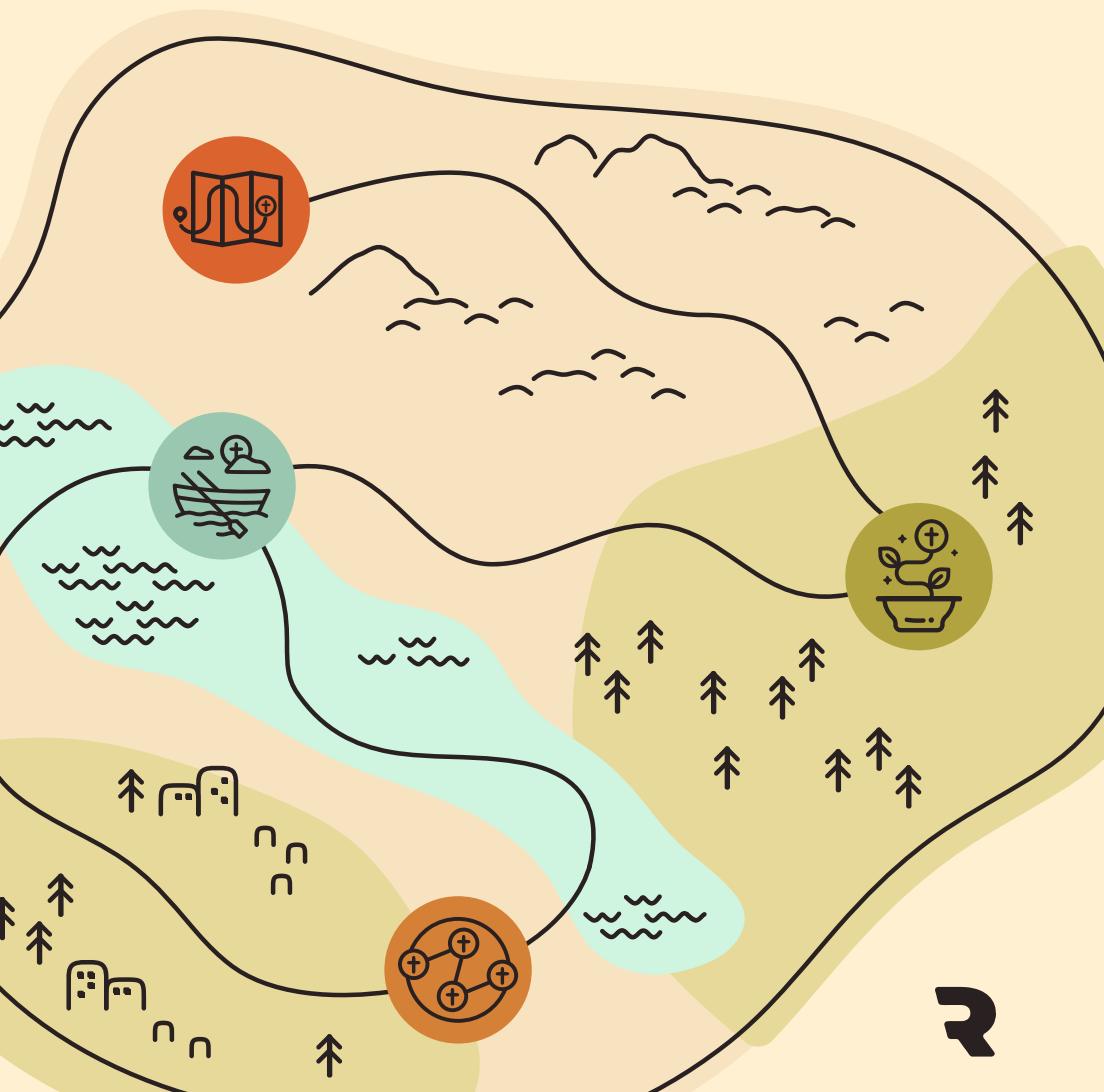


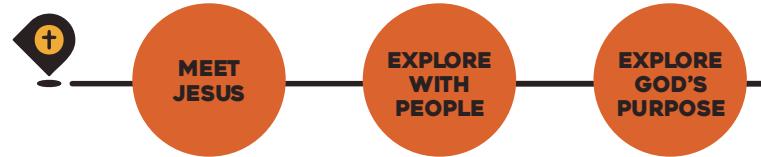


# DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY





# DISCOVER



## EXPLORING FAITH & BEGINNING THE JOURNEY.

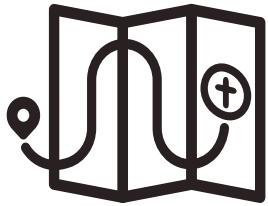
The Discover stage is where spiritual curiosity awakens. Something is stirring inside you—a desire to understand who Jesus is, what Jesus taught, and what it means to have faith. This is a season of investigation, questions, and awakening.

Spiritually, you may be moving from indifference toward openness. You're curious about the Bible, have started to attend church, or talk with others about faith. You're becoming more aware of your need for something more—something beyond yourself.

**The goal of this stage is encounter.** It's about seeing Jesus clearly, understanding the truth of the gospel, and recognizing your need for a Savior. This stage creates space to explore before committing, while God draws your heart through the invitation: "Come and see."

Faith doesn't begin with certainty—it begins with a willingness to seek. Jesus welcomes questions, doubts, and honest searching. The Discover stage gives you space to **investigate the claims of Christ, experience the warmth of Christian community, and begin to explore deeper purpose in your life.**

This stage lays the groundwork for everything that comes next. You can't follow someone you don't first encounter—and **discovering Jesus is the invitation into life that's truly life.**



# YOUR DISCOVER JOURNEY



## MEET JESUS IN THE BIBLE

Open the Word to hear His voice, see His life, & discover His heart.



## EXPLORE FAITH THROUGH ALPHA

Walk with others asking questions and discovering who Jesus is.



## COME TO CHURCH REGULARLY

Gather with God's people to grow in faith and purpose.



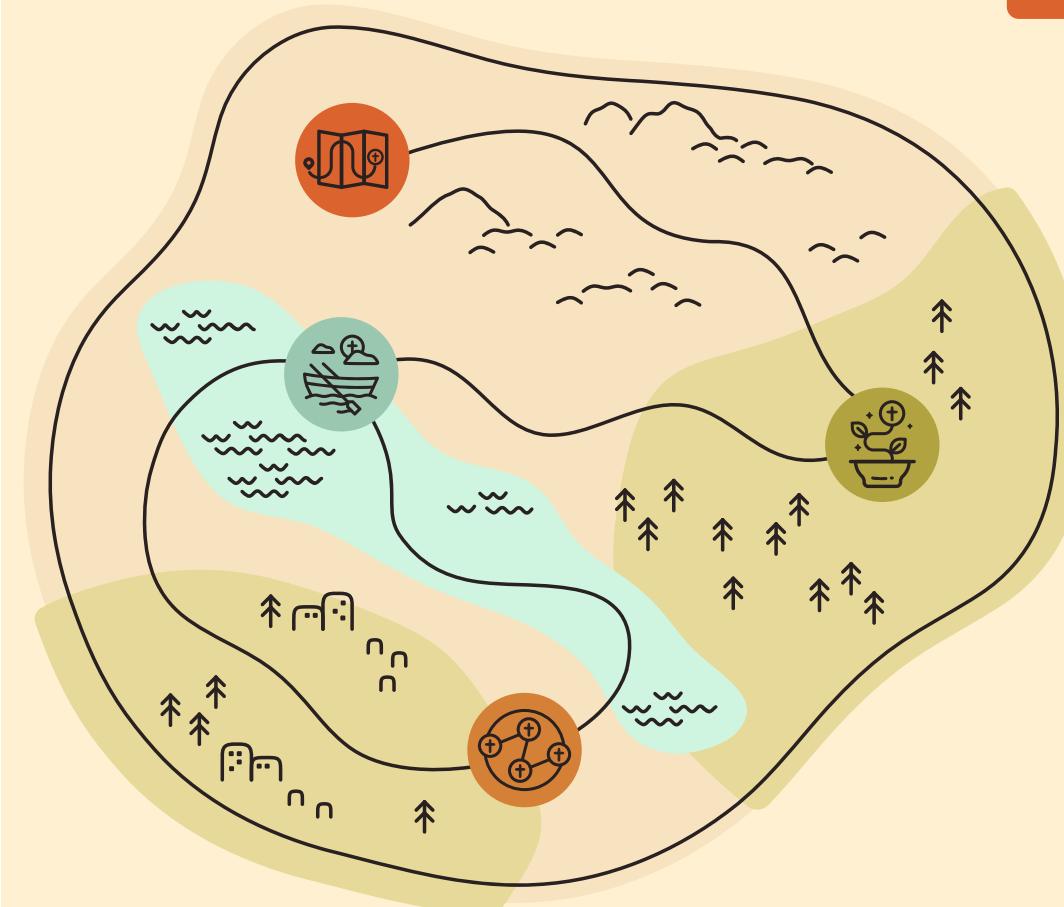
## SAY YES TO JESUS

The heart of discovery is surrendering to Him as Savior and Lord.



## GET BAPTIZED

Declare your faith publicly and step deeper into life with Jesus.





# MEET JESUS

The center of Christianity isn't a set of rules, rituals, or even beliefs—it's a person: Jesus Christ. He is the one who brings clarity to our confusion, purpose to our wandering, and hope to our brokenness. Your first step isn't to behave better or believe harder—it's to **meet Jesus as He really is**. And when you do, you'll see that He's more gracious, powerful, and life-giving than you ever imagined.

Your journey begins with an invitation to encounter Jesus through the written Word of God. To open the Scriptures, read His words, and examine His life. To see how He loved the outcast, welcomed the skeptic, confronted injustice, revealed the Kingdom, and laid down His life to rescue ours.

Meeting Jesus doesn't just add something to your life.  
**IT REDEFINES IT.**

**"IN THE BIBLE GOD TELLS US ABOUT HIMSELF, AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE INCARNATION OF GOD. THE BIBLE UNFOLDS THE LAW OF GOD TO US AND SHOWS US HOW WE'VE ALL BROKEN IT.**

**THERE WE LEARN HOW CHRIST DIED AS A SINLESS, WILLING SUBSTITUTE FOR BREAKERS OF GOD'S LAW AND HOW WE MUST REPENT AND BELIEVE IN HIM TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD.**

**IN THE BIBLE WE LEARN THE WAYS AND WILL OF THE LORD. WE FIND IN SCRIPTURE HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE, AND WHAT BRINGS THE MOST JOY AND SATISFACTION IN LIFE. NONE OF THIS ETERNALLY ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE EXCEPT THE BIBLE.**

**THEREFORE IF WE WOULD KNOW GOD AND BE GODLY, WE MUST KNOW THE WORD OF GOD—INTIMATELY."**

*Donald S. Whitney*

## PIVOTAL STEP #1

# MEET JESUS IN THE BIBLE

The Bible is not just a book—it's **God's chosen way of revealing Himself** to the world. Through it, He speaks. Through it, He invites us to know His heart, understand His plan, and see the beauty of His Son, Jesus. That's why the critical step in this phase is simple but powerful: **start reading the Bible—maybe for the first time.**

### MEET JESUS. UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL. BEGIN THE JOURNEY.

We've chosen **two books from the New Testament aimed at helping you discover who Jesus is**, what He's all about, and what it means to follow Him. We'll begin with **the Gospel of John**, a front-row seat to Jesus' life, love, and mission. Then we'll turn to **Colossians**, a short letter that reveals the **power, identity, and fullness of Jesus**—and how life changes when He becomes the center.

We've also provided **a guide that focuses on how Scripture speaks to the real-life needs we all face**—things like anxiety, loneliness, anger, purpose, and doubt. We've grouped selected passages topically so you can discover how God's Word meets you right where you are. Wherever life finds you, Jesus wants to meet you there.

These Scriptures are more than good advice—they point you back to the One who is your true hope, strength, and provider. Keep coming back to Him in these verses, at your own pace, in every season. As you do, you'll find that He is faithful to guide, encourage, and grow you.

As you read, start taking notes of what you're learning and what stands out to you in a journal or on the note pages provided on pages 50-53.

## WHAT TRANSLATION SHOULD I USE?

**GRAB AN NIV OR NLT BIBLE TRANSLATION.** If you're reading the Bible for the first time, we recommend starting with either the NIV (New International Version) or the NLT (New Living Translation). Both use clear, modern language—making them accessible to understand without losing meaning. Either one will help you focus on what matters most: meeting Jesus through His Word.

## HOW DO I FIND A REFERENCE IN MY BIBLE?

Every Bible has a Table of Contents near the beginning. Look up the book name, turn to that page, then find the chapter and verse. Bible references are like GPS coordinates—they help you find exactly where a passage is located. The Bible isn't one long book; it's a library of 66 books written by multiple authors over centuries. So, to make it easier to navigate, each book is divided into chapters and verses. A reference like **John 3:16** breaks down like this:

**BOOK** – The name of the book (e.g., John)

**CHAPTER** – The big number (e.g., 3)

**VERSE** – The small number within the chapter (e.g., 16)

You'll find that this system makes it easy to locate any verse, study specific topics, and follow along in sermons or devotionals.

## I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible Project has made a series of videos explaining what the Bible is and how to read it. If you're a visual learner, it might be helpful for you to spend some time watching videos from that series. **Scan the QR Code to go to the link of videos.**



# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JESUS IS GOD'S SON & HE CAME TO GIVE YOU LIFE

If you want to get to know Jesus, this is the place to start. John helps us see who Jesus truly is: God in the flesh, full of love, grace, and truth. His gospel is written so “**that you may believe and have life in His name**” (John 20:31). As you read, watch how Jesus treats people. Notice how He reveals the heart of God. And pay attention to how He invites ordinary people—people like you and me—to believe and follow Him.



### READ

- John 1 Jesus is the Word who became flesh
- John 2 Jesus brings joy and new beginnings
- John 3 Jesus came to give eternal life
- John 4 Jesus meets us in our thirst
- John 5 Jesus heals and brings life
- John 6 Jesus is the Bread of Life
- John 7 People wrestle with who Jesus is
- John 8 Jesus is the Light of the World
- John 9 Jesus gives sight to the blind
- John 10 Jesus is the Good Shepherd
- John 11 Jesus has power over death
- John 12 Jesus is the servant King
- John 13 Jesus leads through love and service
- John 14 Jesus is the way, the truth, the life
- John 15 Stay connected to Jesus to bear fruit
- John 16 Jesus prepares us for trouble and hope
- John 17 Jesus prays for His followers
- John 18 Jesus willingly faces injustice
- John 19 Jesus dies to save the world
- John 20 Jesus rises in victory over death
- John 21 Jesus restores and sends His disciples

### THEME TO LOOK FOR

# THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

## JESUS IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING THIS WORLD OFFERS AND HE'S ALL YOU NEED.

Once you've met Jesus, you begin to realize He's not just a good teacher—He's everything. Colossians gives us a big-picture view of who Jesus is: the Creator of all things, the center of all things, and the one who holds everything together (Colossians 1:15–20).

And here's the amazing part: this powerful Jesus loves you. You don't need anything else to be right with God—Jesus is enough.

### READ

- Colossians 1 Jesus is supreme over all creation
- Colossians 2 Stay rooted in Jesus, not religion
- Colossians 3 Let the new life in Christ shape you
- Colossians 4 Live wisely and speak graciously

### THEME TO LOOK FOR

## REAL-LIFE NEEDS

### GOD'S WORD MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

Another way to read the scriptures when you're just starting out, is to search for how it speaks to this current moment and season in your life. What you'll find is that the Bible is God's living Word, and it speaks directly to the real struggles, questions, and desires we experience every day.

So we've put together a helpful guide for where to go to seek God's truth for some of the questions you may have or challenges you may be facing. Wherever you are, God's Word has something to say.



## PEACE FOR YOUR MIND & HEART

Life can weigh heavy on our minds and hearts. Worry, sadness, anger, and doubt often creep in, leaving us restless and unsettled. Yet God promises a peace that the world cannot give—a peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As we turn to His Word, we discover that peace is not found in changing circumstances but in drawing near to the One who never changes.

### ANXIETY & WORRY

God invites you to release our burdens and trust in His faithful care.

#### READ

- Matthew 6:25–34 Trust God's provision instead of chasing worry
- Psalm 46 God is our refuge in chaos and fear
- Philippians 4:4–9 Pray, give thanks, and receive God's peace
- 1 Peter 5:6–11 Cast your cares on Him—He cares for you

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### DEPRESSION & SADNESS

Even in the darkest valleys, God is near and His love never fails.

#### READ

- Psalm 42–43 Hope in God when the soul feels downcast
- Lamentations 3 God's mercies are new every morning
- 1 Kings 19:1–18 God strengthens the weary and discouraged
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–11 God comforts us so we can comfort others

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### DOUBT & QUESTIONING FAITH

God meets you in your doubts and draws you into deeper trust.

#### READ

- John 20:24–31 Jesus meets doubters with grace and truth
- Mark 9:14–29 Faith grows as we cry, "Help my unbelief!"
- Psalm 73 God is our strength when doubts overwhelm
- Jude 1:17–25 God keeps us from stumbling in faith

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PEACE & REST

When you're weary and overwhelmed, God offers rest for your soul.

#### READ

- Matthew 11:25–30 Jesus gives rest to the weary
- Psalm 23 God leads us into green pastures of peace
- Isaiah 26:1–9 Perfect peace for those who trust God
- Mark 4:35–41 Jesus calms the storms within and without

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### ANGER & FRUSTRATION

God shapes your emotions and teaches you to respond with grace & wisdom.

#### READ

- Ephesians 4:25–32 Put away bitterness; forgive as Christ forgave
- Psalm 37:1–11 Don't be provoked; trust God's justice
- James 1:19–27 Be quick to listen, slow to anger
- Jonah 4 God's mercy challenges our anger

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR



## HEALING FOR THE SOUL & RELATIONSHIPS

We were created for connection—with God and with others. Yet in a broken world, we often carry wounds of loneliness, conflict, shame, and rejection. These struggles can leave us questioning our worth or straining to find peace in relationships. But God promises healing for our souls and restoration in our relationships through the power of His love and grace.

### FORGIVENESS

God freely forgives—and calls you to extend that same grace to others.

#### READ

- Matthew 18:21–35
- Psalm 32
- Ephesians 4:25–32
- Luke 7:36–50

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Forgive as you've been forgiven
- The joy of confessed sin and forgiven guilt
- Put away bitterness; walk in forgiveness
- Forgiven much, we love much

### RELATIONSHIPS & CONFLICT

God shows how to pursue peace, reconciliation, and love in our relationships.

#### READ

- Romans 12:9–21
- Matthew 5:21–48
- Colossians 3:12–17
- James 3:13–18; 4:1–10

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Overcome evil with good; live peaceably
- Be reconciled; love even your enemies
- Clothe yourself with love and patience
- Humility overcomes quarrels and pride

### IDENTITY & SELF-WORTH

Your value isn't based on what you do but who you are in Christ.

#### READ

- Psalm 139
- Ephesians 1:3–14
- 1 Peter 2:9–12
- Romans 8:14–17

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- You are wonderfully made and known by God
- Chosen, adopted, redeemed in Christ
- You are God's people, set apart to proclaim Him
- You are children of God, heirs with Christ

### GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE

God's love is deeper than your shame and stronger than your sin.

#### READ

- Romans 8:31–39
- Luke 15:1–32
- Ephesians 3:14–21
- Zephaniah 3:14–17

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- Nothing can separate us from God's love
- The Father runs to welcome His lost children
- God's love surpasses knowledge
- God delights in you with singing

### LONELINESS

You are not alone—God is with you and invites you into His family.

#### READ

- Psalm 139
- John 14:15–27
- 2 Timothy 4:9–18
- Isaiah 41:8–13

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

- God knows you fully and is always near
- The Spirit is our constant Comforter
- The Lord stands by us when others leave
- God upholds us with His righteous hand



## PURPOSE FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD

God never calls us to simply drift through life. He created us with intention, placing us in this time and place to live for His glory and the good of others. Yet it's easy to lose sight of that calling—whether through distraction, discouragement, or doubt. Scripture reminds us that our lives have meaning because they are anchored in Christ, who gives us both direction and strength for the journey ahead.

### HOPE & ENCOURAGEMENT

Even when life is hard, God offers real and lasting hope.

#### READ

- Romans 8:18–39 Future glory far outweighs present suffering
- Isaiah 40:27–31 God renews the strength of the weary
- 2 Corinthians 4:7–18 Our troubles are temporary, His glory eternal
- Psalm 27 The Lord is our light and stronghold

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### TRUSTING GOD IN UNCERTAINTY

When the future feels unclear, God invites us to trust His plans.

#### READ

- Proverbs 3:1–12 Trust in the Lord, He will guide your paths
- Genesis 22:1–19 God provides when faith is tested
- Exodus 14 God makes a way when there seems to be none
- Matthew 6:25–34 Seek God's kingdom and let go of worry

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PURPOSE & DIRECTION

Your life has meaning—God has called you for a reason.

#### READ

- Jeremiah 29:4–14 God's plans are for hope and a future
- Proverbs 3:1–12 Wisdom and trust lead to straight paths
- Ephesians 2:1–10 Created in Christ for good works
- Acts 20:17–24 Live to finish the mission God has given

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### FINANCIAL STRESS & PROVISION

God sees your needs and provides with wisdom and generosity.

#### READ

- Matthew 6:19–34 Store treasure in heaven; God will provide
- Philippians 4:10–20 Contentment and confidence in God's supply
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 God blesses generosity with abundance
- Psalm 37:1–26 Trust in the Lord's provision and timing

#### THEME TO LOOK FOR

### PERSEVERANCE

God strengthens us to endure and grow through trials.

#### READ

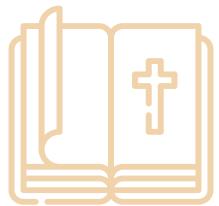
- Hebrews 12:1–13 Run with endurance, fixing your eyes on Jesus
- James 1:2–12 Trials produce maturity and crown of life
- Romans 5:1–11 Suffering builds hope through God's love
- Galatians 6:7–10 Don't grow weary—harvest comes in due time

# Bible Reading Notes

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# Bible Reading Notes

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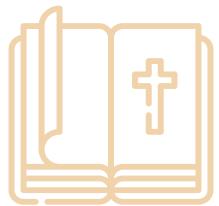


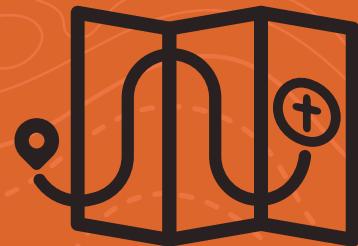
# Bible Reading Notes

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# Bible Reading Notes

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# DISCOVER TOGETHER

## EXPLORE FAITH WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

### BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO WALK THIS JOURNEY ALONE.

Faith was never meant to be a solo journey. From the very beginning, Jesus called people into a community of discovery—a place where questions could be asked, stories could be shared, and lives could be changed together.

When we explore faith alongside others, we not only learn more about God, but we also learn more about ourselves. We see perspectives we've never considered. We realize we're not alone in our doubts or hopes. We discover the beauty of belonging before we've figured everything out.

At Rise, we believe that real growth happens in relationships. That's why, in this early stage of your journey, we invite you to not only meet Jesus through Scripture—but to explore what that means with other people who are asking the same kinds of questions.

Questions about God.

Questions about purpose.

Questions about life and what it's all for.

Before the disciples knew Jesus as their Lord, they began by following Him together with others along the same discipleship journey. What that means is something radical: **You can belong before you believe.**

**PIVOTAL STEP #2**

## **JOIN US FOR ALPHA**

**"THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS I'VE EVER DONE—IT'S FUN, RELAXED, AND TOTALLY NO-PRESSURE." —AIMEE**

Alpha is a welcoming, low-pressure space to explore life's biggest questions. It's designed specifically for people who are new to faith or just curious about it. For a couple months, we meet weekly to **share a meal, watch a short talk, and discuss what we're learning** in small groups where no question is off limits.

We cover questions like:

**Who is Jesus?**

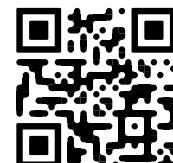
**Why did He die?**

**How do I pray or read the Bible?**

**What's the purpose of life?**

Whether you're brand new to faith or still solidifying what you believe—**Alpha is for you.** You don't need to have the right words or the right answers. You just need a willingness to show up and be part of the conversation.

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING ALPHA SESSION.**



# **CURIOS ABOUT FAITH?**

→ **RISE.CC/ALPHA**

**JOIN A SERIES OF GROUP CONVERSATIONS THAT FREELY EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN OPEN, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.**



# DISCOVER GOD'S PURPOSE

## DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSE STARTS BY REGULARLY GATHERING WITH HIS PEOPLE.

By seeing the Church in action, you begin to glimpse the bigger story—and how your life fits into it.

Something in you is stirring. Maybe it's a longing for peace in a chaotic world. A craving for meaning. Or just a quiet curiosity that won't go away. That's not random. That's God at work, inviting you into something deeper.

If you're sensing that invitation—even just a flicker of interest—don't ignore it. God's call to "come and see" isn't passive. It's an invitation to act. And one of the most meaningful steps you can take right now is simply to start showing up.

### PIVOTAL STEP #3

## START COMING TO CHURCH REGULARLY

Not out of obligation—but out of curiosity. Showing up at church is one of the clearest ways to explore who Jesus is and what He's about. Each week, you'll hear parts of God's story—His design for creation, His love for people, a hope that only He can offer—and start to see how your story fits into His.

And as you come, something begins to shift. You'll start to see that Jesus is not only trustworthy—but good. And the Church? It's not a place for perfect people. It's a community of grace, where real people walk through real life together.

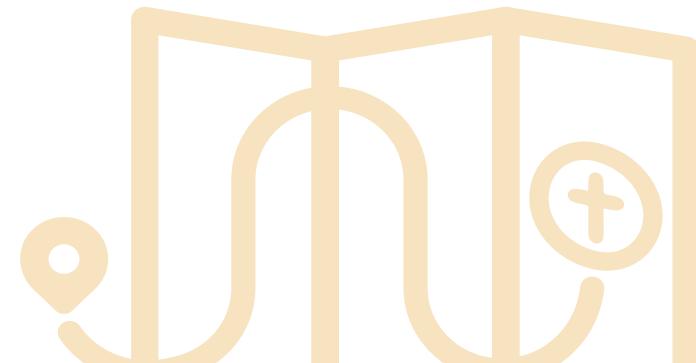
**IN THIS SPACE—IN GOD'S PRESENCE, AMONG HIS PEOPLE—YOU'LL EXPERIENCE A PEACE THE WORLD CAN'T OFFER, A HOPE THAT DOESN'T DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES, AND A SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.**

Because purpose doesn't start with striving.

It starts with **seeing**.

With **listening**.

With **showing up** long enough for something eternal to take root.



# HOW TO BUILD A RHYTHM OF REGULAR CHURCH ENGAGEMENT.

One of the best ways to explore faith is to simply start showing up—not just once, but regularly. Repetition builds familiarity, and familiarity builds trust. Over time, patterns begin to form. You start to recognize faces. You hear consistent themes. You begin to notice something deeper at work.

If you're in a season of spiritual curiosity, it's crucial that you give yourself a real chance to experience what faith, hope, and purpose might look like up close. You can think of it as an experiment in presence. Here are a few simple ways to build that rhythm:

**COMMITTING TO SUNDAYS IS ABOUT STAYING CURIOUS AND SHOWING UP LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE IT A REAL CHANCE, AND FOR SOMETHING MEANINGFUL TO TAKE SHAPE.**

## 01. MAKE A PLAN & STACK SOME SUNDAYS

Maybe it's this Sunday. Maybe it's the start of a new series. Whatever it is, choose a day and commit to going. Then see where you can build from there. Try coming for three or four weeks in a row. Maybe try to make it for an entire series.

Sometimes the first week feels unfamiliar, but as you return, things start to settle. You notice how people treat each other. You catch patterns in the teaching. You get a clearer sense of whether this place feels like home.

## 02. LINGER A LITTLE

It can feel intimidating at first to walk into a new space. But if you're up for it, don't rush out the door. Stick around. Say hi. Grab a coffee. You don't have to dive into deep conversation—but sometimes small moments lead to meaningful ones. And over time, these connections help Sunday feel a little less like "going to church" and a little more like belonging.

## 03. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE NOTICING

You might not feel something big every time you come—but something is being formed. Peace. Clarity. A new question. An unexpected sense of hope. Maybe even an uncomfortable challenge. Write it down. Reflect on it. God often speaks in quiet, cumulative ways.

## 04. HELP YOUR KIDS BUILD THEIR OWN RHYTHM

If you have kids, one of the best gifts you can give them is consistency in church. Children and students thrive on rhythm—seeing familiar faces, learning truth week after week, and growing up surrounded by faith-filled leaders and friends who care about them.

When you make Sunday a regular part of your family's rhythm, it does more than fill an hour—it forms a foundation. Your kids begin to see that faith isn't just something you talk about; it's something you live. Over time, church shifts from being "your thing" to their place of belonging and growth.

Even when it's chaotic getting out the door, remember: every time you show up, you're helping plant seeds of faith that can grow for a lifetime.

# WHAT IF I FEEL OUT OF PLACE?

Trying something new—especially something as personal as church—can stir up a lot of questions. You might feel unsure about how to act, what to believe, or whether you even belong here. That's okay. You're not alone in that. Here are a few honest answers to common thoughts and hesitations people have when they first start coming:

## **"I'M NOT EVEN SURE I BELIEVE IN GOD."**

## **"IS IT WEIRD FOR ME TO BE HERE?"**

Not weird at all. In fact, you're exactly who this space is for. Jesus' invitation has always been "Come and see"—not "Come once you're convinced." Church isn't for people who have it all figured out. It's for the unsure, the curious, the skeptical, and the searching. If you feel like an outsider, know this: you're not. We're honored you're here.

## **"SOME OF THE TEACHING FEELS HARSH OR CONTRADICTS WHAT I BELIEVE."**

At first, some of what you're hearing can feel challenging to how you've always seen the world. But over time, you may begin to see something different: **God's way is not the way of the world.** His perspective often turns things upside down—but in doing so, it begins to make sense of things we couldn't before. What seemed harsh at first started to feel healing. What felt offensive begins to feel freeing.

The Bible is the story of a God who loves us enough to tell us the truth. Not to shame us, but to restore us. His conviction isn't condemnation—it's an invitation to come closer, be known, and be made whole. If something

stirs discomfort, don't run from it. Sit with it. Ask questions. Keep listening. That discomfort might just be the starting point of something deeper.

## **"EVERYONE AROUND ME IS SINGING AND RAISING THEIR HANDS."**

## **"WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?"**

We get it—worship can feel unfamiliar or even uncomfortable at first. Maybe it feels deeply emotional, and you're just not there. Maybe it feels forced, or not like you.

Here's the truth: worship isn't a performance—it's a response. It isn't just about the words we sing, it's an overflow of what we believe. Even if you don't believe yet, you can still observe worship and begin to understand who Jesus is by watching how we respond to Him. Our lives, our posture, our passion—it all points to something real.

You don't have to raise your hands, sing loudly, or do anything that feels untrue to where you're at. You're welcome to simply stand, sit, listen, reflect, or observe. Let it be what it is: a space to breathe, be still, and experience others expressing their love for God. In time, you may find yourself drawn in. This is a safe place to grow at your own pace.

## **"WHAT IF I TRY THIS FOR A WHILE AND STILL DON'T FEEL ANYTHING?"**

That's real. Sometimes it takes time to notice what's changing. What starts slow and quiet often builds into something deep and lasting. Think of this less like a breakthrough moment and more like a slow-growing seed. Your consistency matters more than your feelings. Keep coming. Keep asking questions. Something is taking root.

# PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN JESUS AND GETTING BAPTIZED.

At some point in your journey of discovering faith, the questions start to shift. You're no longer just asking if God is real—you're beginning to sense that He is. You're not just learning about Jesus—you're starting to feel like He's drawing near. Something deeper is stirring.

It might happen in a moment you don't expect. Maybe you showed up to church and heard something that pierced your heart. Maybe it's been building slowly through quiet conversations or late-night reflection. Maybe it's while reading Scripture and suddenly, something clicks—you feel the Spirit of God speaking to you, gently calling you to come home.

That moment of clarity is a gift. The Bible tells the story of a man from Ethiopia who was reading the Scriptures while riding in his chariot (Acts 8). He didn't understand everything, but God sent Philip to walk alongside him and explain the good news of Jesus. Right then and there, the man believed. And when he saw water by the side of the road, he said, "Look! Here is water—what's stopping me from being baptized?" He knew it was time to say yes.

## YOU MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU REALIZE TO THAT KIND OF MOMENT.

To follow Jesus means surrendering—trusting that Jesus is who He says He is: the Son of God who died for your sins, rose again, and invites you into new life. When you say yes to Him, you receive forgiveness, you're filled with the Holy Spirit, and your heart is made new. You become part of God's family.

When that moment comes, don't wait. Trust that God is already at work in you—and respond. And once you do, the next step is baptism: the way believers in Jesus have publicly declared their faith for over 2,000 years. It's how you show the world that Jesus has saved you and is now your Lord.

If you've sensed that this journey is leading you somewhere, maybe it's leading you to this: a decision. A new beginning. A resurrection story of your own.

All throughout this phase of Discover, we've been pointing toward a moment like this: a decision to move from exploring Jesus to trusting Him. From asking questions to offering your whole life. From observing faith in others to experiencing it for yourself.

You don't have to wait until you understand everything. You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing to repent and believe. To surrender. To say yes.

And when you do, something powerful happens: Jesus saves you, the Holy Spirit fills you, and your heart is made new. That's the miracle of grace—and it's available to you right now.

So as you turn the page, we want to help you take that step. Whether you're ready to say yes to Jesus, considering baptism, or just want to understand what that all really means—these next few pages are for you.

Let's walk forward together.



## SAY YES TO JESUS

Saying yes doesn't mean every doubt is resolved or every question is answered. It simply means you've come to **believe that Jesus is who He says He is**—and you're ready to trust Him with your life.

At this point, what you're saying yes to is this:

**That Jesus is the Son of God.**

**You believe He lived, died, and rose again.**

**That you repent of your sins and that through Him, you can be forgiven, made new, and restored to God.**

**And that you want to follow Him as the Lord of your life.**

There's still room to grow. You may not yet understand every part of the Bible. You may still wrestle with big questions about suffering, sexuality, creation, justice, or your past. That's okay.

**Faith starts with trust, not certainty.** You're not promising to never doubt or fail—you're simply choosing to believe that Jesus is worth following, and you're ready to begin.

**"IF YOU OPENLY DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED."**

**— ROMANS 10:9**

You may not be ready to say yes yet—and that's okay. But when you are, or if you're wondering what that would even sound like, here's a simple prayer to help you take that step.



## A SIMPLE PRAYER

**"JESUS, I BELIEVE YOU ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE.**

**I BELIEVE YOU DIED FOR ME AND ROSE AGAIN, AND I WANT TO TRUST YOU WITH MY LIFE.**

**FORGIVE ME FOR MY SINS AND FOR GOING MY OWN WAY. HELP ME WALK IN YOURS.**

**TEACH ME TO FOLLOW YOU.  
I WANT YOU TO BE THE LORD OF MY LIFE.**

**SHOW ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE, PEACE, AND HOPE.**

**I SAY YES TO YOU TODAY. AMEN."**

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If you prayed that prayer today, we'd love to talk with you, encourage you, and help you take your next step.

**LET US KNOW YOU SAID YES  
AT [RISE.cc/JESUS](http://RISE.cc/JESUS)**



## GET BAPTIZED!

When you say yes to Jesus, something changes in you—and baptism is how you share that change with the world. **Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality: that you've put your trust in Jesus and received new life through Him.**

Throughout the Bible, baptism is the first step people took after placing their faith in Jesus. It's a symbol of dying to your old life and being raised into something new—washed clean, made whole, and welcomed into God's family.

**"WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET UP AND BE BAPTIZED. HAVE YOUR SINS WASHED AWAY BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."**

**— ACTS 22:16**

If you've said yes to Jesus, this is your next step. Participating in baptism is about marking a new beginning with the One who's made you new. And we'd love nothing more than to celebrate that step with you.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BAPTISM &  
REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING  
BAPTISM AT [RISE.CC/BAPTISM](http://RISE.CC/BAPTISM)**



## WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ASKED DURING BAPTISM?

During a baptism service at Rise, you'll notice when someone gets in the waters, we have questions we ask them before we baptize them in the water.

**Q1: "DO YOU REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR NEED OF A SAVIOR?"**

In following Jesus, we first must acknowledge our need for Him and that we are repenting of (literally “turning away from”) our sin. Baptism is a symbol of our old self going to the grave with Jesus. Our brokenness, our shame, our sin, our guilt is put in the grave.

**Q2: "DO YOU PUBLICLY DECLARE JESUS AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?"**

It's not enough to turn from sin, it's about turning to Jesus as the only one who can save. Saying we have put our faith in Him means we believe in our hearts and acknowledge with our mouths that Jesus is God in the flesh, that He conquered over death, and that He alone has the power to save. And because of our faith in Jesus, we are raised—just as He was raised—to new life!

**"BECAUSE OF YOUR REPENTANCE OF SIN AND FAITH IN JESUS, TODAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OLD SELF IS BURIED WITH CHRIST AND YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE IN JESUS! THEREFORE, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!"**

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

The Discover phase is a season of curiosity, questions, and quiet beginnings. You may not know what you believe yet, or how long this season will last, but don't rush it. This is where a real foundation begins to form.

It's here that you begin to slow down and create space to meet Jesus—through His Word, in honest conversations, and among His people. These small steps are forming something deep and lasting in you. Every Sunday you show up. Every passage you read. Every question you ask.

As Paul reminded the Philippians,

**“GOD, WHO BEGAN THE GOOD WORK  
WITHIN YOU, WILL CONTINUE HIS WORK  
UNTIL IT IS FINALLY FINISHED.”**  
**PHILIPPIANS 1:6**

So lean into this season.

Soak in the truth of Scripture.

Ask the hard questions.

Show up with an open heart.

And trust that even when it feels slow or uncertain, **God is at work beneath the surface, shaping you into the person He's called you to be.**

