

exists to introduce
EVERYONE to
SESSION Ateach them
to follow Him.



E COM

TURNING POINT CHURCH

the Most IMPORTANT DAY of your life

If you are reading this booklet, it is because you made the decision to place Jesus as the Leader and Forgiver of your life. Today truly is the most important day of your life because it is the beginning of your relationship with God. Your life will begin to change as you learn what it looks like to follow Jesus and be obedient to what the Bible says. This resource has been created to help you do just that. It is our hope and prayer that you would read these pages and let the truth change you from the inside out.

Here are a few truths from the Bible to help you understand what has already happened in your life:

Psalm 103:12 says, He has removed our sin as far from us as the east is from the west." Did you know that if you travel due north, you would eventually reach a point where you begin facing south? However, when you travel east or west, this cannot happen. You will never travel so far east that you begin facing west. That is because east and west will never meet. East and west can never touch. This is how far God has removed our sins from us: completely

and fully, for all time. The sin that separated us from God has been removed completely and forever! That is GOOD news!

Psalm 51:7 says, "Purify me from my sins and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow." Before, when God looked at you, He saw your sin; but now your sins have been forgiven and He sees you whiter than snow. There is no longer a record of your sin; it has been deleted forever. No matter your past, you can rejoice that your sins are 100% gone forever!

God no longer sees your sins, your past, or your mistakes you wish you could undo. He sees you as He sees His own Son. Because Jesus lived a life without sin, and paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross, we can become children of God, too.

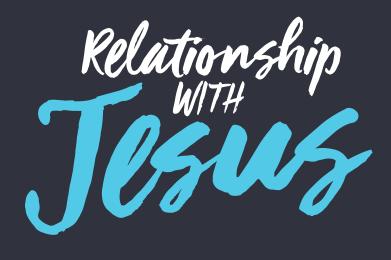
John 1:12 says, But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. And 1 John 3:1 echoes this, "See how very are!" It can be very hard to believe and accept the truth that we are loved unconditionally by God, but that will never change the truth of it! You are loved more than you could ever imagine.

RESPOND

Giving yourself time to sit and think about what the Bible says, helps it come alive in our current situations. Take 2-5 minutes to think about one of the truths that stood out to you today. What truth is hard for you to believe? Ask God to help you believe and accept it more today.







Maybe you're wondering: I accepted Jesus, now what do I do? Am I supposed to feel any different? Will I stop sinning now that I'm a Christian? Those are all good questions, and it sure would be great if we never sinned again after we accepted Jesus as our Savior. Unfortunately that isn't how it works.

Mark 1:7 says, "Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me..."

Jesus didn't invite people into relationship by asking them to wear the "right" clothes, say the "right" words, or feel a certain way. He didn't give people a long list of do's and don'ts. Jesus simply invited people to follow Him. And that is all He invites you to do. Having a relationship with Jesus, simply put, means you follow Him by doing what He did, loving who He loved, obeying His commands, and living the way He lived.

John 15:9-10, Jesus says "As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. 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." When we stay connected to Jesus by following Him and obeying His commands, we remain connected to His love for us. The more we stay connected to God's love, the more our relationship with Jesus will grow.

RESPOND

WWJD once was a cool thing to wear around your wrist, but it really is a great question to ask yourself. Take a few minutes to pause and think about what Jesus would do if He were in your shoes in whatever situation you find yourself. At work, in a conflict with your spouse, when you are hanging out with your friends: what would Jesus do? Do that.

"Come. follow Me..."



Grace is undeserved kindness, love, and favor given to us from God. Grace by definition can never be earned. To earn something means your work or effort deserves a return or reward. But grace is completely undeserved. We don't deserve God's grace, but He gives it to us.

Romans 5:21 says, "So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We are no longer ruled by sin, but rather by God's grace over our lives. Grace has the final word. Grace makes us right with God and leads us to eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Grace is a gift from God that we can never earn. We can't do enough good things to gain more grace and our sin can never make us lose God's grace. We live and walk in grace because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.

2 Corinthians 12:9 says that God's grace is all we need. We can't live a life of following Jesus without God's grace. Through grace we are able to live the life God has called us to live.

RESPOND

In what area of your life do you need to experience more of God's grace? Invite God into the situation and ask Him to help you see His grace in the midst of it.



Grace is a GIFT from GOD that we can never earn.

FORG/VENESS

In the Bible, God tells us over and over our sins are forgiven because of Jesus.

But what is sin and why do we need forgiveness?

We chose to go our own way and reject the ways of God, and this is what the Bible calls sin. Our sin is what separates us from God. Sin reveals itself in selfish attitudes, disobeying God, and wrong choices. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. (Romans 3:23)

We deserved death because of our sin, but God intervened for us.

Ephesians 1:7 says, "He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins."

It is through Jesus alone that we receive forgiveness. Without Jesus dying on the cross, we could not be forgiven. But what does forgiveness look like? When God forgave us, He took away our burdens and sins and carried them Himself. He let them go as if they have never been committed!

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!
Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
-Psalm 32:1-2

RESPOND

When we believe that our sins have been taken away, it really is such a joy! Take a minute to thank God for all the ways He has forgiven you.

But what is SIN & WHY do we need forgiveness?

a New Identity

When we believe and accept Jesus into our life and experience the forgiveness of our sins, we become a brand new person. God sees us as He sees His Son: completely accepted and absolutely loved. We need to begin to see ourselves the way God does.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

God no longer see the old us! The old life is gone and we are now God's children.

Colossians 3:10 says, "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him."

Seeing yourself as a new person may not happen overnight, but it truly is who you are! The goal is to become like Jesus, and it will not happen overnight – it's a journey!

RESPOND

Part of growing in who you are in Christ is to continually remind yourself who God says you are. Cut this out and tape it in a place you can read it daily!

I am an awesome spirit being of magnificent worth as a person.

I am deeply, deeply loved by God.__

I am totally pleasing to God, inwardly perfect like God and completely accepted by God.

And when my inward person is reflected through my own outward performance
I am dynamically unique.

There is nobody like me, there never has been, and there never will be.

I am one of a kind.

I am blood bought and I belong to Jesus.



Missing the Mark

Our Sin and GOD'S HOLINESS

We talked about sin a few pages back when we learned about forgiveness, but you may still be wondering why sin necessitates salvation. The Bible teaches that God is holy, meaning He is absolutely perfect and without sin. He is the source of holiness. He is also just. He is always right and never wrong. Being absolutely holy and just, He has to condemn sin. He cannot allow sin to go unpunished; it would go against His holy nature.

God's justice is the practical expression of His holiness. The consequence of our un-holiness is that our sin has to be punished. And therein lies the problem, because as much as God is perfect, we are not. We need to be saved because sin separates us from God.

Sin can be defined as "missing the mark."

If you have ever tried archery or darts, you know how difficult it is to hit the bull's-eye. The point of this expression is that not only do you miss the bull's-eye, but in fact you miss the target entirely! Sin has devastated our ability to reach out to God and to receive His favor in our own efforts.

The good news is the story doesn't end here. God is for you and He has great things in store for you!

RESPOND

What areas of your life make you feel a little off-target right now? In what areas do you feel like you're completely missing the mark? Know that you're not alone in your imperfection and everyone has areas in which they need to improve. God is not done with you!



Because of the cross, the story doesn't end with our sin. Before the Cross, you were dead in your sin and separated from God. Because of the cross, you were given a new life and freedom from sin and connected to God forever.

Jesus' death on the cross accomplished our salvation completely because Jesus endured that death willingly on our behalf. We have four needs that are met only by Jesus' work on the cross:

First, Jesus' death is the perfect sacrifice. The debt we owed from our sin required a perfect sacrifice. Jesus stepped in and paid it, willingly.

Second, His death is the payment for the debt we owed and couldn't pay ourselves. Jesus paid it with His life.

Third, the work of the cross created reconciliation between God and sinners. Remember, because of our sin, we used to be separated from God. The cross bridged that gap.

Finally, Jesus' work on the cross was a work of redemption because it rescued us from sin and death. Jesus brought us from death to life. We have been redeemed!

RESPOND

We can't fix our situations and redeem the past on our own. We are completely dependent on Jesus stepping in for us. In Hebrews, it says, "for the joy set before Him (Jesus), He endured the cross." Jesus willingly went to the cross because of the joy of relationship with you. Take a minute to let that truth sink in and thank God for it.





Prayer is simply talking to God. Prayer is how we connect with God. It is our direct line of communication with Him. We pray to develop our relationship with God. For a relationship to be healthy, there must be communication, right?

If we never spoke to our spouse, parents, or friends, or never listened to anything anyone had to say to us, our relationships would deteriorate. A relationship can only grow with open and honest communication.

It's the same way with God. Through prayer, we grow closer to God and connect with Him more.

Ephesians 3:12 says, "Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence." Because of Jesus we can talk to God and confidently believe He hears us!

RESPOND

If God knows every detail of our life and nothing is hidden from Him, why do you think prayer is an important part of our relationship with God?

"I (Jesus) tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours."

—Mark 11:24



God wants us to talk to Him in the same way we would have a personal conversation with a friend. It may be hard to envision talking to someone you can't see, hear, or touch, but communication with God is possible – and necessary!

The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "Never stop praying".

You can pray out loud or silently, anywhere and anytime. Close your eyes or don't. Head bowed or not. There's no right or wrong way to pray, God just wants you talk to Him about everything in your life on a regular basis.

He wants to hear from you as often as possible. Why? Because He loves you more than you could ever realize and wants to be a part of every detail of your life!

RESPOND

The best way to pray is simply to pray! There's no right or wrong way, but here is a model that might help you get started: just remember A.C.T.S.

A is for Adoration

- Tell God how much you love Him.

C is for Confession

- Ask God for forgiveness for missing the mark.

T is for Thanksgiving

- Thank God for all the things He's done for you and given to you.

S is for Supplication

 Tell God what you need and ask Him for those things, no matter how small. Pray for your family, friends, and community, your church, our leaders, and our country.

The 19414 Battle

You entered into a relationship with God and are a new person. All your sins have been washed away. So you'll never sin again, right? Unfortunately, it doesn't work like that.

The Bible says we have two natures inside us that are at war against each other: the spirit and the flesh, and it's a daily battle between the two. The spirit is the inner and eternal part of you that wants to follow God's way and be pleasing to Him.

The flesh is your old sinful nature inside of you, the part of you that is selfish and wants the opposite of the spirit. So how do we fight the daily battle of our fleshly desires and live a life that pleases God?

The Bible tells us, as we seek God, we will find Him. Psalm 119:10-11 says it this way, "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You."

When we seek God and read His Word, we learn what God expects of us and we can find the strength we need to follow His ways. The more we know God and the more we know what He asks of us, the easier it becomes to follow the spirit over the flesh.

RESPOND

The truth of the matter is we will mess up. No one is perfect, and God knows that. He is quick to forgive and His love never runs out on us. When you fail, go to Him and ask for forgiveness and do all you can to do better the next time.

So how do we FlGHT the PAILY BATTLE of our FLESHLY DESIRES and live a life that PLEASES GOD?





Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision. Being baptized is a tangible way to publicly identify yourself as a follower of Jesus. Even Jesus Himself was baptized.

"Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk Him out of it, 'I am the one who needs to be baptized by You,' he said, 'so why are You coming to me?' But Jesus said, 'It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.' So John agreed to baptize Him." (Matthew 3:13-15)

Because Jesus was baptized, we know it is an important step in our relationship with God.

In baptism, we identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus and publicly profess our faith in Him. Baptism is the next step after accepting Jesus into our lives.

RESPOND

There is no better way to celebrate your new relationship with God than baptism. To get more info and to RSVP for the next baptism, go to www.tpob.org/baptism





When we accept Jesus and begin to follow Him, not only do we become a new person on the inside, but the outside will begin to change as you grow in who God made you to be.

We are given a brand new beginning, a fresh start in God!

Because of our salvation a few things happen to give us that new beginning:

1. YOU BECOME A CHILD OF GOD.

Your sin no longer identifies you, but you now have God as your Father who loves you perfectly and calls you His son or daughter.

2. YOUR ETERNITY IS WITH JESUS IN HEAVEN.

Heaven is the final destination of every follow of Jesus. The Bible says we are "heirs with Christ", meaning everything that belongs to Jesus will be given to us as well.

3. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US.

The Spirit of God lives inside every believer and brings comfort, conviction, and guidance. We no longer have to walk alone because the Spirit of God is always with us.

4. YOU HAVE A NEW FAMILY.

Just as crazy as it would be for a newborn to survive on his own, as a new child of God, we can't survive on our own either. We are welcomed into the family of God and find support and help and love from the local Church, God's family, as we grow in our relationship with Jesus.

5. YOU ARE GIVEN PURPOSE.

Jesus left us with a job to do. Ephesians 2:10 says, "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." God created us and made us a certain way to do the good things He planned for us.

RESPOND

Taking hold of your new beginning in God takes time and grace. Don't expect all your problems to disappear today or for life to be sunshine and flowers all the time. You may still be affected by the past, but today is a new day as far as God is concerned. Take some time to let go of past mistakes and ask God



In Luke 15:11-32, we find the story of the Prodigal Son. It is often used to teach us how God love us and treats us as His children.

The son went to his father, asking for his inheritance so he could leave his father's house and live his life how he wanted. In short, he was saying to his father, "I wish you were dead".

The father willingly gave his son his inheritance and the son left and squandered all the money he had. A famine came and he was so desperate for food, he craved the scraps the pigs were eating! He realized his father's servants were eating better than he was, so he decided to go back home.

He planned to apologize to his father and beg to become a servant in his house. When his father saw him coming, he ran to him and welcomed his son home with open arms. He threw a party because his son was no longer dead, but alive and back home.

And that is exactly what God does for us. When we come home, God runs to us, celebrates, and welcomes us with open arms.

RESPOND

When you think about how God thinks about you, do you imagine Him celebrating you and throwing a party on your behalf? If you don't, you should! God delights in you and is so happy to call you His son or daughter!

When we COME HOME, God runs to us, CELEBRATES, & welcomes us with open arms.





Ephesians 2:5 says, "that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)"

We have been given new life in Christ that will never fade, and like Ephesians 2 says, it is only by God's grace. We did nothing to receive our new life. Our eternity is in Jesus because He bought it for us when He went to the cross.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 says, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." Because we have the Spirit of God in us, we are sealed in Him and have a sure eternity in Heaven.

RESPOND

Heaven is our destination for every follower of Jesus. The Bible says that in Heaven, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Revelation 21:4) How amazing will that be?!





Few things in life have more power to affect our values, priorities, and decisions than the people who surround us. We truly do become like the people we hang around.

When we accept Jesus, we become a part of God's family, the Church. Maybe you think of church as the building, but the Bible refers to the followers of Jesus as the Church. And one of the best ways to connect to the family of God is through a life group in the local Church. A Life Group helps the big church feel small and gives you the opportunity to find authentic community and Christ-centered conversation.

Hebrews 10:24-25 shows the heart of a Small Group: "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."

Through Life Group, we motivate each other to do the good things God planned for us, and encourage and support one another through hard times.

Following Jesus is not meant to be done alone. God made us for relationships and we will experience more of His love and plan for our lives when we learn to do life with other followers of Jesus.

RESPOND

Are you in a Small Group? If not, take the next step and ask God to help you find a group that would be a great fit for you. To find a group, go to www.tpob.org/small-groups

"life is RELATIONSHIPS. The rest is just details."

- GARY SMALLEY



The Bible tells us there is one true God who exists in three Persons: God the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who we have been given as a seal of our salvation and He lives inside of us. Through the Holy Spirit, we have constant connection to God and through Him we receive the power and wisdom of God that we need.

The Holy Spirit has a few specific roles that He plays in the life of every believer:

- 1. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. (Romans 8:26)
- 2. The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of God's Word. (John 14:26)
- 3. The Holy Spirit works through prayer. When we don't know what to pray, the Spirit helps us. (Romans 8:26)
- 4. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus' purpose for your life. The purpose of your

life is to live for Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to love God and other people.

5. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. In John 15:8-11, it talks about how the Spirit convicts us of sin to make us more like Jesus. As our sin becomes more apparent in our life, the Holy Spirit helps us turn away from sin and turn to God.

RESPOND

When you accept Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. You have access to all of God and everything you need is found in Him. Where do you need wisdom or power today to follow God? Ask God to make you more aware of His presence in your life and invite Him into the details of your life.

GOD'S WORD

The ancient world prized honey; it was their chief sweetener. Jewish rabbis, or teachers, would sometimes take honey and put it on the fingers of their students so they could taste it and be reminded that God's words are magnificent and attractive, like honey. Psalm 119:103 even declares, "How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey."

The Bible is called the Word of God. It is literally God's words to us. God speaks to us in His Word, the Bible. As we read it more and more we are able to hear His heart for us and know the path He wants us to take. As we read it and apply it to our life, it will become like honey to our souls.

Psalm 119:105 also says this of God's Word: "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." God directs our steps with His Word.

God's Word brings encouragement, hope, guidance, and clarity as we read what He says to us. Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever." Everything in our life changes all the time, but God's Word will never change.

Respond

God wants to speak to us through His Word, so we have to read His Word to hear what He is saying to us. Reading through the Bible may feel like a daunting task, but don't let that deter you from jumping in! Tomorrow we will talk through the details of reading the Bible!



Everything in our life CHANGES ALL THE TIME. but God's Word will NEVER CHANGE.



How Do I Read THE BIBLE?

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."

Every verse and every book has been inspired by God. And the more we read and know it, the more we will know what God is saying to us.

Here are some common questions when it comes to reading the Bible...

Why are there two parts to the Bible?

The Bible is composed of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament talks about the time before Jesus was born and sets the framework for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that was to come. It even tells of things that are still yet to come. The New Testament begins with the coming of Jesus and then tells of His life and the life of the Church.

There are so many translations, which do I choose?

There are so many different translations of the Bible. Pick one that is easy for you to read and understand. Don't let the translation of the Bible get in the way and make it difficult to comprehend. Let the translation help you! The verses that you have read in this book have come from the New Living Translation. What's most important is that you are reading the Bible! Just find one you like to read!

Where do I start?

The Bible is very unique in that new believers would be best served by not starting at the beginning. One of the best books to start with would be one of the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, of John. These books recount the life and ministry of Jesus. Romans or James would be a great book to move to next. Don't shy away from resources when it comes to reading the Bible. Study guides and devotionals can help walk you through a specific book and understand what God is saying.

RESPOND

One of the best things you can do every day is to set aside 5-10 minutes to read the Bible. Before you open your Bible, pray this prayer: "God, I want to hear from You today. Open my ears to hear You and speak to me through Your Word."

Pick one of the Gospels and read a few verses or one chapter at a time. Take your time as you read, and stop to think about and respond to any verse that sticks out to you. It may be God speaking to your life.



Worship is a major theme in the Bible and can be experienced in many different ways.

Acts 2 talks about the early church that met together in one place for prayer and to praise God. In fact, Acts 2:42 says they were devoted to meeting together.

Times of worship often included prayer, praising God, reading the Bible together, hearing a teaching from the Bible, and sharing Communion.

Communion is a meal believers share together. Jesus initiated the concept of Communion the night before He died. He explained the wine represented His blood that would be poured out, and the bread represented His body. When we take Communion, we do it to remember the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross and the freedom that is ours as a result.

Giving is also a form of worship. Early believers gave a portion of their income to God and to help those in need. They offered their tithes (tithe means ten percent) and offerings to God in worship as a way to say that everything belongs to God and everything comes from Him. We give cheerfully and we trust God to take care of us in the process.

RESPOND

Worship is our response to who God is. Through worship we connect to God and turn our attention to Him. Think about an activity you could do to make you feel closer to God. Try to do it at least one time this week.





Matthew 20:26-28 says this of serving others: "But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."

One of the greatest truths that Jesus taught and lived out is serving others. While He lived on earth and even through His death, He lived to serve others and put their needs above His own. He even washed His disciples' feet as a way to show that we should be willing to help meet the lowliest needs of the people in our life. Jesus came to serve others – not to be served, and He calls us to do the same.

RESPOND

We serve others as a way to reflect the loving nature of God to those around us. There are an infinite number of ways to serve other people. Today, look for ways that you can serve the people around you.

JESUS came to SERVE OTHERS - not to be served -& HE CALLS US to do the sume.

Next Steps

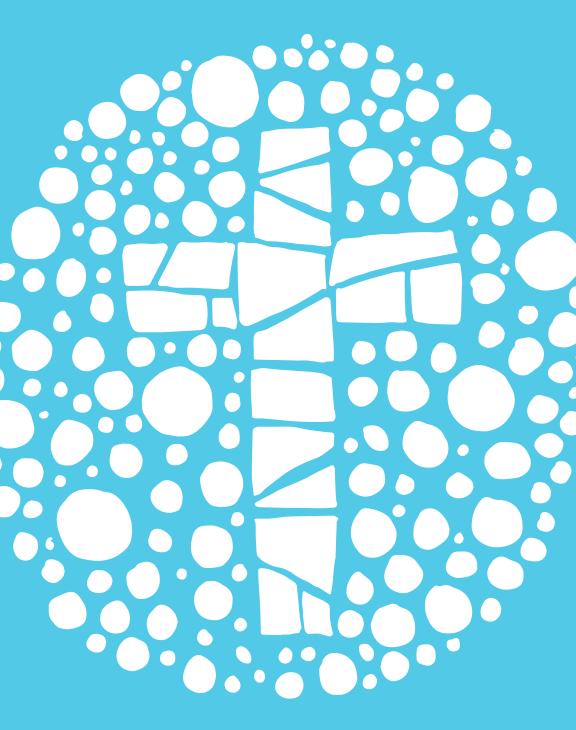
When we confess Jesus is the Leader of our life, we receive a new mission for life. You have a part to play in the Kingdom of God! We no longer live for ourselves, but we live for God. So what is our next step?

One of the greatest ways you can learn to take on a new mission in life and follow the plan the God has for you, is to get connected to and be a part of the Church. You are a needed piece of the puzzle and your gifts, talents, and experiences are needed! God has a role that only you can play, and when we all come together to do what only we can do, God moves through us to reach a broken world. You have a part to play!



RESPOND

If you've recently made a decision to follow Christ, want to build a strong foundation for your faith, or are new to Turning Point Church, we invite you to start your journey through Next Steps. There are many things you can choose to do as your next step. You can join Fresh Start, Growth Track, join a small group or find a place to serve. Please visit our Next Steps page for more information: www.tpob.org/next-steps



Yow are a needed PIECE of the puzzle We sincerely hope this resource helped you in the beginning of your journey to know God and walk with Him in your life. Keep this as a guide to go back to and continue to apply these truths in your life.

We are praying for you and are here for you as you continue in your journey with God!





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