

# **ETERNAL LIFE STARTS NOW**



**THE FIRST STEPS TO BEING  
FORMED BY JESUS, TOGETHER, FOR OTHERS**



# FOLLOW JESUS

Following Jesus is not about passing a test.  
Following Jesus is about placing your trust.

In this short booklet, it is our desire to show you the first steps of becoming a follower of the Way of Jesus.

To put in theological terms, this booklet will teach you about the doctrine of salvation and the ordinance of baptism. We pray this is your first of many steps to come.

Formed by Jesus With You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trey VanCamp', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Trey VanCamp

**The invitation of  
Jesus is not about  
passing a test.  
It is about placing  
your trust.**

THE  
GOS  
PEL



## **GOD & CREATION**

The gospel begins with the triune God (Gen. 1:1). The Father, Son and Holy Spirit dwelt in unity and created us, not because he needed us but because he loved us. "The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin." (Ex. 34:6-7) Bearing God's image, our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Since the beginning of creation, God gave mankind the mandate to walk in love and work with purpose (Gen. 1:28).

A.W. Tozer once said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What initially comes to your mind when you think about God?

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Read Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 40:18-31;  
Micah 7:18-19; John 3:16 and 1 John 4:10.  
After reading these verses, how does this change your view of God?

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## 2

## MAN & THE FALL

In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve rebelled against God through the sin of omission and commission. Not trusting in God's goodness, they brought sin and death into the world by believing Satan's lies. Since Genesis 3, mankind is kicked out of Eden and lives with enmity toward God and man. What once was whole is now broken. Today, you and I enter this broken world not as victims but as enemies of God (Rom. 5:10). Without God, we are utterly hopeless in saving ourselves and deserve condemnation for eternity (Eph. 2:1-3).



Do you believe your sin deserves eternal separation from God? Why is the punishment so severe and do you struggle with that?

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Read Psalm 51:5; Mark 7:20-23;

Romans 3:10-23, 6:23 and 1 John 1:8-10.

After reading these verses, do you believe these verses reflect your own condition? How are you guilty of the sins of omission and commission?

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## **JESUS & REDEMPTION**

By God's grace, he didn't leave us in our sin, suffering, and death. 2,000 years ago, Jesus came to offer us a better way to life and a better way to live. As fully God and fully man, he lived the perfect life and died in our place (1 Pet. 3:18). On the cross, he bore God's wrath in order to give us his righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21). Through the resurrection, he defeated sin, Satan, and death (1 Cor. 15). After Jesus appeared to his disciples and dwelt among them for 40 days, he ascended to the Father and intercedes for us as our Advocate.

Why is it so important for Jesus to be fully God and fully man? Why is it important to adopt the lifestyle of Jesus while we are here on earth?

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Read John 1:1-18, 14:6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-22; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 1:15-22; Hebrews 4:14-16 and Revelation 1:7-8. Is there anything new about Jesus that you learned from these passages?

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## 4

## RESPOND & RESTORE

This new life is offered to all who put their faith and trust in King Jesus. We now live by grace alone through faith alone. The story is not over (Rev. 21). We are called back to our original purpose of walking in love and working with purpose. In short, we are participants in ushering in the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). As a body of believers, we seek the well-being of our city, our society, and the world (Jer. 29:7-13). This Great Commission will not be fully fulfilled until every tribe, tongue, and nation knows the name of Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20; Rev. 7:9).

Have you personally made a declaration of allegiance to King Jesus? Have you confessed your shortcomings to God and asked the blood of Jesus to cover you and redeem you?

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Read Romans 10:9-13 and reflect on what you are being saved from. Now read Romans 10:14-17 and reflect on who God is calling you to share this good news to.

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**Apprenticeship  
to Jesus  
is personal  
but it is never  
private.**

IMM

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## **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

Baptism is a public profession of an inward faith. After surrendering to the lordship of Jesus, our next step of obedience is to get baptized. We believe God has ordained that we fully immerse ourselves in water to represent the reality of our death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus. Furthermore, baptism is as much about the community of Jesus as it is about your confession of Jesus. It's a celebration of you becoming a part of the family of God and it is our delight to pray for you and love you as our own (Matt. 10:32-33; Lk. 12:8-9).



What are some of your reservations (if you have any) about baptism? Read Matthew 3:13-17 and jot down why you think Jesus had to get baptized.

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Read Luke 14:25-33 - Jesus talks about the cost of following Jesus. What does Jesus say? What does this mean for you as you take the step of baptism?

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## **OBJECTION #1**

“It is too religious.” Rituals are healthy and helpful, as long as you don’t worship them. For example, all of us enjoy a good wedding ceremony.

## **OBJECTION #2**

“I was baptized as an infant.” As an infant, you were not able to put your faith in Jesus.

## **OBJECTION #3**

“I was already baptized as an adult.” Baptism is an act of obedience after putting your faith and trust in Jesus. We encourage you to get baptized again if you were baptized before believing in Jesus.

Do you identify with any of these objections?  
Read Mark 7:6-15 - what is Jesus' view on traditions? Is he against traditions or when we treat them as vain repetition? Why does this distinction matter?

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Write a prayer out to God about your decision to get baptized. Express your desires, concerns and excitement that you have.

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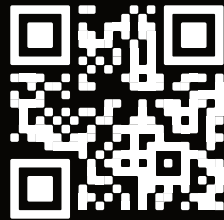
## **BAPTISM DOESN'T SAVE**

Jesus saves you. Throughout Scripture, baptism is always commanded after someone has believed in Jesus. Luke 23:32-43 assures us that baptism doesn't save you. The thief on the cross did not have a chance to be baptized and yet Jesus promised to see him in Paradise (Heaven).

## **BAPTISM IS SYMBOLIC**

Baptism is a symbol of our death, burial, and resurrection with Jesus (Rom. 6:1-7). We are now dead to our old self and no longer enslaved to sin. The punishment and power of sin is completely buried with Christ. Being raised from the water symbolizes our new life that we have in Christ.

**Repent  
and be  
baptized**





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