.

This is a four week course designed to help you find out more about God, His church and how you belong in His plan.

You can find out more about the Freedom Centre Track by speaking to one of our Host Team members at one of our Sunday Services, or by visiting our website - freedomcentre.net



Lead in Life

God has called you to be a leader! His desire is to transform you into a servant leader in every area of your life.

Leadership is influence. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is about influencing others for a worthwhile cause. Leadership is not defined by the position or title that we have, but rather is defined **by the difference we make in the lives of others using the gifts and passions that God has placed on our lives**. Whether that's in the influence you have in your family, in your workplace, among your peers, in the church or in any other relationships we have – **we are all called to Lead in Life!**

The Apostle Peter tells us that *“God has given each of [us] a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts”* and that we should *“Use them well to serve one another.”* (1 Peter 4:10)

Here's the point - leaders serve. The best way you can lead in your walk with Jesus is by lovingly serving someone else. **This is where we truly find fulfilment and purpose!**

We've made space for you to fulfil God's assignment for your life through being part of the Dream Team. Start leading in life today, sign up for the Dream Team by speaking to one of our Host Team members or at freedomcentre.net

God says

Understanding what God says about you is one of the most crucial aspects in continuing, and growing, in your relationship with Him. Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear who we are more importantly Whose are and what He thinks of us. As His children, we are precious to Him, purposed by Him and filled with potential for Him. Here are just a few of the things God says through scripture about you.

YOU ARE CREATED BY GOD

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” - Psalm 139:13

You are not an afterthought or an accident. God, the ultimate Creator, created you on purpose and for a purpose. When God sees you, He sees someone He created with intention and reason. When God created you, He thought out your existence and who you would be. Your identity is found in Him alone.

YOU ARE CLOTHED BY GOD

“For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...” – Isaiah 61:10

The Bible says that we all fall short of the image of God we were created for, having been tarnished by sin and polluted by rebellion. But the moment you put your trust in Jesus, God traded your sin for His salvation, your fallenness for His forgiveness. No longer does God see you as a sinner but as clean and holy, clothed in the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

YOU ARE CHANGED BY GOD

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” – Romans 12:2

You are not defined by your past. Scripture says that you are now a new creation in Jesus and God has wiped the slate clean. This instantaneous change starts a process that continues throughout our entire life. This unseen transformation that has happened inside of you, will begin to work it’s way outward, transforming your thoughts, your attitudes and your actions also.

YOU ARE CELEBRATED BY GOD

“For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight; in love.” – Ephesians 1:4

Love has to have an object and YOU are the object of God’s love. God is unashamed of you and like a parent who cannot stop talking about their child, He is pleased with you and is proud of you. When you receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, you become a child of God and inherit all the privileges as a child in God’s family. You are loved by God, accepted and valued, not because of what you’ve done, but because you belong to Him.

YOU ARE COMPLETED BY GOD

“In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.” – Colossians 2:10

On our best days, we still fall short of God’s glory. To put it another way, we are incomplete because our good just isn’t good enough. But if you have been united together with Jesus by putting your trust in Him, than you are no longer measured by your goodness, but by His goodness - and He is more than good enough! Because of Jesus you are now whole. You are complete.

Ready?

We're thrilled you decided to say "yes" to Jesus and are eager to help you in your new journey.

If you are ready to take your next step with God or have more questions about the material in this book, we would love to hear from you. Visit our Info Desk or talk to one of our Host Team members today. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us online by scanning below.





Next Steps Booklet
Version 2.0. Published February 2024
Freedom Centre Melbourne