



NEW BEGINNINGS

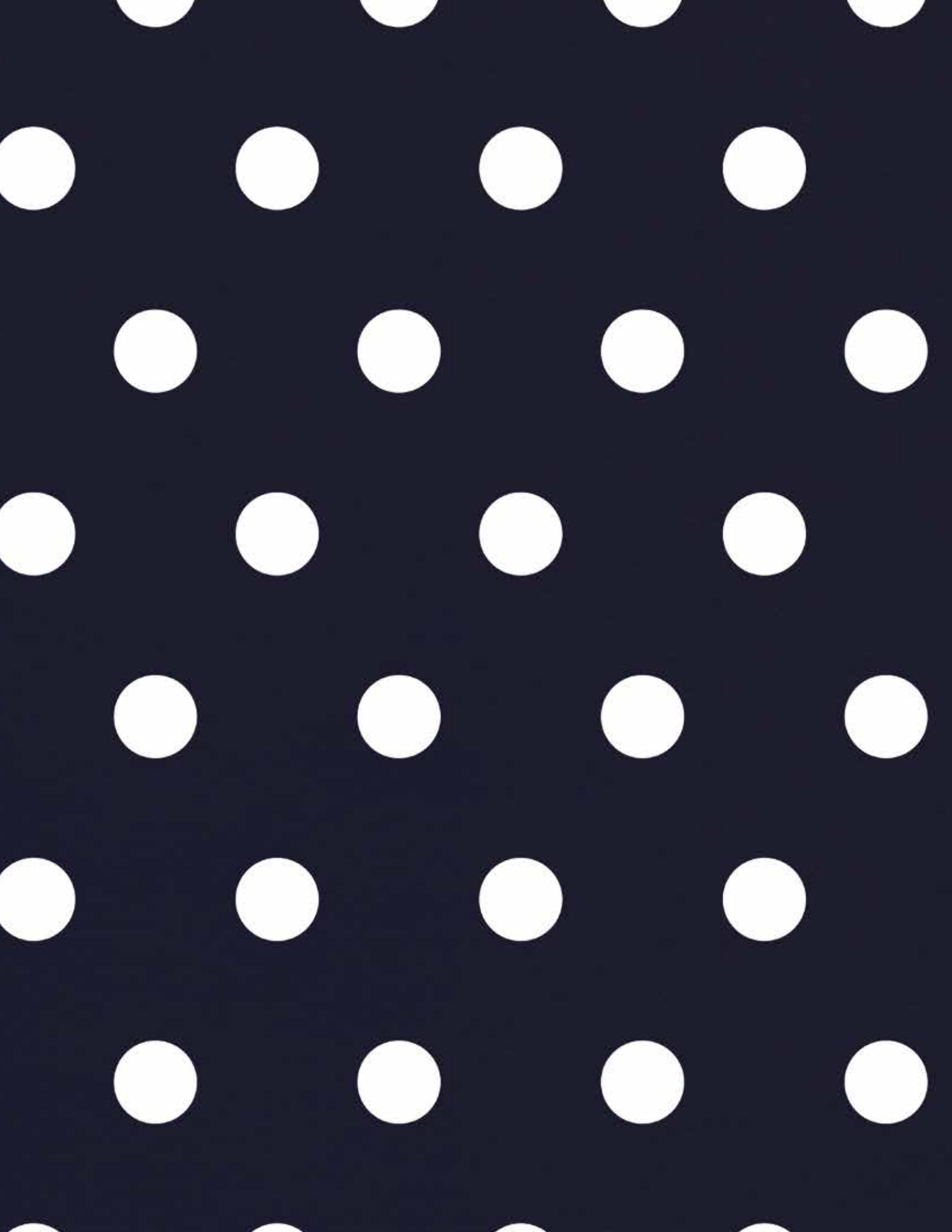
My New Beginning

**You're no
longer strangers
or outsiders.
You belong
here, God
is building
a home.**

Ephesians 2:19 MSG

I made my decision on

at



Next Steps

*To inspire faith and hope and to shape the spiritual and
social architecture through the Word*

How to be sure of your salvation

Can anyone really be sure that they are saved and forgiven and have a new beginning with God after praying a simple prayer? Yes they can! It's really quite simple. The Bible gives us the truth about salvation and we have listed a number of encouraging promises for you to read and place your trust in.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

Romans 10:9-10 NLT

Therefore, if you pray and invite Jesus into your life and believe with all your heart that He is your Saviour, then you are saved. But you might say that you do not 'feel' saved. Well, the Bible again says...

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

John 5:24 NLT

If you feel that you still sin and fail, what then? The Bible goes on to tell us how to respond to sin and failure while God is working in us.

"But if we walk in the light, God Himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins – make a clean breast of them – He won't let us down; He'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing."

1 John 1:7-9 MSG

You now need to walk in faith believing that God is true to His word and that you are saved. In order for you to grow and become all that God has for you in Christ, there are several important steps you will need to take.

Believe that Jesus Christ has come into your life

If you have asked Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Saviour then you can be sure that He will respond and do just that. It is a fact and you will need to trust His promises, not your feelings. Feelings will often lie to us and make us feel we are not saved.

“He came into the very world He created, but the world didn’t recognise Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn - not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.”

John 1:10-13 NLT

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.”

Revelation 3:20-21 NLT

This tells us that we have been saved and accepted by God because of our trust in Jesus - not our performance or works. If you feel unworthy or unsure then it is not because God has not accepted you, but that you have not fully understood that God has justified you in Christ.

Attend a great church regularly

Church is where you can receive the spiritual food that you need to grow in your relationship with God and others. Sitting under good teaching is like food for your soul and will establish you in the things of God.

“They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.”

Acts 2:46-47 MSG

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

Realise that faith saves us and not our good deeds

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.”

Philippians 4:19-20 NLT

As we trust Jesus for eternal life, we can also trust Him for all our needs. By depending on and trusting in Jesus, we are brought to the Father and made right with God. God has good deeds that He wants you to do in order to impact your world, but we don't need to do deeds to be saved and accepted by God. We do good deeds because we have been saved and now want to help others and show the love of God to them.

“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”

Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

Read and pray regularly

Reading the Bible regularly will teach you about God, and praying regularly will help you connect with God and have your needs met. When we pray, God speaks to us; it is not a one-way conversation. You can connect with God about all the issues in your life. For example: your fears, concerns, emotional life, family, marriage, studies, finances, career, habits and all the things that are holding you back from God's best. The Bible has all the practical guidelines you need for living a successful life.

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.”

1 Peter 2:2-3 NLT

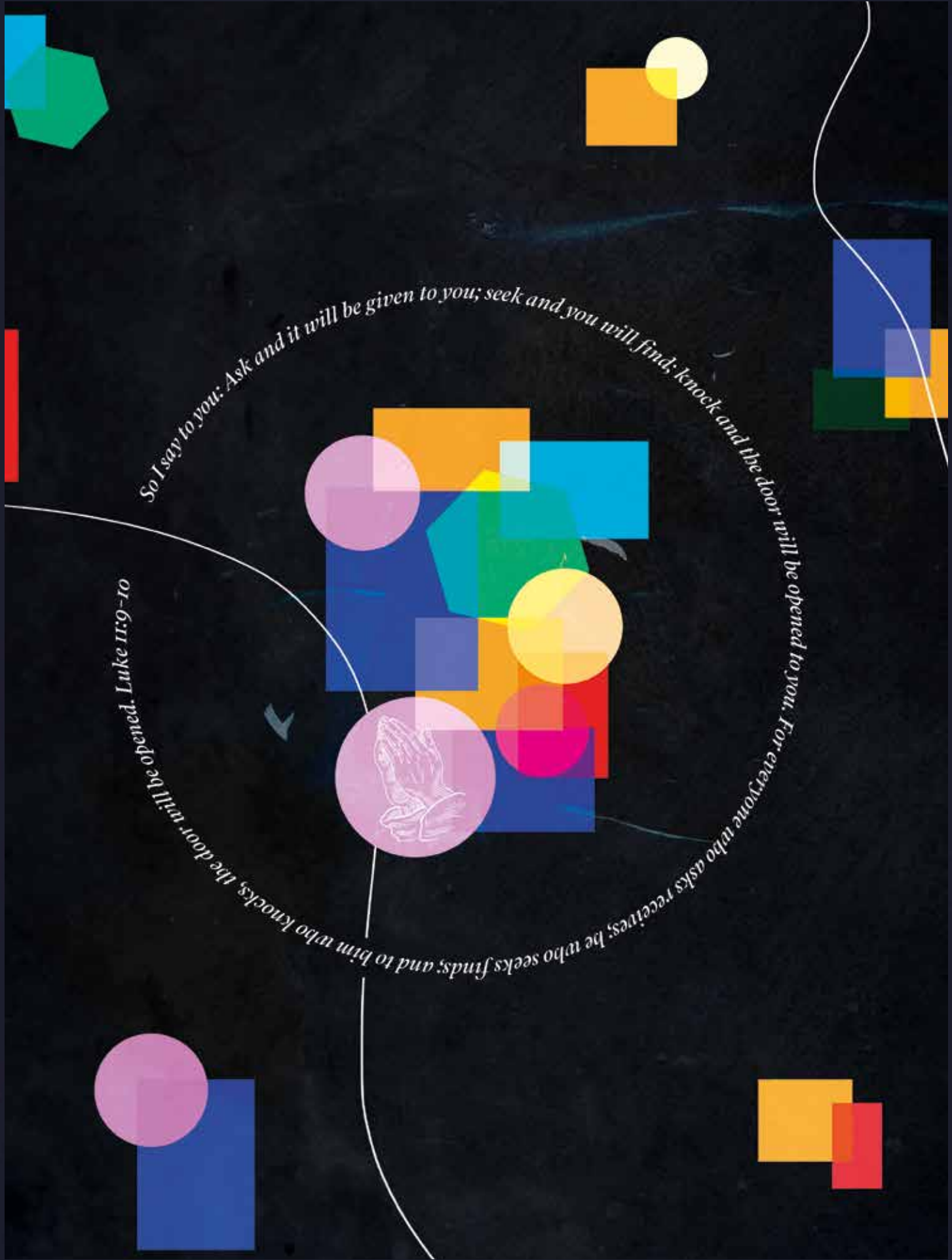
Jesus encourages us to come to God confidently in prayer for anything we need or for any challenge we may be facing. Pray with confidence and boldness, fully expecting God to answer your prayers because you are now one of His children.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Luke 11:9-10 NIV

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Enrol for our foundational courses

Rivers Church offers two courses designed for new believers who would like to learn more about the basics of Christianity and how to grow in the faith. Both courses are valuable in helping you integrate into church life by laying a solid foundation of Christianity upon which you can build your faith. Please visit our website or enquire at the Information Counter for course dates.

"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers."

Acts 2:42 MSG

Stay hungry for God

Often, when we have tasted the goodness of God and God has begun to work in our lives, we can lose our appetite for spiritual things and lose our hunger for God. Don't allow anything to dampen your appetite for God, His Word or His presence and church services.

"Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God's Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren't smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it? Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up!"

Galatians 3:2-4 MSG

Become planted in church

We are planted when we stay plugged into God's House - The Church. Many make a decision for Christ but don't remain planted in God's house. Like a plant we cannot survive if we are uprooted from our spiritual nourishment. Planting comes through partnering with the church and volunteering our time, talents and treasure for building up the church.

"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."

Psalms 1:2-3 NIV

If you stay planted in The Church and established in God then you are sure to grow and flourish, becoming all that God has intended you to be.

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalms 92:12-13 NIV

Sign up for water baptism

Baptism is an outward sign of your inward decision and is the true test of whether you have given your life fully to Christ. Baptism is the commitment to go on with God and be all that He wants you to be. We encourage you to take this step as it is a definite spiritual transition to your next phase in Christianity.

“With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Acts 2:40-41 NIV

“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 6:4 NIV

Trust God with your whole life

God has awesome plans for your life and has had His eyes on you from before you were born. Believe that God is good, and that He does good. Believe and fully trust that God wants to bless you and help you in every area of your life. Pray and ask for your needs to be met.

“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. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. 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. When I awake, I am still with you.”

Psalms 139:1-5, 13-18 NIV

Resource yourself

The Rivers Resource Centre has resources by our senior pastors, as well as carefully selected materials by international authors and speakers to help you grow in faith and knowledge of God.

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

Luke 6:45 NIV

Make sure you attend church regularly to receive as much of the Word of God as possible. We wish you an exciting, fruitful and life-changing walk with the Lord Jesus Christ and a wonderful experience of growing in His church.

Head to the link below to get more information about the decision you've made and to help further explain the steps to become fully established in Christ, and to enjoy a message from Ps André to help you along in your journey.

www.rivers.church/salvation



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