



Salvation Milestone

5 Things you can do now that you're a believer in Jesus.

1. Read and Obey God's Voice in the Bible

You'll find that your love for Jesus will continually deepen as you keep hearing and obeying Him and as you continue to see Him work in your life and in the world around you. You'll discover more and more that the Bible truly is God's book in a way no other book can possibly be, as the Holy Spirit brings it to life for you.

Where should you start reading? The Bible is a collection of 66 "books". The first 39 books are called the Old Testament and were written over a period of several centuries before Jesus came to earth. They reveal many characteristics about God, the need for man's redemption, and foretell, in many ways, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The last 27 books are called the New Testament. The first four books in the New Testament (called the Gospels) are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each tells the story about Jesus' life and teachings, emphasizing His death and resurrection. Most of the rest of the New Testament provides instruction for how to live and what to believe about God, heaven, sin and so much more.

Many new Believers like to start with the Gospel of John – and read afresh about Jesus. Philippians is encouraging and James is very practical. When you read the Old Testament, you may want to start with Genesis and Exodus and the Psalms. You may wish to join a small group of other Believers at South Park Church where together, you can study God's Word, better understand it, and apply it to your life.

2. Communicate with God

Besides listening to God through the Bible, you'll also experience a deep desire to speak with Him. Over time, we can learn to better pray for the Lord's will in our life. We can pray when we are tempted, to thank the Lord, or for forgiveness. A good place to start is following the prayer Jesus' taught his disciples. You can pray it straight through or use it as a prompt personalizing each line in a way that addresses your circumstances.



“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today 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 the evil one’
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

3. Live Your Faith

As your personal relationship with Jesus deepens through your time in the Bible and in prayer, you can trust Him to help you live your life in a way that pleases and honors Him. You’ll discover that the Bible frequently uses the picture of a fruit-bearing vine or tree as the image of what your new life is meant to be. Jesus uses these images to emphasize how important it is to keep your relationship with Him healthy and vital. Jesus says,

“Abide in me, and I will abide in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you abide in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” *John 15:4-5*

Maintaining your relationship with Jesus will mean confessing your sins whenever you do wrong. Although the penalty for your sins has already been paid through the death of Jesus on the cross, a new sin can become a roadblock in your daily relationship with Him until you confess that sin and experience His fresh forgiveness.



“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” *1 John 1:8-9*

Practical acts of love and service bring tremendous honor to God. You will feel His pleasure and the satisfaction that comes from serving others.

4. Share Your Faith

Tell those who don't know Jesus about Him – they need to hear about God's love! You may not know all the answers to their questions – that's okay. Tell them your story about how you found God and what He's teaching you.

5. Stay Connected with Your Family

One of God's gifts to you is the family of God – other “brothers” and “sisters” with whom you share a faith in Jesus. They'll offer you the kind of help we all need; from encouragement and support to challenge and accountability. That's why it's so important to commit yourself to involvement with other Believers in a local church. The Bible speaks of the church as being the “body” of Christ. That body is healthy only when each part is actively functioning. So be encouraged to find a church family and fully engage in your unique role.

We encourage you to join a small group that meets regularly to pray, share, and study God's Word. [Click here for more information.](#)