

Welcome to Next Steps!

This is a guide that is built with four steps which will help you to:

1. Grow in your faith
2. Connect to the church
3. Discover your purpose
4. Make a difference in the lives of others

STEP ONE

KNOW GOD

This step explains the spiritual journey that God has for each of us and invites you to follow Jesus personally and publicly.

STEP TWO

FIND FREEDOM

We want to introduce you to the ministry of Cornerstone, offer you an opportunity to become part of our church, and to find freedom in the safety of a God-centred community.

STEP THREE

DISCOVER PURPOSE

We are all wired uniquely. This step guides you through a discovery of your personality and gifts, which point you to your purpose in life and ministry.

STEP FOUR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We think our team of volunteers is so amazing that we call them the "Cornerstone Crew." This step offers you the opportunity to join our team by connecting with a serve team of your choice and learning how you can make a difference by serving others.

OUR HOPE FOR YOU

Our hope is that you would know God personally as you discover new freedom and purpose in Him. We believe everyone is on a journey to discover true meaning and purpose in life.

That doesn't mean it has to be Cornerstone as there are many great churches in Truro. If Cornerstone is the church for you, then these next steps will help make connecting with our church as easy as possible.

If you choose to connect to Cornerstone today, we have a prayer for you:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18 NIV

1. KNOW GOD

"[I pray] ...that you may know Him better [personally]."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18 NIV

We want you to not just know _____ God, but actually know God _____.

We also believe that God wants to be _____ by you.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

We do that here through _____ and _____.

2. FIND FREEDOM

"[I pray] ...that the eyes of your heart be enlightened [focused and clear]."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18 NIV

We all see the world through the lens of our past _____.

We want to help you _____ by finding freedom in Jesus.

We believe freedom is found in _____.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

JAMES 5:16 NIV

We do that here through Growth Groups and the Set Free Retreat.

3. DISCOVER PURPOSE

"[I pray] ...that you may know the hope to which He has called you."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18 NIV

We believe God has created you with _____ on _____.

We want to help you discover how you are _____ and what God has called you to do.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."

ROMANS 12:6 NIV

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 NLT

We do this through _____ and the _____.

4. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"[I pray] ...that you may grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for his followers [in His holy people]."

EPHESIANS 1:17-18 NIV

We believe God has created you with _____ on purpose to make a
_____ where you are.

We want to help you discover where God has called you to make a difference.

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

JOHN 15:8, 11 NIV

"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 PETER 4:10 NLT

We do this here through the _____ and _____.

FAITH IS A JOURNEY

Choosing to follow Jesus is a big step. Most people need time to wrestle with their questions before they decide what to do.

This is a safe community where you can wrestle with your questions about Jesus, God and faith.

We want you to know, no matter where you might be on your journey of faith at Cornerstone, you _____ even if you don't_____.

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?

We believe everyone is on a journey to discover freedom and purpose in life.

No matter who you choose to journey with, every journey starts with Jesus.

1. We believe_____ is the way and provides the guidance for life's journey.
2. Real Christianity is about _____ not _____.
3. Trusting Jesus is not exclusive, it is completely_____ because this is for everyone.
4. It is a _____given to us by God. He loves us, forgives us, and wants to draw us back to Him.

DON'T I HAVE TO BE A BETTER PERSON FIRST?

1. No one is perfect, and God gets that. He _____everyone, just as they are.

You don't change to GET God's love; you change BECAUSE of God's love.

2. When you _____Jesus as your saviour, God will help you follow him as long as you want.

Jesus took our DEATH and offers us his LIFE.

3. _____ is step one on the spiritual journey to experience that life, but it is your choice.

We have FREE WILL to either accept what Jesus has done,
or try and do things on our own.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CHOICES

1. I can _____ or I can receive what has _____.

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."

JOHN 5:39-40 NIV

2. I can try to earn _____ or I can receive _____.

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8 NIV

3. I can respond out of _____ or I can respond out of _____.

"If you love me, you will obey my commands."

JOHN 14:15 NCV

AFTER I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, WHAT COMES NEXT?

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life, and ask Him to forgive your sins.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead and is alive today.

"If you openly declare 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 openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

ROMANS 10:9-10 NLT

3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

Our relationship with God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus has already done for us!

"But when the goodness and kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared [in human form as the Man, Jesus Christ], He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion and mercy, by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

TITUS 3:4-5 AMP

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and to be the Lord of your life.

"To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn! —not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God."

JOHN 1:12-13 TLB

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD.

"Dear Jesus, thank you for creating me and for loving me even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your free gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

WATER BAPTISM

We practice baptism by immersion in water, which is the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible describes.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw Heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove."

MARK 1:9-10 NIV

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

MATTHEW 28:19 NIV

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in Heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 10:32-33 NIV

BY BEING WATER BAPTIZED, YOU ARE:

1. Following the _____ set by Christ
2. Demonstrating your _____.
3. Declaring your commitment _____.

Water baptism declares _____ what has happened _____.

NEXT STEPS

1. Give your heart to Jesus to be saved.

You can use the commitment prayer in this session as a guide.

2. Declare your relationship with Jesus publicly.

Water baptism is the example Jesus set, and we follow this example to publicly share our new life in Him.

3. Sign up for Hearing God

Learn to Know God personally and hear His voice everyday.

4. Complete all four Next Steps classes.

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