



HAVE YOU
STARTED YOUR
JOURNEY WITH
JESUS YET?

COME, FOLLOW ME.

- *Jesus*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

The Invitation

02

The Story

03

How Do I Begin?

04

What Does This Mean?

05

Spiritual Formation

06-7

Next Steps



THE INVITATION

Whatever your story is, whether you were raised with a religious background or none, whether you think you've been living a good life or something far from it, whether you're rich or poor or some place in the middle.....Jesus says, Come.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

If you are burdened, weary and need rest...

If you struggle to find meaning in life...

If you think you have everything but still feel empty...

If you believe you are unworthy of love...

If you are uncertain, doubtful or anxious...

If you feel that you are too far gone...

If you wonder if life has any purpose...

If you've been hurt by people in the name of God...

Jesus says, Come to me.



THE STORY

There is a God who made all things, and He longs to be in relationship with every person on the planet. Including you!

The Bible tells the story of God reaching out to humans over and over to show them how they could turn from lives of violence, chaos, and selfishness and be transformed into new people living in close relationship with God and with each other.

Eventually, in the ultimate attempt to show us what God is like and what love truly is, God showed up among us in the person of Jesus. Jesus spent his time on earth healing, feeding people, and teaching about what God and His Kingdom are like.

Jesus was killed by those who saw Him as a threat to their power, and they crucified Him on a cross like a common criminal. Three days later, He rose from the dead, and nothing has been the same since.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



Jesus said, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen God.” (John 14:9) Jesus gives us the clearest picture of what God is like – wise, merciful, loving, compassionate, grace-filled, caring, curious, and even funny.

Jesus speaks of our sin as something we need to repent of – to turn away from. Far from being just a list of things we shouldn’t do, sin rots and destroys from the inside out. Think of it as an infection slowly killing us—but we hold on dearly because we fear giving up control. God is trying to heal and free us from this infection, to give us new life—the life we were always meant to have.

The infection of sin leads to death, yet Jesus wants to bring us life. Through his resurrection, Jesus conquered death and offers life to everyone who calls on His name in faith.

HOW DO I BEGIN?

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23



IT BEGINS WITH A DECISION.

It is by his grace we are forgiven, it's a gift of God that makes us a new creation in Him. We will still carry the infection of sin, but in His great love, God allows the sacrifice of his Son to cover that sin.

When you say yes to Jesus, God forgives and adopts you into His family. As His child, you are a part of the Family of God, given the Holy Spirit to guide you and reveal God's truth into your life.

We all need help to keep saying "yes" to Jesus. That's what church community is for! We are here for you as you take your next step in your new life with Jesus.

Think of a marriage. That first "I do" is crucial, but equally important are the "I do's" that follow it—each day making the commitment to stay in relationship with that person.

Similarly, a journey with Jesus starts with a response—this is your first "yes" to Jesus.

Tomorrow will bring more opportunities to say "yes" to Jesus and "no" to old ways, habits, and patterns. And so will the day after that, and the day after that, and on and on. Each day will bring ways to know God better, to grow in faith, and to practice the ways of Jesus. If you are ready to say your first "yes," you can start with the prayer shown below..

Jesus,

I am saying my first "yes" to you today. Will you be the Lord and Savior of my life? I want to live differently, and I need your help. Forgive me for all I have done in the past. Heal me, please. Help me to learn to love you, to love myself, and to love the people around me. Be with me as I start this journey and take this next step into new life with you.

I ask these things in the name of Jesus, Amen.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Following Jesus isn't a one-time decision ... it's a daily one. It means a continual turning away from our old way of life (repenting), and turning toward Jesus so that we can learn a different way to be human from Him, and be transformed into loving, merciful, compassionate, wise, and grace-filled people like He is.

God will begin to change you from the inside-out, giving you new desires, passions, and hope. As your thoughts, character, and behaviors begin to match God's character you will see the transformation that only His work in you can do.

This is both a deeply personal journey and something none of us can do alone. This process of becoming more like Him is called Spiritual Formation..

THE FRAMEWORK



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:16-18

Spiritual Formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others.

It's an adventure of growing ever closer to God and experiencing the peace, strength, and love that comes from Him. Yet, this is not a solo journey, we grow best in the context of community.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mark 12:29-31

At Cornerstone, we believe that spiritual formation is a lifelong journey moving us closer to Christ. This journey includes our **head**, **heart**, **hands** and **feet** as we seek both personal transformation and community within the Family of God.

The Framework guides us toward an intersecting, integrated life that combines each area to help us walk fully and wholly as followers of Jesus.

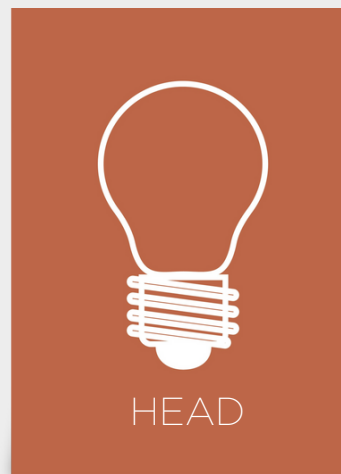
NEXT STEPS

It's time to grow, learn, and discover all that a life with Jesus can bring. At Cornerstone, we use these four quadrants to help us frame the journey and come alongside you as you grow in Him.

LEARNING ABOUT GOD AND FROM GOD

You can do this by:

- Participating in weekend worship
- Going to a class or a study
- Making Bible reading a part of your daily life
 - Be sure you have a translation you can read easily - we recommend The New Living Translation or The New International Version



LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR, AND LOVING SELF

You can do this by:

- Practicing Prayer or Being Still with God
- Join a Life Group
- Take a step toward healing with a Support Group
- Ask: How can I show God's love today to those around me?

NEXT STEPS (CONT.)

GIVING GENEROUSLY OF TIME, TALENT, AND FINANCES

You can do this by:

- Serving on a team at Cornerstone
- Serving with one of our local partners such as Hand2Hand, Family Promise or Circles
- Becoming a member of Cornerstone
- Practicing generosity by giving back to God
- Discovering your Spiritual Gifts



LIVING OUT THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

You can do this by:

- Talking with friends and family who need to hear about God's love for them
- Learning how to share the story of what Jesus has done in your life
- Practicing living out the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) wherever you go
- Going on a Mission Trip

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