

How Do I Begin My Spiritual Journey With Jesus?

1. Admit that God is not first in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins. (*1 John 1:9*)
2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter and is alive today. (*Romans 10:9*)
3. Accept God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it. (*Ephesians 2:8,9*)
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director (Lord) of your life. (*John 1:12-13*)

What to pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. Please come into my life and make me a new person. From now on I want You to be the leader of my life. Amen.

How Do I Continue My Spiritual Journey With Jesus?

1. Begin praying and reading your Bible daily. Start with the Book of John.
2. Sign up to be baptized on your Connection Card.
3. Sign up to participate in the next Church Membership Class on your Connection Card.
4. Join one of our Growth Groups.
5. Volunteer to help out with one of our ministries.
6. Tell your family and friends about your commitment to Jesus and invite them to church with you.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Matthew 5:4

Main Thought: In Matthew 5:4 we discover the second characteristic of a genuine Christ follower; they mourn over their sin and are comforted by God.

1. _____ EXPLAINED.

1) There is mourning caused by personal _____.

2) There is mourning caused by the _____ and

_____ of others in the world.

3) There is mourning caused by _____

_____. (*2 Cor. 7:10; Psalm 51:1-4; Romans 7:15-25*)

2. _____ OBTAINED.

1) The _____ of _____.
(*Romans 6:23, Ephesians 1:3-7*)

2) The comfort of _____. (*1 John 1:9*)

3) The comfort of _____.
(*2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17*)

4) The comfort of _____. (*John 14:1-3*)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. What insight from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.

2. Review Matthew 5:3. What does it mean to be poor in spirit and inherit the kingdom of heaven?

3. Read Matthew 5:4. How does "blessed are those who mourn" build upon "blessed are the poor in spirit"?

4. From the context, what kind of mourning do you believe Jesus has in mind in Matthew 5:4?

5. Why do we need to mourn over our sin? (See 2 Cor. 7:10) Why do we need to take sin seriously? (See Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; 59:2; Romans 6:23)

6. Can you think of some examples where people do not take sin seriously these days? How do they treat sin instead?

7. Confession of sin and repentance of sin are two concepts associated with mourning our sin. What do you learn about these concepts from the following verses?

Proverbs 28:13

1 John 1:9

Acts 3:19

Luke 13:3

Acts 17:29-30

8. How is mourning over sin demonstrated in the life of David and Paul in the following verses?

Psalm 51:1-4

Romans 7:15-25

9. Jesus says that those who mourn over their sin will be comforted. In what ways are we comforted?

10. How can we apply this verse to our lives on a daily basis?