

STARTING POINT





WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Congratulations on your decision to follow Christ! It's the best decision you will ever make. We are so happy that you've made this life-changing choice.

Our church exists as a safe place for people to be real and experience the difference God can make in their life. No one is perfect, and we certainly don't expect you to be. We want Coastline to be a place that helps you find a ton of hope, forgiveness, love, and peace.

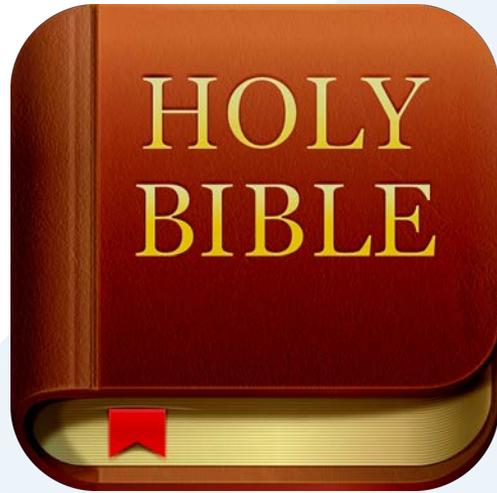
We thought it might help you if we shared some simple advice and scriptures about how to get started in your relationship with Jesus. You may be feeling overwhelmed or like you have tons of questions—and that's okay! You're just now starting what will be the most amazing journey of your life, so it's expected that you'll have questions. This booklet includes a week-long devotion that we hope will answer some of them.

The first step is getting to know God. Just like anyone else you want to know, it happens best through spending time with Him. We encourage you to spend some time with God every day this week. By praying and reading the Bible, you are inviting Him to speak to your heart. Just as human relationships grow through communication and time together, your relationship with God grows when you spend time with Him.

We want to support your decision. We hope this devotional will show you the important next steps for putting your decision to follow Christ into action. We love you and are praying for you as you embark on this amazing journey.

Welcome to the family of God!

Jason & Raina Byars



DAY ONE

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

Now that you've made this amazing decision to follow Christ, you're going to need a Bible. If you don't have access to one, shoot us an email and we'll make sure to get you one!

If you have an iPhone, the app "Holy Bible" lets you read the Bible on your phone. However you read it, make sure you're reading the Bible in some way!

READ: Matthew 10:32

PRAY: "Jesus, I thank you for who you are. I am excited to learn more and grow in you. I pray that you will help me to grow closer to you as I learn more about you. I commit to following you with my life, and I pray you will help me to keep focused on doing that."

THINK: What areas of your life do you want to change because of the decision to follow Jesus?

DO: Tell someone about the decision you've made to follow Christ! It's an amazing decision, and it's really important to tell someone about it. Don't keep it to yourself—share it with someone close to you.

Please let us know about your decision too!
Email us at

StartingPoint@thecoastlinechurch.com

We'd love to celebrate this with you!



**NEW
BEGINS
NOW!**

DAY TWO

READ GOD'S WORD!

READ: 2 Timothy 3:16

PRAY: "God, I thank you for the Bible, Your Holy Word. I pray you will speak to me through the things I read. Help me to make reading the Bible a daily habit as I am trying to grow closer to you."

THINK: Think about a time in your daily schedule when you can commit to reading your Bible.

DO: Start reading the Bible! A great place to start is in the book of John, which is the first one of the books that tells the story of the life of Jesus. Work on making it a habit to read every day, even if it's only a few verses.

DAY THREE

PRACTICE PRAYING!

READ: Matthew 6:9-13

PRAY: "God, I want to have a good relationship with You. I realize that any relationship requires two-way communication in order to grow and flourish, and that is what I want from my relationship with you. Help me to trust you enough to talk to you and tell you what is on my heart."

THINK: Prayer is not something that should intimidate you. It is simply talking to God. There's no need to worry about using fancy words or knowing exactly what you should be saying, because He just wants to talk with you!

DO: Practice praying! A simple way to get started is this:
Praise Him – Tell Him how much you love and adore Him. He is the **ONLY** One worthy of our worship and praise!

Admit Sin – Take time to examine your heart and tell God about anything you feel might not be pleasing to Him. The Bible says that if we confess our sins, He will be faithful to forgive us and cleanse us, bringing us into a right relationship with Him [1 John 1:8-9].

Requests – Tell God about the things you are in need of – physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual needs – He cares about all of them! Just talk to Him as you would your most trusted friend.

Thanksgiving – Don't forget to thank Him for all He's done, and all He will do in your life. Thank Him for the provisions He has made, for relationships, for His presence in your life. God is pleased when we show Him our gratitude.



IF YOU DON'T
QUIT
YOU CAN'T
LOSE



TURN YOUR EAR TO WISDOM.

PROVERBS 2:2

DAY FOUR

PRACTICE LISTENING!

READ: Proverbs 2:1-5

PRAY: “God, I pray that you will help me to listen to you. As I pray and read the Bible, please show me the things you want me to know. I am excited to hear from you.”

THINK: Just as it’s important to tell God what’s on your heart, it is vital to your relationship with Him that you learn to listen to what He is saying to you. Jesus promised that He would send a “helper” to us – He was speaking of the Holy Spirit. When you accepted Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior, you received the Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Helper. The Holy Spirit is active in helping us to know what God wants for our lives by speaking into our thoughts.

DO: Try to quiet yourself before God and simply listen to what He is saying to your heart. The more you practice this, the easier it will become to recognize when God is speaking to you.



AS FAR AS THE
EAST
IS FROM THE
WEST
SO FAR HAS HE
REMOVED
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS
FROM US
PSALM 103:12

DAY FIVE

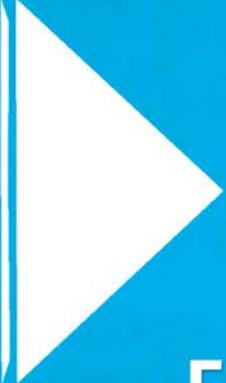
REALIZE YOU ARE FORGIVEN.

READ: Psalm 103:12 & Isaiah 1:18

PRAY: "Jesus, thank you for dying for my sins. I am so thankful that because of you, my sins are forgiven. Help me to remember that I am not defined by the sins of my past, I am defined by the grace you have had on my life."

THINK: Jesus died for you. Because of this, you are forgiven. The Bible says that your sins were red like scarlet, but now they are white like snow. God no longer thinks about the sins of your past—He has thrown them as far as the east is from the west! You are now forgiven because of God's grace.

DO: Thank God for His forgiveness—and then live in it. Jesus didn't die for you so you would walk around constantly remembering the sins of your past, He died so that you could be forgiven and live on abundant life! Ask Him to help you realize you are forgiven. Whenever sins from your past come up in your mind, just give them to God. You are a new person now—a forgiven one!



**FORGET
WHAT IS BEHIND
STRAIN
FOR WHAT IS AHEAD**
PHILIPPIANS 3:13

DAY SIX

EMBRACE YOUR NEW LIFE!

READ: Philippians 3

PRAY: “God, thank you for making me a new creation. I know you are working in me. I want to follow you with my whole heart, with no turning back. I pray that you will show me the areas of my life that need to change. Help me to surrender everything to you.”

THINK: What areas of your life do not line up with the parts of the Bible you’ve read so far, and how can you allow God to help you change those areas?

DO: As you are reading the Bible, invite God to show you how to implement it in your own life.

**NOW YOU ARE THE
BODY OF
CHRIST
AND EACH ONE OF YOU
IS A PART OF IT**
1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

DAY SEVEN

JOIN WITH OTHERS!

READ: Hebrews 10:24-25 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

PRAY: "God, I pray that you would help me to get connected in a church. Even when life gets tough, I pray that you will help me commit to attending and learning more about you. I know it is important to feed the fire of my faith, and I ask that you will give me a passion for my church."

THINK: God has designed us to depend upon each other in a healthy way. The Church was established to operate as a type of "body" - no individual part is any more important than another. Fellowship and relationships with other Christians are an important component of your spiritual growth.

DO: Make a commitment today to establish yourself in a Bible-believing church where you can be ministered to and, in turn, minister to others.

NEXT STEPS:

KEEPING MOVING FORWARD.

CONNECT.

SHARE YOUR STORY.

GET BAPTIZED.

**ARE YOU READY?
LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER.**

KEEPING MOVING FORWARD.

The most important thing you can do is to just keep moving forward.

You don't have it all figured out—none of us do! But that doesn't mean you can't keep moving forward. You have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and that is amazing! Now it's time to feed your faith.

The easiest way to do this is to attend church.

We would love for Coastline Community Church to become your new church home. There's nothing required of you—just show up!

Every Sunday, we gather together to worship and learn from God's Word. Please check our website for service times

(www.thecoastlinechurch.com)

We can't wait to worship with you!

CONNECT.

In addition to feeding your faith, it's so important to surround yourself with people who will help you keep the momentum of your decision to follow Christ going. We have several small groups that foster relationships and focus on a more in-depth study of God's Word. We believe in doing life together, and small groups are a great way to accomplish this.

To get plugged into a small group, stop by the tent on the east lawn next Sunday. One of our workers would be more than happy to inform you of what we have to offer and to help you find a good fit for you!

SHARE YOUR STORY.

Your story is amazing, and you are the only one who can tell it. Now that you've made this incredible decision to follow Christ, you are starting a brand new chapter in your story!

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone and new has come!" You are a new creation! What an exciting part of your story that is! It's so wonderful, it's not meant to be kept all to yourself. It's meant to be shared with others!

We would love to celebrate this with you. Email us at startingpoint@thecoastlinechurch.com and let us know about this wonderful turn your story has taken. We would love to rejoice with you and encourage you on this journey!

GET BAPTIZED.

The Bible tells us that when you believe in Jesus as your Savior and ask Him to forgive your sins, you should be baptized. Baptism is simply going public with your decision to follow Christ. It is a symbolic act that represents dying to your old life and being raised up to your new life with Christ. By being baptized, you are publicly telling the world that you are no longer the person you used to be, but are instead a new person, living life with Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Here's the deal—you're not perfect. Sorry if that was a surprise to you, but none of us are perfect! God made you, so He certainly knows you aren't perfect!

Making the decision to follow Jesus does not make you perfect; it makes you forgiven. Are you going to mess up again? Of course! Are you going to have days where you are confused and discouraged and feel like giving up? Most definitely. But the important thing is this: You have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and He will never turn His back on you, no matter what you do.

Philippians 1:6 says that "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it."

Today is just a starting point on your journey. God has begun a good work in you, and He is faithful, so He will complete that good work. You can trust that!

This booklet is just a place to get you started. There's so much more to learn and so many awesome things awaiting you on this journey of following Christ. The good news is that you are not alone—we are all on this journey together.

If you have any questions, or if you just want to talk about this new decision, email us!

STARTINGPOINT@THECOASTLINECHURCH.COM

**"THERE ARE FAR, FAR BETTER
THINGS AHEAD THAN ANY WE
LEAVE BEHIND." -CS LEWIS**

THE BEST IS YET TO COME.



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SERVICE TIMES:

8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30



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