

# YOUNG KICKSTART

Foundations for  
walking with Jesus

From salvation to discipleship



## Copyright

© 2022 – Thomas Pilger

Version 2.20

This booklet is intended for growth in the discipleship of Jesus Christ. It may be copied and distributed exclusively for this purpose, with credit to the author, provided that this is done in a cost-neutral manner – that is, only against reimbursement of the reproduction costs. Sale, alteration of the content or use other than for the purpose stated above is not permitted without the author's permission. Contact with the author can be made at [info@thomaspilger.org](mailto:info@thomaspilger.org) or via the website [www.thomaspilger.org](http://www.thomaspilger.org).

## Bible translations

*Bible quotations were taken from the following translations:*

### NET Bible (NET)

Scriptures quoted from the NET Bible® <http://netbible.com> copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

### Modern King James Version (MKJV)



Scriptures quoted from the Holy Bible, Modern King James Version, Copyright © 1962 – 1998 by Jay P. Green, Sr., used by permission of the copyright holder.

### English Standard Version (ESV)

Scriptures quoted from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Download of PDF documents and comparison

Currently, there are a discipleship course and a booklet ("Toolbox") for personal use:

	Young Kickstart	Toolbox
website	<a href="http://youngkickstart.thomaspilger.org">youngkickstart.thomaspilger.org</a>	<a href="http://toolbox.thomaspilger.org">toolbox.thomaspilger.org</a>
QR-Code		
discipleship, practice, D-Groups	+	(+)
devotion, prayer, Bible reading	(+)	+
for personal use	(+)	+
for small groups (≥ 2 people)	+	-
most Scriptures included	+	-
Scripture lookup necessary	(+)	+

# Content

From fan to follower.....	1
DNA of D-Groups.....	3
1. The nature of God.....	6
2. The way to God and a new identity.....	10
3. Baptism in water – your birth certificate.....	14
4. Become free and stay free.....	16
5. The Holy Spirit – Living Water.....	18
6. Living in the presence of God.....	20
7. God's Word – daily food and weapon.....	22
8. Hear and speak prophetically.....	24
9. Healing and miracles.....	28
10. Our spiritual family.....	30
11. Giving and receiving.....	32
12. Destiny, battle and finale.....	34
Check – did I grow?.....	38
Appendix A – RAD phase after Young Kickstart.....	40
Appendix B – Questions and answers.....	44
Appendix C – Bible reading plans.....	47
Appendix D – Good confessions.....	49

## From fan to follower

"I am happy to welcome you here! If you are reading this, you may have made a decision for Jesus. But what happens next?

The day Jesus comes into your life is your spiritual birthday. You become a new person inside. Like any baby, this new person must grow and develop. God now wants to take you by the hand through his Holy Spirit. He wants you to enjoy the journey with him, grow in relationship with him and become strong in faith.

Although you live on planet earth, you have access to the invisible and supernatural world of God. You are now called to live in this new world, to grow in love with God and to lead other people into this life as well."

### The heart of Jesus – our mission

Jesus' last command was relatively short and clear. He did not want fans, but followers.

*Then Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20, NET)*

### What is a true disciple (follower) of Jesus?

*The person who has my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me. (John 14:21a, NET)*

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. (Romans 8:14, NET)*

discipleship = (I \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus) + (voluntary o \_\_\_\_\_) + (being l \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit)

### Steps into discipleship

Matthew 28:18-20 can also be translated:

*"... make disciples of all nations, BY baptizing them [...] and BY teaching them to obey ..."*

This verse reveals three steps:

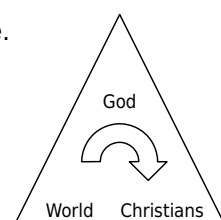
- Separation from our old, self-determined life (illustrated by b \_\_\_\_\_)
- Lifestyle of learning and obedience (illustrated by "t \_\_\_\_\_" and "o \_\_\_\_\_")<sup>1</sup>
- We are to experience both ourselves, but then we also train o \_\_\_\_\_ in these things.

In order to live these steps, we need love for God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Without love, we only act based on a sense of duty or religious pressure. And without the Holy Spirit we lack wisdom, joy and strength. Therefore, everything will end up in a rigid checklist.

### Our three areas of growth

- First, we need a healthy relationship with \_\_\_\_\_. This takes time.
- We also need other \_\_\_\_\_. We will not survive as lone wolves.
- We share God's love with the \_\_\_\_\_. Otherwise, we will be useless.

1 Just learning things about God doesn't require faith – but obeying his Word does.



## How do we grow in those areas?

### 1. Relationship with G\_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Set aside time daily for fellowship with God (chapters 5/6/7).
- ✓ Also use the "Toolbox" booklet at [toolbox.thomaspilger.org](http://toolbox.thomaspilger.org).
  - *Without daily and personal communion with God, our spiritual life will quickly die. Even Jesus, despite a stressful daily schedule, reserved regular times to be alone with the Father.*

### 2. Relationship with other c\_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Be part of a Christian community or church (chapter 10).
  - *Without being an integral part of a local church, we will not be able to take our place in the Body of Christ and will waste our gifts. Nor will we always be able to overcome our spiritual struggles alone.*
- ✓ Be part of a D-Group<sup>1</sup> that lives discipleship and plants other D-Groups.
  - *Without a D-Group (some call them "small group", "house group" or "cell group"), you can quickly become a passive spectator even in a local church. It is important that D-Groups focus on commitment, obedience to Jesus' instructions and growth. Otherwise, powerless and closed "feel-good" clubs develop.*
- ✓ Find a prayer partner to share and pray with on a weekly basis (chapter 10).
  - *A committed prayer partner ensures that personal needs, challenges and struggles can also be brought before God. Such things sometimes get lost even in a small group or cannot (should not) always be expressed there.*

### 3. Relationship with the w\_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Pray regularly for people who do not know Jesus.
  - *Jesus gave us the command to make disciples of all nations. This requires a lot of prayer, because only the Holy Spirit can change people from the inside.*
- ✓ Share with others God's love (practical help, the gospel) (chapters 2/3/8/9/12).
  - *People need the message of the gospel in word and deed. Practical charity combined with clear words are important. Without words, our actions may help practically, but may not lead people to Jesus. Without deeds, on the other hand, our words often remain powerless and inauthentic.*
- ✓ If people want to follow Jesus, train them (see below).
  - *It is wonderful when people want to follow Jesus. But if no one will walk with them, train them in the basics and help them to also invest in others themselves, they will at best remain immature or even lose their faith after a period of time.*

1 D-Group = "Discipleship-Group"

## DNA of D-Groups

D-Groups<sup>1</sup> complement the dynamics and enthusiasm of larger worship services and meetings. In such groups, everyone can be activated to grow in the Word, put it into practice, share the Gospel with others and even train new D-Groups or individuals in the faith.

Everyone should be part of a D-Group. And it makes sense to meet weekly or at least fortnightly. An important characteristic is to put into practice things that one recognizes as the will of God and to share with others experiences and progresses while doing so. This is not about control, but about openness and the incentive to not just leave it at good intentions.

*Mistakes and defeats are never the problem with Jesus – passivity and laziness are!*

### The D-Group process

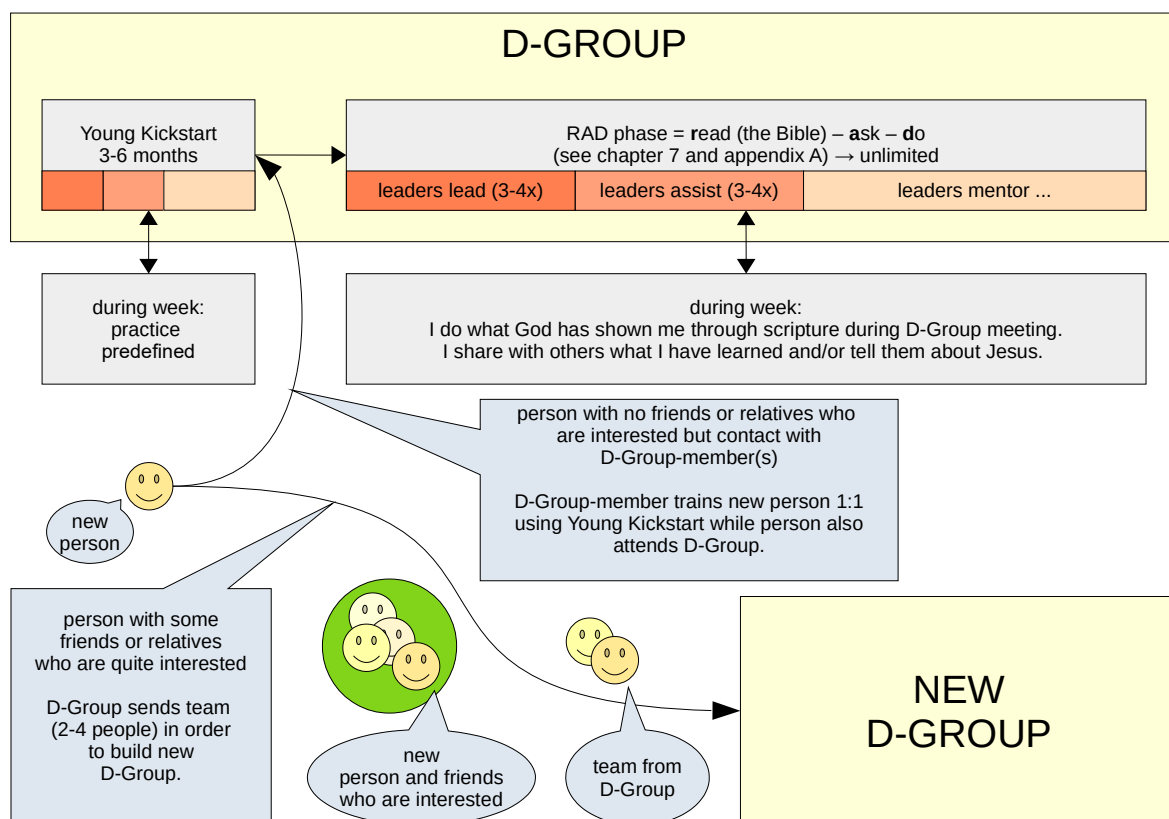


Figure 1: The individual areas are explained in detail in the next sections.

### Size of a D-Group

Two people are already sufficient. Most things are best implemented in groups of 2-8 people. The group should fit into a private apartment. In addition, a larger D-Group can be divided into smaller subgroups, e.g., for Bible study or prayer.

When a D-Group reaches a certain size (best practice: max. 15-20 people), it makes sense to ask the Holy Spirit which team should be sent out to start a new D-Group. In Acts 13:1-3, they took time to seek God through prayer and fasting.

1 D-Group = "Discipleship-Group"



## Leading → Assisting → Mentoring of the D-Group

Usually, a D-Group should have two leaders. There are the following phases:

1. Young Kickstart phase:
  - ✓ Leaders **lead** meetings approx. 3-4 times.
  - ✓ Leaders allow others to conduct meeting and **assist** them approx. 3-4 times.
  - ✓ Leaders participate like others. They also operate as spiritual **mentors** of the group.
2. RAD phase (read – ask – do): same process as in Young Kickstart phase

The goal is to enable as many D-Group members as possible to lead a D-Group themselves or at least to train individuals using the Young Kickstart course.

Even if teams are sent out to start new D-Groups, they should stay in touch with their D-Group leaders to continue a mentoring relationship.

## How are people being reached?<sup>1</sup>

- All undertakings should be prepared and accompanied by prayer (fasting if necessary).
- Christians are new to the church (e.g., moving).
- People get saved through church events or outreaches.
- D-Group members personally lead relatives, acquaintances and friends to Jesus.
- D-Group members<sup>2</sup> invite the Holy Spirit to lead them to people<sup>3</sup> in their daily lives.
- D-Group members invite people who are not born again yet, but are searching for the truth.

## What happens when people get saved or are seeking?

- (a) The existing D-Group becomes too large (e.g., more than 15-20 people). → new D-Group
- (b) The person knows several people who are also interested. → new D-Group
- (c) The person has no such contacts. → invitation to existing D-Group

### Option (a) or (b) lead to planting a new D-Group

1. The existing D-Group is praying and fasting. → Who should be sent out (2-4 people)?<sup>4</sup>
2. The team guides and coaches new D-Group through Young Kickstart into RAD phase.
3. The team moves from leading to assisting after 3-4 weeks.

Depending on the growth and progress of the new D-Group and its leaders, the following options may arise after reaching the RAD stage and should be considered in prayer:

1. The team returns to the original D-Group (remote mentoring).
2. The team stays longer supporting the established D-Group (mentoring on site).
3. The team moves on to plant a new D-Group (remote mentoring).

If the team consists of more than two people, it is also possible to split up. For example, one person could return to the original D-Group, while two team members stay on for a while to support the newly formed D-Group and invest themselves in the leaders. It makes sense to be at least two people when staying or moving on (in order to plant more D-Groups). Jesus also sent his disciples out in pairs.<sup>5</sup>

- 1 **Important:** It is wonderful to find "people of peace" (Luke 10:6) or "prepared works" (Ephesians 2:10). There, God has already opened doors. Still, sometimes we have to make several attempts to find out which people and situations are open or prepared. If doors are closed, relax and move on!
- 2 **Important:** Everyone should grow in boldness daily. But often it is also helpful to work as a team.
- 3 **Examples:** Prayer walk, being shown time/place, prophetic impulses, healing, practical help (chapters 5/6).
- 4 The raw model is Acts 13:1-3 (sending Paul & Barnabas). God was asked by the church who should be sent out.
- 5 **Important:** In any case, contact should be maintained between at least two team members (mentors) and the D-Group leaders. This can be done remotely (e.g., writing, phone calling) or on site. However, care should be taken to ensure that the D-Group does not rely on the mentors, but grows independently or establishes new D-Groups.



## Option (c) leads to person joining an existing D-Group

A D-Group member and the new member work through the Young Kickstart course separately 1:1.

There may be situations where this is not necessary (e.g., change within a congregation), but it should be ensured that everyone has caught the vision and understood the DNA of the D-Groups and is solidified in the spiritual basics.

## D-Group – a small church

Many things that make up church life can (also) be experienced in D-Groups, e.g.,

- Leading people to salvation and baptism (chapters 2 and 3).
- Basic deliverance ministry (chapter 4, consult church leadership as needed).
- Baptism: Consult with church leadership → whole congregation or just D-Group (chapter 3).
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit (chapter 5)

## The D-Group meeting format

Especially in the first part, a lot of creativity is possible. Parts 2, 3, 4 should not be skipped.

### 1. God's presence and fellowship

- Meals, Communion (Acts 2:42, Isaiah 53:4-6, 1. Corinthians 11: 23-26)
- What are you grateful for? What are you happy about? (thanksgiving & worship)
- How are you doing? Do you need encouragement? (prayer & gifts e.g., healing, prophecy)
- What people do you know who need help or Jesus? (prayer, intercession)

### 2. Accountability & commitment<sup>1</sup> (*Vision* → *Matthew 28:18-20*)

- Testimonies promote faith. What has God done in my life?
- How did I implement what God showed me last time?
- Have I been able to share the love of God and the gospel with someone?
- Have I been able to train someone to follow Jesus? Has it been successful or did I miss it?

### 3. Learning & on-site exercises

1. Young Kickstart phase (3-6 month): Discuss unit/on-site exercises (e.g., chapter 2/3/8/9).
2. Afterwards → RAD phase (read – ask –do → see Appendix A):
  - ✓ Discussing Bible text (Appendix A or free choice) using questions (Appendix A).
  - ✓ Listening to what God wants from me – to whom or how should I pass on the Gospel?

Important: If the discussion is a bit more intense than expected, it may be helpful to spend several meetings on one unit or text. We are not in a hurry!

### 4. Practice in everyday life during the week

1. Young Kickstart phase (3-6 months): Implement practical exercises.
2. Afterwards → RAD phase (read – ask –do → see Appendix A):
  - ✓ I do what God has shown me through his Word during the last D-Group meeting.
  - ✓ I share what I have learned with others or tell them about Jesus.
  - ✓ I train/coach others to follow Jesus – individually or by leading a D-Group.

Important: If practicing does not work or is forgotten, it makes sense to wait with the next unit until most have at least tried.

<sup>1</sup> **Important:** Be authentic! It's okay if things were not successful. We are allowed to grow! Even trying to obey Jesus' command should be celebrated. Being successful encourages others. When things are challenging, others can encourage me. But if we do not share with others how we follow God in everyday life, we will eventually neglect our mission or stay with just good intentions. The result will be a christian "feel-good club" without growth and power.

## 1. The nature of God

Before I follow someone or become part of his family, it makes sense to know what he is like beforehand. Right?

### Three and yet one

God consists of three persons, much like a triangle consists of three corners. He is ONE God who is made up of THREE persons. Each of them has a different mission.

- **Father God** provides security, self-esteem and identity. He says where you belong.
- **Jesus, the son**, wants to be your elder brother. He provides friendship and esteem.
- The **Holy Spirit** is God's power. He is your helper, comforter, teacher and trainer.

### Who God is

Looking at a watch tells us that there is a watchmaker. What does looking at nature tell us?

*For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20, NET)*

---

According to Colossians 1:16, God created everything. What right does He have because of this?

*For all things in heaven and on earth were created in him — all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions,[ad] whether principalities or powers — all things were created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16, NET)*

---

### The heart of God

Does God have love or IS he love? What is the consequence? Can God do anything without love?

*God is love, and the one who resides in love resides in God, and God resides in him. (1. John 4:16b, NET)*

---

Where do ALL good things come from? Does this also apply to those who do not know or love God?

*All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no [...] slightest hint of change. (James 1:17, NET)*

---

What does God think about you?

*For I know what I have planned for you,' says the Lord. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11, NET)*

---

How does God feel when He thinks of you?

*The Lord your God is in your midst; he is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; he renews you by his love; he shouts for joy over you. (Zephaniah 3:17, NET)*

---

Where does joy dwell? Where do we find it?

*You lead me in the path of life. I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight. (Psalm 16:11, NET)*

---

Why is joy so important? So where should we spend most of our time?

*Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10b, NET)*

---

**Example:** Years ago I asked Jesus for deliverance from a burden. Suddenly I felt his presence in my room – within reach. In a moment I was free and began to laugh at the top of my lungs for 15-20 minutes like rarely in my life. It was so liberating.

Why do people, while living on earth, not always see that God is good?

*The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to mankind. (Psalm 115:16, NET)*

---

## God's foundation

*The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; [...] (Zephaniah 3:5a, ESV)*

God is totally \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes we might think it would be nice if he could "turn a blind eye" to injustice. But what would happen?

*Equity and justice are the foundation of your throne. Loyal love and faithfulness characterize your rule. (Psalm 89:15, NET)*

---

**Example:** Tolerated injustice<sup>1</sup> would turn any heaven into hell, just as dog excrement on shoes would pollute any clean home. First, the dirt must be removed – just like sin. As long as this does not happen, you have to stay outside – spiritually speaking, you have to be separated from God. Can you imagine a life WITHOUT love, joy, peace, health, etc.? That would be hell – wouldn't it? In the next chapter we will talk about God's solution for that!

1 This is also called "sin" or "missing the mark."

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*God is love, and the one who resides in love resides in God, and God resides in him. (1. John 4:16b, NET)*

1. How has God blessed you with something good or made you happy? Give at least five examples.

---

---

---

---

---

2. Count how many times you laugh on a day of your choice. What effects does laughter have?

---

---

3. Share God's joy with two people you don't know personally in a creative way. How did they react? What did you feel?

---

---

---

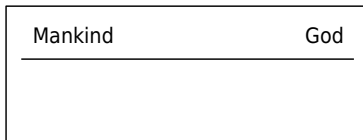
---



## 2. The way to God and a new identity

God created us to have fellowship with him. However, we rebelled against his authority and have become separated from God's love and his life. By our own efforts, it is impossible to go back. But there is a way ...

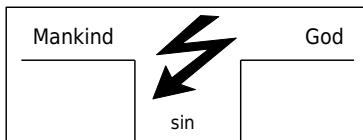
### 1. Paradise



It was God's plan to share his life of joy and love with us. We were meant to be his family forever. What does God desire for each person?

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly. (John 10:10, NET)*

### 2. Lost!



When we decided to rebel (sin<sup>1</sup>) against God, we separated ourselves from him and his life. God and sin cannot coexist, the same way light and darkness can't. Therefore, the consequence is eternal death.

Why would a person be so foolish as to rebel against a perfect God?

*God knows that when you eat from it<sup>2</sup> your eyes will open and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:5, NET)*

Why can't we just stop sinning by willpower?

*Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness? (Romans 6:16, NET)*

Our compulsion to sin and rebel has been inherited since Adam and Eve. It is comparable to being slaves in ancient Rome. If the parents were slaves, the children were slaves too by default. So if the cause lies with Adam and Eve, what is our own personal responsibility?

*Now this is the basis for judging: that the light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19, NET)*

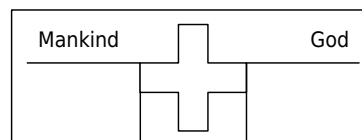
So our main problem is not that we ARE sinners, but that we ...

1 sin = missing the mark  
2 the forbidden fruit

### 3. Jesus pays – we receive!

Since we are slaves to sin, we cannot simply choose to be free. For that, we would actually have to die and be born sinless once again. Is that possible?

Imagine you have debts that you cannot pay. Now, if someone who has no debt pays for you, you are FREE. Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a man, lived a sinless life for us and out of love paid our debt by dying on a cross. Thus we are free from the compulsion to sin. Regarding sin, we are dead. God raised Jesus from death after three days. One day he will reign forever and judge the world righteously. Jesus now lives in heaven and in us. By his power we can live righteously before God. We have been born anew inwardly. So what exchange took place?



*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. (1. Peter 2:24, NET)*

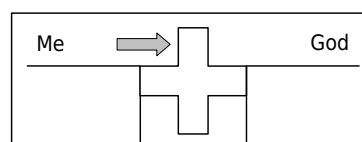
### 4. How do we receive God's gift and grace?

a) *Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31, NET) →* \_\_\_\_\_

b) *And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised. (2. Corinthians 5:15, NET) →* \_\_\_\_\_

c) *But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness.. (1. John 1:9, NET) →* \_\_\_\_\_

d) *[...] Each one of you be baptized<sup>1</sup> in the name of Jesus Christ [...]; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit<sup>2</sup>. (Acts 2:38, NET). →* \_\_\_\_\_



### 5. What are the characteristics of Jesus living inside of us?

*For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15, NET)*

*I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. (Galatians 2:20a, NET)*

We no longer live by our own strength, but rather ...

*God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God. (2. Corinthians 5:21, NET)*

By grace God has enabled us, to live a ...

life.

1 Now that Jesus lives in us, are we willing to show this publicly through baptism? See also chapter 3.

2 Do we absolutely want to receive the Holy Spirit? See also chapter 5.



## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. (1. Peter 2:24, NET)*

1. Have you already accepted Jesus? When and where? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have not – would you like to do so? Now would be a good opportunity to come to Jesus and give your life to HIM. You can do this just by yourself or, even better, with someone who is already following Jesus (e.g., D-Group member).

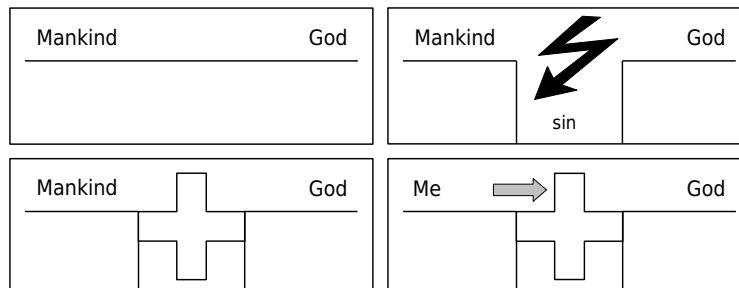
Here you see a summary of the necessary steps to take (see also last page, section 4):

- ✓ Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he died and rose again for you?
- ✓ Are you willing to live no longer for yourself, but for Jesus?
- ✓ Are you willing to forsake sin, to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others?
- ✓ Are you willing to be baptized (see chapter 3)?
- ✓ Do you want to receive the Holy Spirit (see chapter 5)?

If you are reluctant to do this, what is stopping you? Do you want to ask Jesus for help?

2. Exercise in small groups (2-3 persons)

- ✓ How did Jesus come into your life? What did he do for you? Tell in 1-3 minutes.
- ✓ Briefly explain the Gospel to a partner using the four illustrations (see below).



3. Talk to at least one person about the good news!<sup>1</sup> A conversation could start like this:

### The other person's story:

1. "Can you help me? I would be interested in what gives you hope (what you believe in)."
2. "What do you do in order to become a blameless person?"
3. "How can you be sure of entering a better world at the end of this life?"

### Your story and God's story:

"That sounds interesting. You know what gives me hope?"

1. How has your life changed through Jesus?
2. Share the Gospel – if helpful, use the four illustrations.

<sup>1</sup> **Important:** God has prepared people (Luke 10:6) and situations (Ephesians 2:10). If someone is dismissive, relax and move on to the next person.



### 3. Baptism in water - your birth certificate

The moment you put your trust in Jesus, repented and gave him control of your life, you became a new person. You were literally born again. However, in order for a newborn to be clearly assigned to a family by everyone, an official birth certificate is required. In the same way, baptism powerfully and with authority declares to the visible and invisible world that you no longer live under the dominion of sin, but now belong to the family of God. Without baptism, the power of sin cannot be permanently and effectively broken.

#### **The foundation of following Jesus**

How is love for God expressed?

*Remain in my love. If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love. (John 15:9b-10a, NET)*

What example did Jesus give?

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John to be baptized by him in the Jordan River. But John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?". So Jesus replied to him, "Let it happen now, for it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John yielded to him. (Matthew 3:13-15, NET)*

Who should be baptized?

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19, NET)*

#### **An official document**

What happens through baptism and is made publicly visible through it?

*Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4, NET)*

#### **The timing of baptism**

When should the baptism take place?

*And as they passed along the way, they came on some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water, what hinders me from being baptized? Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, it is lawful. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still. And they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch. And he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38, MKJV)*

## Getting practical

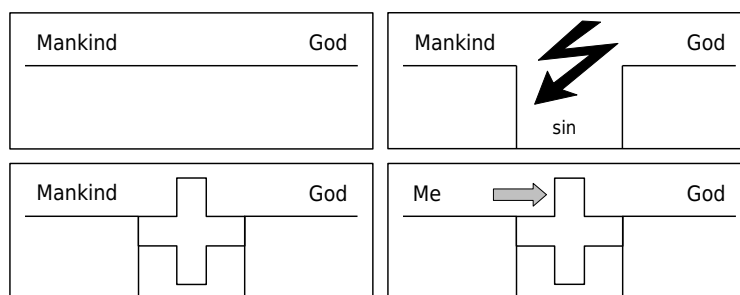
Memory Verse:

*Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4, NET)*

1. If you are following Jesus and have not yet been baptized, make an appointment for a baptism! D-Groups, which work very independently, can basically also perform baptisms on their own. If there is a close connection with the main church, it makes sense to coordinate a baptism service. Perhaps there are people from other D-Groups who would like to be baptized as well. Then it might be a good idea to celebrate a corporate baptism service with many people coming together.

2. Exercise in small groups (2-3 persons) – most of it you have already seen in chapter 2.

- ✓ How did Jesus come into your life? What did he do for you? Tell in 1-3 minutes.
- ✓ Briefly explain the Gospel to a partner using the four illustrations (see below).
- ✓ Briefly explain to a partner why someone should be baptized.



3. Talk to at least one person about the good news!<sup>1</sup> A conversation could start like this:

### The other person's story:

1. "Can you help me? I would be interested in what gives you hope (what you believe in)."
2. "What do you do in order to become a blameless person?"
3. "How can you be sure of entering a better world at the end of this life?"

### Your story and God's story:

"That sounds interesting. You know what gives me hope?"

1. How has your life changed through Jesus?
2. Share the Gospel – if helpful, use the four illustrations.

<sup>1</sup> **Important:** God has prepared people (Luke 10:6) and situations (Ephesians 2:10). If someone is dismissive, relax and move on to the next person.

## 4. Become free and stay free

How did people in Ephesus actively separate from the old life after deciding to follow Jesus?

*Many of those who had believed came forward, confessing and making their deeds known. Large numbers of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them up in the presence of everyone. When the value of the books was added up, it was found to total fifty thousand silver coins. (Acts 19:18-19, NET)*

When we keep things from our old life with us, we live in bondage.

### What bondage can look like – what sounds familiar to you?

☐ nightmares ☐ feelings of inferiority ☐ anxiety ☐ cutting oneself ☐ loneliness ☐ conspicuous behavior patterns ☐ uncontrolled rage ☐ constant feeling of rejection ...

### Examples of where bondage may come from

- x **sin:** e.g., hate, violent temper, rebellion, lies, pornography, horoscopes, divination ...
- x **pain/trauma:** e.g., accident, mobbing ... lead to fear, insecurity, rage, loneliness
- x **curses:** negative statements about my identity or destiny – by others or myself

### Steps towards freedom

*Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15, NET)*

1. The reason why we can rightly be free is ...

*But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins. (Matthew 6:15, NET)*

2. We receive forgiveness when we ...

*But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous, forgiving us our sins and cleansing us from all unrighteousness. (1. John 1:9, NET)*

3. When we discover sin in ourselves or in our family<sup>1</sup> ...

*And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32, NET)*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, [...] (Proverbs 18:21a, ESV)*

4. We replace lies with ... and negative words with ...

*So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7, NET)*

5. We renounce every ... spirit and send them under the feet of ...

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom. (2. Corinthians 3:17, NET)*

6. We invite ... and ask him to fill us with the love of God.

<sup>1</sup> You are not responsible for the sins of your relatives, but you may suffer the consequences. If we confess these sins to Jesus (your relatives will not necessarily want to or be able to do so), the consequences can be broken.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*For this purpose the Son of God was revealed: to destroy the works of the devil. (1. John 3:8b, NET)*

1. If your life with Jesus is not full of liberty and joy and you still feel bound and oppressed, go to a fellow Christian who has experience praying for deliverance and pray with him. It makes sense to ask someone from your D-Group. Feel free to use the six steps mentioned above. What did you experience?

### Practical tips:

If you don't immediately have specifics in mind for steps 2 through 4 (forgiveness, repentance and replacing lies), just ask the Holy Spirit, "Whom should I forgive?", "What do I need forgiveness for?" or "What lie have I believed so far?" Get quiet and listen carefully. Often the Holy Spirit will suddenly bring up relevant things. If nothing happens, it is okay.

Especially with steps 5 and 6, it has proven helpful to relax physically and mentally. Often people experienced freedom more quickly when they did the following (according to Derek Prince):

- When demons (evil spirits) are commanded to leave:
  - ✓ For example, if rage is the problem, command the spirit of rage.
  - ✓ The person being ministered to should stop praying and become quiet.
  - ✓ By opening the mouth wide and exhaling forcefully, resistance is minimized.
  - ✓ Often, after a short time, the sense of relaxation and freedom will appear.
  - ✓ Background: body and soul work together, tension is avoided.
- When receiving the Holy Spirit, you can do likewise:
  - ✓ Become calm, stop praying by yourself.
  - ✓ Open your mouth wide and inhale in a relaxed manner.
  - ✓ If demons are gone, the presence of the Holy Spirit will somehow be felt.
  - ✓ If restlessness or the like sets in, go through the previous steps again.

2. To remain free, we must maintain a healthy spiritual lifestyle<sup>1</sup>. This includes:

- ✓ Spend time with God, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit every day. Talk with them.
- ✓ Read the Bible daily, talk to the Holy Spirit about it and do what it says.
- ✓ Obey the Holy Spirit and be led by him. (Romans 8:14)
- ✓ Exchange negative thoughts for positive ones. (Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:1-3)
- ✓ Think about the words of God. (Romans 12:2, Joshua 1:8)
- ✓ Exchange negative words for positive ones. (Proverbs 18:21, James 3:1-12)
- ✓ Be committed to a local church. You cannot grow without other Christians.

Are you ready to do so? \_\_\_\_\_ > If the answer is "YES", then start today.

<sup>1</sup> Some points will be discussed in more detail in later chapters and in the "Toolbox" booklet.

## 5. The Holy Spirit – Living Water

Every person needs to drink every day if possible. Who or what is our spiritual water?

*And in the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes on Me, as the Scripture has said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." But He spoke this about the Spirit, which they who believed on Him should receive; [...]* **(John 7:37-39, MKJV)**

### **The Holy Spirit works IN us – before and after conversion**

What does the Holy Spirit do before we have even begun to believe in Jesus?

*And when that One comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, and concerning righteousness, and concerning judgment.* **(John 16:8, MKJV)**

How does the Holy Spirit gradually change our character as we follow Jesus?

*But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* **(Galatians 5:22-23, MKJV)**

### **The Holy Spirit comes UPON us with power – why?**

When we follow Jesus and have been baptized, the Holy Spirit equips us. How and why?

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses [...]* **(Acts 1:8, NET)**

*Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father.* **(John 14:12, MKJV)**

### **How do we become and remain permanently "full of the Holy Spirit"?**

How do we get "spiritual water"? What determines how much we will "drink"?

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?* **(Luke 11:13, MKJV)**

*[...] but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things [...].* **(Ephesians 5:18-20, MKJV)**

*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.* **(John 7:37, MKJV)**



## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses [...]* (Acts 1:8, NET)

1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit! Have someone who has already received (someone from the D-Group would make sense) lay hands on you (Acts 8:17). Reach out for your prayer language. The prayer language (speaking in tongues) is the spiritual gift that builds you up yourself (1. Corinthians 14:4). What have you experienced? Have you felt ease, perhaps resistance or difficulty?

---



---

### Best practice in order to receive ...

- ✓ *Relax and don't get pressured.*
- ✓ *Sometimes worship music helps create an atmosphere for the presence of God.*
- ✓ *Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you more and more.*
- ✓ *Open your mouth, speak out loud words or syllables that cross your lips, don't analyze!*
- ✓ *You will feel weird and will not understand anything. Good! That's how babies start, too.*
- ✓ *What you are receiving is probably your prayer language.*
- ✓ *The longer you go on, the more the Holy Spirit will fill you.*
- ✓ *This prayer language is not the Holy Spirit, but a kind of gate through which He flows.*
- ✓ *If you're brooding and everything feels tough, you're probably pushing yourself too hard.*
- ✓ *As soon as you notice lightness, like a flow, you have received. You will feel it.*
- ✓ *It will feel like you have been standing in the water, and suddenly you are swimming.*
- ✓ *Other manifestations may occur, like joy, crying, laughter, trembling, peace ...*

2. Get into the habit of inviting the Holy Spirit to fill you every day! Also use your prayer language a lot. It works like a spiritual fitness program. Try to pray in tongues once (the more often the better) for 15 minutes without interruption. What do you notice?

---



---

3. Let the Holy Spirit show you daily what to do or expect today. You may want to write these things down. When you get into situations or meet people that the Spirit has prepared you for, you can show your notes. This could open hearts. Is there any example you can give?

---



---

**Example:** *One morning during prayer I saw a clock showing the time 4:35 pm and a supermarket nearby. So I went there at 4:35 pm. After a while, a man was looking at household appliances – right where I was standing. I told him I had been sent here by God to help him. He turned out to be a muslim and was in great need. He gladly agreed that I prayed for him.*

## 6. Living in the presence of God

In order to have true friendship with God, we need to set aside time every day<sup>1</sup>.

### **Don't let anything stop you: Life in the Spirit – who is in control?**

*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32, MKJV)*

NEVER let yourself be controlled by feelings or your desires, but by ...

---

Spend time with God because it is right. Feelings will follow YOU, not the other way around!

### **How to spend time in God's presence – at home and on the road**

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! (Psalm 100:4, NET)*

A good start to enter into God's presence<sup>2</sup> is ... and ...

---

*Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you. (1. Peter 5:7, NET)*

Worries weigh us down – so let's get rid of them. Where do they belong? ...

---

*Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1b-2a, MKJV)*

What strengthens our faith<sup>3</sup>? ...

---

*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; [...] (Psalm 37:7a, ESV)*

In order to hear God's quiet voice, it sometimes takes times of<sup>4</sup> ...

---

*Your Words were found, and I ate them; [...] (Jeremiah 15:16a, MKJV)*

When we read, confess and pray God's Word,<sup>5</sup> ...

---

*The one who speaks in a tongue builds himself up, [...] (1. Corinthians 14:4a, NET)*

When you use your prayer language<sup>6</sup>, ...

---

*No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15, ESV)*

What do good friends do<sup>7</sup>?

---

- 1 You can find more practical tips and tools for planning and spending time with God using the "Toolbox" booklet.
- 2 Thank God for everything that comes to your mind – big and small things. You will notice how burdens fall off.
- 3 As long as we imagine looking at Jesus, we avoid self-centeredness, distraction and frustration. When we see things from Jesus' point of view, we grow in hope, faith and joy. Go on a journey with him using your imagination. Many times Jesus will suddenly take the lead and direct your thoughts.
- 4 God can speak to us very well or let us feel his presence, if we just quiet down. Relaxed worship music may help sometimes to do so.
- 5 When we confess things that God's Word says about us (examples in Appendix D), it strengthens our faith. Jesus also gave us, for example, the "Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:9--13) as a prayer guide. This is also described in more detail in the "Toolbox" booklet. We can make the Word of God our own prayer. Without prayer, God does nothing.
- 6 Your prayer language (speaking in tongues) has a great benefit. You do not have to think. You can use it everywhere and you will be strengthened spiritually. So it is a kind of spiritual gym.
- 7 Talk to Jesus like you talk to your best friend. He loves this kind of conversations and will answer you.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*  
**(Romans 8:26, ESV)**

1. Set aside a fixed time each day for fellowship with God – at least 20 minutes. You can also find a planning guide in the "Toolbox" booklet. What time(s) have you chosen?

---

---

2. This week, during your daily devotional time with God, take 15 minutes each day to lie down or sit comfortably and just be still. You may want to have some quiet worship music playing in the background. How does this make you feel? How do you recognize his presence? How does God speak to you during this time?

---

---

3. Talk with Jesus like with a good friend. Ask him questions that are important to you. What and how does he answer?

---

---

4. Do you have a specific request? Pray intensively for it this week. Often God responds by showing you a specific step of faith to take so that the solution to your problem can manifest. What might be the step that you need to take?

---

**Example:** *You want your teacher to change? It could be that God asks you to bless him every day or to write him a nice card with a thank you. Then do it and look for the results.*

5. Take a **prayer walk** alone or with one or two others. Pray quietly (e.g., in tongues), pay attention to what you see and how the Holy Spirit directs you. Stop in between and pray for that area. If the Holy Spirit highlights people to you, approach them, explain that you are praying for your neighborhood and ask them if they have any requests that you can pray for right away (e.g., healing, job). Maybe more will come up.

What have you experienced?

---

---

## 7. God's Word - daily food and weapon

The Bible is God's written "instruction manual" for his children. The Holy Spirit makes it to come alive when we ask him to. It was written in a period of more than 1500 years. God inspired more than 40 authors to write down his will using their own words.

In 66 books, God's miracles, his nature and plan for mankind are described. They contain many predictions that have already been fulfilled. The common thread is Jesus – sometimes obvious, sometimes hidden. Compared to other historical books (e.g., Caesar's "Gallic War"), the Bible is best attested. Here are some suitable translations<sup>1</sup>.

New American Standard Bible (NASB)	very accurate; language not as old fashioned as King James (KJV)
English Standard Version (ESV)	essentially literal translation in contemporary English; good to read
New International Version (NIV)	less accurate; rather "thought by thought"; easy and good to read

### Handling the Word of God – the Bible<sup>2</sup>

*Your Words were found, and I ate them; [...] (Jeremiah 15:16a, MKJV)*

If God's Word is our food, how regularly should we read it? ...

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17, ESV)*

What grows inside of me when I hear or read God's Word with an open heart? ...

*This law scroll must not leave your lips! You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful. (Joshua 1:8, ESV)*

What has to be filled with God's Word? Our w..., t... and d...

### The Word of God – our most powerful weapon

How did Jesus react when he was tempted? What does this mean for us? Give examples!

*Then Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: 'You are to worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and began ministering to his needs. (Matthew 4:10-11, NET) → Read verses 1-11 in your Bibles!*

### How do I read the Bible? "RAD" = read – ask – do<sup>3</sup>

1. Read the Bible text once or twice. Then summarize it in your own words.
2. What does the passage reveal about God's nature and about people?
3. What is God saying to you<sup>4</sup>? What changes will you make in your life because of this?
4. Who can you share what you have learned with – or who can you share Jesus with?

Important: Avoid wild interpretations. Answers should be provable from the biblical text. Write down open questions. Later you will come across Bible passages that provide answers.

- 1 In the booklet "Toolbox" (toolbox.thomaspilger.org) you will find a more detailed overview of common Bible translations.
- 2 Sometimes comparing multiple translations is useful. Bible apps also have helpful search functions.
- 3 Reading the Bible doesn't require faith – but putting it into practice in everyday life does.
- 4 The same text may speak differently to different people.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work." (John 4:34, NET)*

1. Read the Word of God daily according to "RAD" (see also challenge number 3)! Write down this week what the Holy Spirit has to say to you specifically. How have you put things into practice<sup>1</sup>?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Each day this week, choose at least one Bible verse (see Appendix D) to reflect on and to declare it throughout the day. How did this make you feel? What has changed in your daily life?

---

---

3. If you aren't already reading the Bible in some structured way, then start with a reading plan that works for you (see Appendix C or use the "Toolbox"). It is best to start with a book you have never read or have read very rarely.

**If you are starting from scratch, this strategy could work for you:**

1. Read the Gospel of Mark<sup>2</sup> in five weeks (half a chapter a day).
2. Read the New Testament in nine months (one chapter a day).
3. Read the whole Bible in a year (three to four chapters a day).
4. After that, find your own pace, style and plan.<sup>34</sup>

Which option did you choose?

---

---

1 Some things may take more time and you may not receive or implement something new every day. This is okay.

2 spiced with some Psalms and Proverbs

3 If you need much longer than two years to read the Bible, you run the risk of forgetting too much. It is important to be able to keep the Word in your heart.

4 Depending on your reading style, reading too much at once can also be ineffective. It should not result in just checking off one more item on a list. If you can barely remember what you just read a few minutes before, a slower pace may be more appropriate.

## 8. Hear and speak prophetically

**Definition:** Enablement<sup>5</sup> to be shown hidden or future things by God. Examples:

- You feel what God thinks about a person or what a person's destiny is.
- You have a dream containing a message for a certain person.
- You physically feel a pain because God wants to heal someone near you there.

For whom did God intend to speak and hear prophetically?

*But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it will be,' God says, 'that I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'* (Acts 2:16-18, NET)

What is the purpose of this gift? What if prophecy is only negative or condemning?

*But he who prophesies speaks to men for building up, and exhortation, and comfort. (1. Corinthians 14:3, MKJV)*

Even if prophecy is a gift, why does its use need to be trained?

*Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. (1. Timothy 4:14-15, ESV)*

Should the recipient test your prophetic word? What is the recipient's responsibility, what is yours?

*But examine all things; hold fast to what is good. (1. Thessalonians 5:21, NET)*

### Examples of the prophetic – which ones do you already know?

- ☐ vision or picture (usually begins within the imagination)
- ☐ feeling or impression (e.g., How does God see a person? What is the person's destiny?)
- ☐ thought (Don't fall for the fallacy, "It's just me!")
- ☐ word from the Bible that you read or remember
- ☐ sounds, smells, physical impressions (e.g., sudden pain in the foot)
- ☐ Something constantly attracts your attention (e.g., a sign, a person, memory).
- ☐ dreams or appearances of angels

5 This ability is a gift and therefore has nothing to do with spiritual maturity. However, it can be well or poorly developed through training. There are other revelatory gifts, but for the sake of simplicity, we will only use the term "prophecy" (compare 1. Corinthians 12 and 14).

### **Checklist of how to receive**

Become sensitive by spending a lot of time with God. Look at people as God sees them.

How do **you** receive best (e.g., vision, sensation, Bible verse)? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you receive **first**? Often the first impression is the right one.

What **remains**? Own thoughts and ideas fade very quickly.

### **Pass it on, but how? – Some good advice for getting started**

- ✓ Is my impression for now? Should I pass it on or just pray about it?
- ✓ Ask yourself, "How would I feel if I received this word by somebody else?"
- ✓ Do not speak condemnation or fear, but encouragement!
- ✓ Do not prophesy spouses, births or dates ("Tomorrow you will meet your future wife.")!
- ✓ Don't be offensive ("I got the impression that ..." instead of "God is saying to you that ...").
- ✓ Ask for a feedback ("Can you relate to what I just shared?").
- ✓ Mistakes are okay. Just stay humble. No risk, no mistakes – but nothing will happen at all!

### **How do I get the interpretation of a prophetic impression or vision?**

- ✓ Ask the Holy Spirit and pay attention to your thoughts and feelings.
- ✓ Perhaps the recipient can understand the meaning even without you.
- ✓ Do not speculate. Just pass on what you have received.

### **Demo<sup>1</sup> – have fun!**

This is a way to demonstrate and practice the prophetic even if you know each other. However, you need at least three people for this.

- ✓ Prepare a set of about 30 to 40 photos or postcards.
- ✓ One person takes the role of the "listener" (the one who listens to the Holy Spirit).
- ✓ Another person blindly draws three cards and hands them to the "listener".
- ✓ The "listener" turns his back to the other people.
- ✓ The others quietly agree on one to be the "receiver" (receiving a word from "listener").
- ✓ The "listener" asks the Holy Spirit for an impression or word while looking at the cards.
- ✓ The order of the cards and their prophetic meaning are not predefined and can change.
- ✓ The "listener" tells the others the impression received, still with his back to them.
- ✓ In doing so, he shows the others the picture to which he refers in each case.
- ✓ Thus, while the word is being communicated, the "receiver" sees the respective image.
- ✓ Then the "listener" can turn around and the "receiver" comments on the given word.

*Not seeing the "receiver" prevents the "listener" from "prophesying" known facts.*

<sup>1</sup> This is based on the approach "Hearing from Heaven" in a slightly adapted form.



## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27, ESV)*

1. First listen for yourself and write down what God says about you.

---



---

2. Share an impression or word for someone you know (friend, church, neighbor, family).

---



---

3. A task that cannot always be implemented immediately, but at least in the nearer future:

- **Option 1:** Share a word with a person who is largely unknown to you. You should not know so many details that you can "fake" a prophecy, e.g.,
  - prophetic team in the church or at a conference
  - in the middle of everyday life (e.g., shopping, at work)
  - As a starting point, it's helpful to ask yourself,
    - ◆ ... what God's perspective of this person looks like.
    - ◆ ... which gifts God might have given this person.
    - ◆ ... what that person's divine calling might be.
- **Option 2:** Take part in a prophetic-evangelistic event.<sup>12</sup>

- 1 **Example "Treasure Hunt":** Based on prophetic impressions, a treasure map is created with up to five characteristics of an unknown person (location, name, external characteristics, need for prayer, unusual). Then, in teams or alone, one sets out to find a person to whom the characteristics apply in whole or in part. Usually surprises, good conversations, sharing words of knowledge, healings and much more are the results. This approach is based on the book "The Ultimate Treasure Hunt" by Kevin Dedmon. There you will also find a template for a treasure map.
- 2 **Example "Hearing from Heaven":** The passers-by are offered an encouragement from God. For this purpose, 30-40 pictures are hung on a clothesline. In doing so, one gets an impression of which two or three pictures are relevant for the person in question and passes on an encouragement based on the pictures.



## 9. Healing and miracles

What name does God use for himself? So what does God obviously want to do?

*[...] for I am the LORD, your healer. (Exodus 15:26b, ESV)*

---

Jesus wanted heaven to come to earth. What diseases do you find in heaven?

*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-10, ESV)*

---

Jesus took our sin to the cross. What else? And what does that mean for us?

*But he lifted up our illnesses, he carried our pain; [...] he endured punishment that made us well; because of his wounds we have been healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5, NET)*

---

What works did Jesus do that we should also do?

*As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. (Matthew 10:7-8, NET)*

---

How does faith grow? How do we release healing?

*[...] for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. (Hebräer 11:27b, ESV)*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue [...] (Proverbs 18:21a, ESV)*

---

How do healings and miracles increase? What does "risk taking" have to do with it?

*Give, and it will be given to you [...] (Luke 6:38a, NET)*

---

### **Best practice: healing prayer for others**

- a) Inquire briefly what the person's health problem is. Keep it short. After that, invite the Holy Spirit.
- b) Command the body cells to come into God's order. Pay attention to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- c) Watch manifestations (heat, peace, joy, trembling, tears, twitching eyelids, sense of electricity ...).
- d) Test: e.g., mobility, pain "before/after" (scale 0-10) → Is it better or completely healed?
- e) Thank the Lord for improvement, even if incomplete. Often you will pray and test more than once.
- f) Is there a breakthrough or no further progress – even frustration? → Stop. Bless and encourage the person. Don't get discouraged if nothing is visible. Many times the healing will occur later.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*I tell you the solemn truth, the person who believes in me will perform the miraculous deeds that I am doing, and will perform greater deeds than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12, NET)*

1. For one day, observe the people around you and count how many people obviously need physical healing. What number do you come up with?

---

2. Pray for healing for a person outside the church. Do not do this silently, but simply ask if you may and do it out loud.

What fears, if any, did you have about taking this risk?

---

What happened when you overcame your reluctance and prayed for a person?

---

How did you feel afterwards?

---

What have you learned?

---

## 10. Our spiritual family

When we believed, repented and got baptized we became part of the church (family) of Jesus. We need brothers and sisters. What four things did the first church experience almost daily?

*They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42, NET)*

How does fellowship with other Christians protect us?

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV)*

### Spiritual family life

What do honor, appreciation and love do? What might they look like?

*Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples – if you have love for one another. (John 13:34b-35, NET)*

Someone in the church has wronged you – at least that's what you suspect. How do you react?<sup>1</sup>

*If your brother sins, go and show him his fault when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you, so that at the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be established. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. If he refuses to listen to the church, treat him like a Gentile or a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17, NET)*

### The power of Communion – a privilege of God's children

What does Communion<sup>2</sup> mean? What attitude should we have in order to take it?

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat, this is my body." And after taking the cup and giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28, NET)*

<sup>1</sup> Those involved must talk to each other, never about each other. Talking behind each other's backs destroys the church!

<sup>2</sup> Communion is also called the Lord's Supper.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. (Philippians 2:3, NET)*

1. Become committed to a **local Christian church/community**. Where would that be?

---

2. Become committed to a **D-Group** to grow in faith!

It is important for church to take place regularly on a small scale. In the New Testament the Word, prayer, fellowship and the Lord's Supper were part of such meetings. Since they were smaller groups, they could meet in private homes. Sometimes they were called house churches.

People not only encouraged each other, but then also shared the message of Jesus in their surroundings. This was typical for such small groups. In this way, groups grew, new groups and churches were planted, contributing to the spread of the gospel. Even under persecution, the church of Jesus was able to survive in this way. The strength of D-Groups is the activation of EVERY believer to both follow Jesus personally and to train others in discipleship.

*And they were continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and in fellowship and in the breaking of the loaves, and in prayers. [...] And continuing with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they shared food with gladness and simplicity of heart. (Acts 2:42+46, MKJV)*

What would you consider to be your D-Group?

---

3. Become committed to a **prayer partnership**.

Even in a D-Group, very personal sharing is limited. It is therefore helpful to have a prayer partner to encourage each other weekly, to pray together and to learn from each other. This can also be done by telephone, for example.

*Again, I tell you the truth, if two of you on earth agree about whatever you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are assembled in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18:19-20, NET)*

What would prayer partnership look like for you?

---

4. Think about how you can honor a brother or sister in the Lord and do it!

---

## 11. Giving and receiving

*"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." (Bill Johnson)*

What do you think about this quote?

---

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17a, ESV)*

The source of our provision is ...

---

*Give, and it will be given to you: [...] For the measure you use will be the measure you receive. (Luke 6:38, NET)*

God entrusts as much to me as ...

---

*The one who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much [...]. And if you haven't been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you your own? (Luke 16:10a +12, NET)*

God entrusts me with more and my own if ...

---

*If then you haven't been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will entrust you with the true riches? (Luke 16:11, NET)*

Spiritual riches (miracles, revelation ...) are given to whoever ...

---

*Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver. (2. Corinthians 9:7, NET)*

The right attitude when giving is ...

---

### Tithes, offering and alms

Since Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22), the first 10% of our income belongs to God. By this we show that God is our protector and provider. The "tithe" is intended for the local church (Malachi 3:10). From this, people can live who spiritually equip and provide for the congregation.

*"Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter, [...] to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out blessing for you until there is no room for it all. (Malachi 3:10, NET)*

If we tithe to God, then ...

---

*[...] But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, [...] (Malachi 3:8-9, NET)*

Robbing God leads to ...

---

*[...] I am well supplied, having received [...] the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (Philippians 4:18, ESV)*

What do willingly given sacrifices and alms mean to God?

---



## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*Give, and it will be given to you: A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive. (Luke 6:38, NET)*

1. After you have become part of a local Christian church or fellowship, start giving your tithe there – if you are not already doing so.

My church and spiritual home is: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Let God place on your heart a person or ministry that you should bless financially or otherwise materially in the near future. Then do it to the extent God has shown you – with a joyful heart. What did you experience and feel in the process?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Note on "tithing":

Even though the "tithe" was included in the Law of Moses, it was not a tax or compulsory levy. Rather, the "tithe" had already been in God's possession for about 450 years and was the visible sign of the covenant Jacob had made with God.

Unlike the covenant between God and Abraham or God and the people of Israel, the covenant of "tithing" had been instigated by a human being – not by God. Jacob had done so because of an overwhelming encounter with the presence of God when he had a dream of a stairway to heaven (Genesis 28:10-22).

God was pleased with the covenant Jacob offered him and always kept it. He indeed became Jacob's God, providing for him and protecting him. The "tithe" therefore represented the outward sign of this covenant between Jacob and God, just as circumcision is the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, or baptism the sign of the covenant between Jesus and his followers.

Since Jacob had literally handed over the "tithe" to God in Genesis 28, God included it into the law from Mount Sinai. And since he himself does not need money or riches, he decided to use the "tithe" to provide for God's full-time servants. In the Old Testament, these were the priests and Levites. In the New Testament, these are the servants of God who are appointed to equip the Body of Christ.

Jesus himself encouraged people to "tithe" and did not introduce any substitute or change in the New Testament. His only correction was to return to the right attitude:

*Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You give a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, yet you neglect what is more important in the law – justice, mercy, and faithfulness! You should have done these things without neglecting the others. (Matthew 23:23, NET)*

## 12. Destiny, battle and finale

### Living our destiny

Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39, NET)

The most important thing is ...

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:18-19, NET)

[...] whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12, ESV)

Whoever believes in Jesus and loves him will ...

### Fighting the good fight of faith

Which followers of Christ will experience persecution? What might that look like?

Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2. Timothy 3:12, NET)

What will encourage us when we suffer for Jesus?

He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. (1. Corinthians 10:13b, NET)

### Resurrection, restoration of the earth, judgment and eternity<sup>1</sup>

When Jesus returns, the "Millennial Kingdom" will begin. What will happen there?<sup>2</sup>

[...] so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you – that is, Jesus. This one heaven must receive until the time all things are restored, which God declared from times long ago through his holy prophets. (Acts 3:20-21, NET)

- 1 The Bible does not describe every detail about Jesus' return, the Millennial Kingdom and the judgments. God reveals only as much as we need to know right NOW. This means that unanswered questions will remain. Therefore, at this point we will only go as far as the biblical revelation allows without engaging in conjecture.
- 2 One must be aware that at Jesus' return the whole earth is not automatically restored immediately. We, too, receive a new inner man (spirit) immediately upon conversion, but our character does not change instantly, but through our daily walk with Jesus. The Bible calls this process "sanctification".

There are two resurrections, one at the beginning, the other at the end of the "Millennial Kingdom". What is it about in each case?

*Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. These had not worshiped the beast or his image and had refused to receive his mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **(Revelation 20:4-5, NET)***

*And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. Then books were opened, and another book was opened – the book of life. So the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds. [...] If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire. **(Revelation 20:12+15, NET)***

What will it be like to live with God eternally?

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more – or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist. **(Revelation 21:4, NET)***

### **Our rank in the kingdom of God<sup>1</sup>**

Everyone who believes in Jesus and lays hold of the redemptive work of Jesus is saved and a child of God. But not everyone who is saved will automatically sit and reign with Christ on the throne. Who will that be?

*This saying is trustworthy: If we died with him, we will also live with him. If we endure, we will also reign with him. **(2. Timothy 2:11-12a, NET)***

*So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. [...] To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me in My throne, [...] **(Revelation 3:16+21a, MKJV)***

1 There is a difference between an immature, selfish toddler and a mature son or daughter. The infant belongs to the family, but cannot rule. The mature children of God who have overcome their selfishness, the world and Satan will rule. Faith in Jesus alone saves us. But we are also called to come into full spiritual maturity as sons, daughters, co-heirs and co-rulers of God. This happens by no longer living for ourselves, loving Jesus, overcoming lukewarmness and living in childlike faith. We will not know on this earth how well we have truly grasped this high calling. This will only be revealed once we stand before Jesus. Those who are spiritually mature will be recognized by the fact that they are no longer concerned with themselves and their position. Rather, they are focused on the Son of God rejoicing and receiving the reward for his sacrifice on the cross. Then how should we live? Loving God with all our heart is the top priority. The rest will fall into place.

## Getting practical

Memory Verse:

*I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one can take away your crown.  
(Revelation 3:11, NET)*

As an exercise, we focus once again on Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. To do this, pass on the love of God in everyday life to another person – as far as possible, a person who does not yet know Jesus.

You have many ways to do this, which you learned about in various chapters of this course. Take your pick – there can be more than one choice!

- ☐ Just make a person happy – with word or deed. ( → chapter 1)
- ☐ Tell one person your story with God and God's story with us. ( → chapter 2)
- ☐ Help somebody to become delivered. ( → chapter 4)
- ☐ Pray for someone in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit. ( → chapter 5)
- ☐ Take a prayer walk. Let the Spirit highlight people you might want to talk to. (→ chapter 6)
- ☐ Pass on a prophetic encouragement to someone. ( → chapter 8)
- ☐ Find someone who is sick and pray for healing. ( → chapter 9)
- ☐ Bless someone God highlights to you, financially or materially. ( → chapter 11)

At the end of this course, may you be encouraged and invited to fight the good fight of faith with all your joy, strength and passion to obtain the high prize of the heavenly calling.

Continue to grow in Christ. Therefore ...

- ... love God with all your heart. Love brothers, sisters and the unsaved as yourself!
- ... learn to live in the presence of God and worship him!
- ... become aware of your new identity as a beloved child of God!
- ... be ready at all times to stand for the Gospel and to be a witness of Jesus!
- ... be ready to walk with the Holy Spirit and to take risks!
- ... invest in people, train them, live and demonstrate the life of Jesus!
- ... change your thinking and focus on eternal and heavenly things!
- ... do not look at yourself, but at Jesus! Do not live for yourself, but for him and with him!

*May God bless you!*



## Check - did I grow?

This check is intended for you personally. It gives you a guide to help you identify where you may have strengths and weaknesses. It will also highlight areas that you may want to focus on next.

Number 5 means, "Yes – of course!" Number 1 means, "No way!"

### 1. The nature of God

Have I realized that God is love and will always love me? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I believe that God is always good and that He is for me? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I live a joyful life? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

### 2. The way to God and a new identity

Am I aware of the core of sin? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I have forgiveness of my sins and eternal life? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I love and obey Jesus as my king? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I walk in a new authority and identity as a child of God? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I live by the grace of God instead of my own strength? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Have I changed since I came to Christ? Do others notice? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

### 3. Baptism in water – your birth certificate

Have I been baptized? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Did I start telling others about Jesus? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

### 4. Become free and stay free

Have I fully separated from my old life? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Have I forgiven others? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I feel free, confident and joyful? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

### 5. The Holy Spirit – Living Water

Have I been baptized with the Holy Spirit? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Am I inviting the Holy Spirit to fill me anew every day? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Am I growing in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I see an increase of strength and spiritual gifts in my life? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

### 6. Living in the presence of God

Is God's truth controlling me and not my will, mind, emotions and body? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I bring all questions to the Holy Spirit and receive his answers? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Do I set aside time each day to be alone in God's presence? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Have I learned to recognize God's presence? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**7. God's Word – daily food and weapon**

- Do I love the Word of God? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I read the Word of God daily? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Does the Word of God change the way I think, speak and act? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**8. Hear and speak prophetically**

- Do I hear the voice of God regularly? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I holding on to things God has told me directly or through others? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I motivated and courageous to speak prophetically to others? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Is my "accuracy" increasing when speaking prophetic words? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**9. Healing and miracles**

- Do I believe that God can and will heal and do miracles? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I pray for healings and miracles regularly? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I expect and see healings and miracles? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I willing to take risks by faith in order to see miracles? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**10. Our spiritual family**

- Am I part of a local church, D-Group and prayer partnership? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I part of solving problems and a blessing to other brothers and sisters? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I expect the Body of Christ to impact my life? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Is it worth it for me to fight for my relationship with brothers and sisters? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**11. Giving and receiving**

- Am I a generous and giving person? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I enjoy giving gifts and blessing others? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I tithe to my local church? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Is the Holy Spirit guiding me in giving offerings and alms? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I experiencing the blessing and provision of God? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

**12. Destiny, battle and finale**

- Do I love the Body of Christ and the lost? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I enjoy telling others about Jesus? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I enjoy mentoring others in their faith walk? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I a mentor and role model for others? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I persevering and trained in spiritual warfare? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Do I want what God wants? Is he my Lord? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I willing to suffer for Christ? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- Am I motivated by thinking about eternity with Christ? ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

## Appendix A - RAD phase after Young Kickstart

After laying an important foundation of faith through the 12 Young Kickstart units, the next step is to continue growing. We can do this in D-Groups (≥ 2 people) and also on our own. Specifically, this works by asking questions of a Bible text, expecting answers through the Holy Spirit and putting into practice what we have received.

### How do I read the Bible? "RAD" = read – ask – do<sup>1</sup>

1. Read the Bible text once or twice. Then summarize it in your own words.
2. What does the passage reveal about God's nature and about people?
3. What is God saying to you<sup>2</sup>? What changes will you make in your life because of this?
4. Who can you share what you have learned with – or who can you share Jesus with?

*Important:* Avoid wild interpretations. Answers should be provable from the biblical text. Write down open questions. Later you will come across Bible passages that provide answers.

### Bible study sets for different topics

As a help and suggestion, here you can find important and elementary scripture passages that can be studied. *After that, one can go through the Word of God a bit more systematically, e.g., in the form of a complete gospel, letter or prophetic book.*

No.	Bible passage	"Hope Series"
1	Luke 18:9-14	Hope for the sinner
2	Luke 12:13-34	Hope for the poor
3	Luke 15:11-32	Hope for the runaway (The prodigal son)
4	Luke 19:1-10	Hope for the lost
5	John 11:1-44	Hope for the mourning
6	John 3:1-21	Hope for the seeking

No.	Bible passage	"Discovering Father God"
1	Genesis 1	Creation
2	Genesis 2	Man in paradise
3	Genesis 3	Rebellion of man
4	Genesis 6:5-9:17	The flood – God's new beginning with Noah (ca. 3 sessions)
5	Genesis 12:1-9	God starts a new chapter of humanity with Abraham.
6	Leviticus 19:2; Matthew 5:48	God is holy and perfect.
7	Exodus 20:1-17	God's moral compass – the 10 commandments
8	1. Samuel 16:1-13	God looks for the heart.
9	Psalms 51	God receives sinners who repent.
10	Psalms 103	God of grace – a merciful father that forgives and heals
11	Isaiah 53	God's promise of a savior
12	Matthew 6:1-6; 6:16-18	Father God sees and honors what is hidden.
13	Matthew 6:25-34; 7:7-11	Father God provides for and listens to his children.
14	John 4:23-24	Father God seeks worshipers.
15	Ephesians 2:1-10	Father God places us at Jesus' side and empowers us by grace.

<sup>1</sup> Reading the Bible doesn't require faith – putting it into practice in everyday life does.

<sup>2</sup> The same text may speak differently to different people.



No.	Bible passage	"Discovering Jesus"
1	Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20	Birth of the savior
2	Matthew 3:1-17	John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism and the Holy Spirit
3	Mark 5:1-20	A possessed man is freed and spreads his testimony.
4	John 10:1-18; 10:25-30	The good shepherd loses no one.
5	Luke 18:35-43	A blind man is healed.
6	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus goes after Zacchaeus.
7	Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:26	Jesus, the sinless and perfect priest and mediator
8	John 14:1-14	Jesus, the only way, calls us to do his works.
9	John 13:1-17	Jesus washes the disciples' feet.
10	John 13:34-35	The new commandment of Jesus
11	Luke 22:14-20	The last meal with the disciples
12	Luke 22:47-53; 23:13-25	Jesus' arrest and trial
13	Luke 23:33-56	Jesus' crucifixion and burial
14	Mark 16:1-14	Jesus' resurrection
15	Mark 16:15-20; Matthew 28:18-20	Jesus' final commission to his followers
16	1. Thessalonians 4:13-18	Jesus' Second Coming and our resurrection
17	Matthew 25:31-46	The judge of the world

No.	Bible passage	"Discovering the Holy Spirit"
1	Genesis 1:2; 2:1-7	The Spirit in the process of creation
2	Luke 1:34-38	The Spirit and the incarnation of Jesus
3	Luke 1:13-15 & 39-45	The Spirit fills and works through the unborn.
4	Luke 2:25-35	The Holy Spirit walks with and guides the faithful.
5	John 3:1-8	The hidden work of the Spirit when people are born again.
6	John 7:37-39	The follower of Jesus becomes a well of the Holy Spirit.
7	John 14:16-17; 14:26; 16:7-15	The work of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension
8	Acts 1:8; 2:1-21	The outpouring of the Holy Spirit
9	Acts 4:1-31	Bold witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit
10	Acts 8:14-24; 19:1-7	The Holy Spirit is imparted by the apostles.
11	Acts 8:26-40	The Holy Spirit guides the followers of Jesus. (part 1)
12	Acts 10:1-24 & 44-48	The Holy Spirit guides the followers of Jesus. (part 2)
13	Acts 13:1-4; 16:6-10	The Holy Spirit guides the followers of Jesus. (part 3)
14	Romans 8:14-16; 8:26-27	Assurance of salvation and strengthening the children of God.
15	1. Corinthians 12:1-11	The gifts of the Spirit
16	Galatians 5:16-25	Life in the Spirit - striving for the fruit of the Spirit

No.	Bible passage	"Names of God"
1	Genesis 16:8-14	Yahweh-Rohi – the Lord sees me.
2	Genesis 22:1-14	Yahweh-Jireh – the Lord is my provider.
3	Exodus 15:22-26	Yahweh-Rapha – the Lord is my healer.
4	Exodus 17:8-15	Yahweh-Nissi – the Lord is my banner.
5	Judges 6:11-24	Yahweh-Shalom – the Lord is my peace.
6	Psalms 23	Yahweh-Ra'ah – the Lord is my shepherd.
7	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Yahweh-Tsidkenu – the Lord is my righteousness.
8	Ezekiel 48:35; Matthew 28:20	Yahweh-Shammah – the Lord is present.

No.	Bible passage	"The life of a disciple of Jesus"
1	Acts 2:37-41	How do we get saved?
2	1. John 1:9	Assurance of being forgiven and cleansed
3	1. John 5:11-13; Ephesians 1:13-14	Assurance of salvation and eternal life
4	1. Peter 1:13-23	A victorious lifestyle
5	Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:1-4	Renewal of the mind and proper focus
6	Luke 10:25-37	The most important commandment
7	1. Corinthians 13	Love – the highest priority
8	Ephesians 6:10-20	The spiritual armor
9	Luke 5:1-11	Following Jesus and becoming a fisher of men
10	Luke 8:4-15	Evangelism – not everyone is receptive.
11	Luke 10:1-9	Evangelism – find the people of peace.
12	John 4:6-30	Evangelism – Jesus listens and meets people where they are.
13	John 15:1-11	Doing everything by the power of Jesus and abiding in Christ
14	Luke 11:1-13; Philippians 4:6	Persevering prayer
15	Psalms 119:1-16	Meditating on the Word of God
16	Hebrews 11	Faith and the heroes of faith (approx. 3 sessions)
17	Hebrews 12:1-3	Running the race of faith successfully
18	Romans 4:20-25	Righteousness by faith
19	Romans 6:1-16	Dead unto sin – raised for righteousness
20	Romans 8:1-17	Living in the Spirit
21	Romans 8:18-25	Living with endurance
22	Romans 8:26-39	God's Spirit and love as a firm anchor of our confidence
23	James 2:14-26	Faith without works is dead.
24	James 3:1-12	The power of the tongue
25	1. John 5:14-15	Certainty of answered prayers
26	Matthew 24:1-14	Watchfulness and perseverance in tribulation and persecution
27	Matthew 24:43-47	Equipping Jesus' followers well brings great reward.
28	Matthew 25:1-13	Be watchful – constantly filled with the Holy Spirit
29	Matthew 25:14-30	Good stewards – the entrusted talents
30	2. Timothy 2:1-2	Find and teach those who will teach others.

No.	Bible passage	"Sermon on the mount"
1	Matthew 5:1-12	Who can rejoice?
2	Matthew 5:13-26	Living radically – part 1
3	Matthew 5:27-48	Living radically – part 2
4	Matthew 6:1-18	Serve God – not for recognition; praying with Jesus (see Toolbox)
5	Matthew 6:19-34	Real treasures – useless worries
6	Matthew 7:1-14	Condemnation, perseverance and the golden rule
7	Matthew 7:15-23	False and true followers
8	Matthew 7:24-29	Smart and stupid followers

No.	Bible passage	"Living as the church of Jesus"
1	Matthew 18:1-6	The greatest in the kingdom
2	Matthew 18:15-17	How to resolve conflicts in the church
3	Matthew 18:18-20	The power of unity among two or three

No.	Bible passage	"Living as the church of Jesus"
4	Matthew 18:21-35	Grant forgiveness and receive forgiveness.
5	Acts 2:42-47	Church life after Pentecost
6	Acts 8:1-4	What does a persecuted church do when fleeing? She preaches.
7	Acts 12:1-17	The power of congregational prayer
8	Acts 20:27-35	The heart of an apostle and leader for the church
9	Romans 12:3-21	Right attitude towards each other; discription of the different ministries
10	Romans 14	Considering personal liberty while being mindful of each other
11	1. Corinthians 1:10-19	Avoiding divisions
12	1. Corinthians 3:1-17	Division and immaturity? The church is the temple of God.
13	1. Corinthians 5	Radical turning from immorality
14	1. Corinthians 6:1-8	Legal dispute among christians is unnecesarry.
15	1. Corinthians 7:1-9 & 39	Gift of celibacy; God's persective on marriage and sexuality
16	1. Corinthians 11:23-32	Taking communion as the Body of Christ in unity
17	1. Corinthians 12:12-20 & 26	Working as ONE body
18	1. Corinthians 14:26-33 & 40	Right use of spiritual gifts for the edification of all
19	2. Corinthians 9:6-11	Generosity and support of brothers and sisters
20	Galatians 6:1-10	Helping and carrying one another and doing good
21	Ephesians 4:1-16	The fivefold ministry trains the church into maturity.
22	Ephesians 5:22-33	Man and woman as a symbol of Christ and the church
23	Ephesians 6:1-9	Behavior in the family and the marketplace
24	Philippians 2:1-8	Transitioning from self-centeredness to the mind of Christ
25	1. Thessalonians 5:11-22	Walking together – honoring and testing spiritual gifts
26	1. Timothy 3:1-13	Requirements for elders and volunteers in the chuch
27	2. Timothy 2:1-2	Find and teach those who in turn train and teach others.
28	Hebrew 10:23-25	Coming together and taking care of each other

No.	Bible passage	Selected texts from Psalms, Isaiah, Revelation
1	Psalms 1	The Way of the righteous one
2	Psalms 16	The path of life and joy
3	Psalms 27:1-8	Faith triumphant
4	Psalms 37:1-6	Rejoice in the Lord!
5	Psalms 91	God's protection
6	Psalms 121	Help and blessing from God
7	Psalms 126	From sorrow to joy
8	Psalms 127	Everything depends on God's blessing.
9	Psalms 139:1-16	The Omnipresence of God
10	Isaiah 58	A fast pleasing to God – letting go of the prisoners
11	Isaiah 61	Prophecy concerning liberation and the new life in Jesus
12	Revelation 2:1-11	The epistles of Jesus Christ to the 7 churches – part 1
13	Revelation 2:12-29	The epistles of Jesus Christ to the 7 churches – part 2
14	Revelation 3:1-13	The epistles of Jesus Christ to the 7 churches – part 3
15	Revelation 3:14-22	The epistles of Jesus Christ to the 7 churches – part 4
16	Revelation 20	The first and the second resurrection; the final judgment
17	Revelation 21	The new heaven and earth; the Bride of Jesus
18	Revelation 22	The river in paradise and the imminent coming of Jesus

## Appendix B - Questions and answers

### *What happens when I make a mistake or fall into sin?*

God does not demand perfection. He knows that we have to grow in faith, just like a child. Jesus has already paid for every failure and sin. This is not a permission to sin, but mistakes can happen. When we fall into sin, the Holy Spirit will point it out to us. Maybe you feel uneasy until you apologize to someone. After that, you suddenly feel an inexplicable peace. This restlessness is not condemnation, but the loving voice of the Holy Spirit. Just respond when the Holy Spirit speaks to you.

Don't worry about things he doesn't show you. He sets the pace and time. It is crucial that we have a teachable, obedient and humble heart (James 4:6) and are willing to repent. Therefore, never run away from God when you have failed. Run to him all the faster. He will always help you. Read John 1:9. What does God say?

### *How do I find the right spouse?*

According to God's plan, a love relationship between a man and a woman always results in marriage. God does not advocate "living together" or sexuality outside of marriage. Therefore, the desire for the right spouse is always a very good thing and pleasing to God.

*The one who has found a good wife has found what goodness is, and obtained a delightful gift from the LORD. (Proverbs 18:22, NET)*

Since marriage between a man and a woman is actually a prophetic picture of the relationship between Jesus and his church (Ephesians 5:21-33), it should come as no surprise that both partners should follow Jesus. If you are not married yet, you have a choice, always choose a partner who loves and follows Jesus.

*A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (1. Corinthians 7:39, ESV)*

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2. Corinthians 6:14, ESV)*

This does not mean that we should not love unbelievers or have fellowship with them. But we should not marry them. After all, as a married couple, we should be able to serve Jesus BETTER without having to constantly justify ourselves to the other because of our faith. Choosing our spouse is a long-term and very important decision, right after deciding to follow Jesus. Therefore, we should not fall into the presumption that our partner will be saved sooner or later anyway. If we cannot accept our future partner as he is NOW for the rest of our lives, it would be better not to pursue that relationship any longer. We cannot force someone to make a decision for Jesus.

So how do you find your partner? Unfortunately, there is no three-point plan. But be aware that God has the best for you. Don't opt for a Twingo when God has a Mercedes waiting for you. If your desire for a good partner is very strong, let this become evident in your life by prayer and fasting. Make it a priority. If it's important to you, it's important to God. And, of course, you are more likely to find your mate by attending a good church, christian conference, church camp or mission outreach than at a cocktail bar or dance club.

## Seven questions BEFORE dating

Nowadays, it is common to start dating and having sex at an early age without entering into a committed relationship (marriage). The relationship between man and woman is a treasure and a wonderful plan of God. Carelessness or impatience can change a whole way of life. Therefore, ask the right questions in time:

1. How well do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit?<sup>1</sup>
2. Does the future partner love and follow Jesus?<sup>2</sup>
3. Are both of you willing to take responsibility and to let Jesus meet your needs?<sup>3</sup>
4. When are you planning to get married?<sup>4</sup> ( $\leq 2$  years)
5. Have you been through the "major shift"?<sup>5</sup>
6. Do you love your partner the way he is NOW?<sup>6</sup>
7. Can you go through severe challenges together?<sup>7</sup>

**Note:** Without deliverance through Jesus, you will be dealing with old relationships ("soul ties") for the rest of your life! So if you have already been through several relationships, it is often helpful to pray with brothers and sisters for deliverance. Marriage is a treasure of God. Do not settle for less.



- 1 Many people hardly know the Bible, rarely pray, have never learned the humility to ask others for advice and claim with conviction regarding a partner, "God told me..." One should have a history of answers to prayer and hearing God. Do not put anything into God's mouth that He has not said!
- 2 Choose a partner who REALLY loves Jesus and is obedient to him. You will hardly be able to find your purpose in life otherwise. Disappointments and frustration are not necessary.  
*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2. Corinthians 6:14 → compare 1. Corinthians 7:39)*
- 3 It is absolutely frustrating when, for example, the girl has to study and work while her future prince is still sitting in front of the game console with his buddies (real example), being immature and passive. If the source of fulfillment is not Jesus but the partner, problems are always pre-programmed.
- 4 Looking for a partner without the intention of marriage is a painful game. Since, according to God's design, living together, having sex and starting a family are part of marriage, you can prepare for it quite well over a period of up to about 2 years (according to experience). This time can be filled with getting to know each other, creativity and character building. Much longer periods (or not aiming for marriage at all) usually lead to frustration. People run the risk of losing self-control, falling into sin or feeling that God is withholding good things from them. *But if they do not have self-control, let them get married. For it is better to marry than to burn with sexual desire. (1. Corinthians 7:9)*
- 5 Experience shows that most young people see significant changes regarding their goals, visions, interests, career choice or place of residence between the age of 18 and 22. For example, one experiences a stay abroad, receives a scholarship, learns about new educational opportunities, goes on a mission trip or discovers new interests and talents. If you have committed yourself to your partner early on, he must now come to terms with the changes. It is at least questionable whether a common vision will then still exist.
- 6 NEVER count on being able to shape your partner according to your ideas. Either you love him as he is NOW, or you better leave. It is all about a lifelong relationship!
- 7 Are you ready to love your partner and stay with him even if he is disfigured or disabled by an accident, for example? What happens if he is struggling with a long-term illness? **Examples:** Dave Roeber (disfigurement by phosphorus grenade) or Susan Bozarth (husband got Alzheimer's at 58).

### ***What if I was already married before getting saved?***

If you have found Jesus after marrying an unbelieving partner, leave it up to him to decide whether he wants to stay with you and accept your decision for Jesus or not. God will stand by you no matter what his decision is.

*To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. [...] But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (1. Corinthians 7:12-16, NET)*

### ***Fighting for unity – resolving disputes among brothers and sisters***

Jesus gave clear instruction on how to do this in Matthew 18:15-20. Failure to follow this instruction has probably destroyed more churches than any other cause. The steps are actually simple. If a person sins against you, do this:

1. Consider whether confrontation in love is necessary. If you can forgive and forget or trust was not permanently damaged – okay, move on with life. However, in this case it is not acceptable to talk about the matter in front of others.
2. If clarification or confrontation in love is needed, talk to the person in private first.
3. If clarification or reconciliation can take place – perfect. Otherwise, take one or two people with you. These are witnesses and mediators – not judges and lawyers.
4. Only if no reconciliation is possible the church needs to be involved. If this is not practically feasible, e.g., for reasons of size or logistics (in the first century most churches were house churches), it should be the leadership or the elders. This would at least be my recommendation.
5. If someone persists in his sin, the church should exclude him. However, this means that you continue to meet the person in love. Intercede, just as you do for unbelieving people.

Basically, these steps take place when sin is an issue. Of course, it could also be a matter of disagreement or misunderstanding. In this case, the first three steps are still applicable. However, the church is not responsible of judging opinions, but sin. Live with the fact that not everyone thinks like you!

If someone comes up to you, complaining about somebody else, your reaction should be:

1. Stop the person sharing details about the conflict!
2. Encourage the person to talk directly with the other person involved!
3. Only when this has been unsuccessful, encourage the person to ask others for mediation!
4. Don't offer yourself as a witness or mediator if you are biased yourself!

**The result of this will be a new level of unity between brothers and sisters that will ultimately lead to amazing miracles and answers to prayer.**

## Appendix C - Bible reading plans

There are many Bible reading plans out there – just search the internet. You will find one that fits you. Using a reading plan prevents us from limiting our experience by staying only within a small selection of favorite passages. Instead, we will gain a good overview and orientation. Of course, there is the danger of exposing ourselves to pressure, turning Bible reading into a religious ritual. This would be fatal. Therefore, everyone has to find a suitable style and balance.

**If you start from scratch, this strategy could work for you:**

1. Read the Gospel of Mark<sup>1</sup> in five weeks (half a chapter a day).
2. Read the New Testament in nine months (one chapter a day).
3. Read the whole Bible in a year (three to four chapters a day).
4. After that, find your own pace, style and plan.

### ***Starting with a 5-week plan***

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels. It is characterized by many stories and action. You will find fewer of the very long sermons or speeches here. Instead, it contains many passages that encourage the development of faith and a supernatural lifestyle.

Day 1	Mark 1:1-20	Day 2	Mark 1:21-45
Day 3	Mark 2:1-17	Day 4	Mark 2:18-28
Day 5	Mark 3:1-19	Day 6	Mark 3:20-35
Day 7	Psalms 8	Day 8	Mark 4:1-20
Day 9	Mark 4:21-41	Day 10	Mark 5:1-20
Day 11	Mark 5:21-43	Day 12	Mark 6:1-29
Day 13	Mark 6:30-56	Day 14	Psalms 46
Day 15	Mark 7:1-23	Day 16	Mark 7:24-37
Day 17	Mark 8:1-21	Day 18	Mark 8:22-9:1
Day 19	Mark 9:2-29	Day 20	Mark 9:30-50
Day 21	Proverbs 18	Day 22	Mark 10:1-31
Day 23	Mark 10:32-52	Day 24	Mark 11
Day 25	Mark 12:1-27	Day 26	Mark 12:28-44
Day 27	Mark 13:1-23	Day 28	Mark 13:24-37
Day 29	Psalms 121	Day 30	Mark 14:1-31
Day 31	Mark 14:32-52	Day 32	Mark 14:53-72
Day 33	Mark 15:1-20	Day 34	Mark 15:21-47
Day 35	Mark 16		

<sup>1</sup> spiced with some Psalms and Proverbs

## Reading the New Testament

By reading one chapter a day you can go through the New Testament in not even nine months. Of course you can read it straight from beginning to end. For those who like more diversification and balance, check out this reading order:

1	Gospel of Luke	2	Acts
3	Romans	4	Galatians
5	Hebrews	6	James
7	Gospel of Matthew	8	Ephesians
9	Philippians	10	Colossians
11	1. Corinthians	12	2. Corinthians
13	Gospel of John	14	1. John
15	2. John	16	3. John
17	1. Peter	18	2. Peter
19	1. Thessalonians	20	2. Thessalonians
21	Gospel of Mark	22	1. Timothy
23	2. Timothy	24	Titus
25	Philemon	26	Jude
27	Revelation		

Without the New Testament, no foundation can be built. After that, however, you should also read the Old Testament.

## Reading the whole Bible – according to Freda Lindsay

This is not a reading plan in the true sense. The order and composition can be chosen by the student. Freda Lindsay, co-founder of Christ for the Nations Institute (CFNI), gave the following simple instruction to her students:

*"Read three chapters from the Word of God every day and five on Sundays. Then you will have read it through in a year."*

She herself did this since the age of 24 and lived to be 95.

*If you want to read more slowly and thoroughly, you can also read two chapters per day. This will get you through the entire Bible in two years, with the New Testament being read annually.*

## More reading plans

On the Internet, you can find a wide variety of plans that set different paces and appeal to individual preferences. Some are more chronological, others more thematic. The booklet "Toolbox" also contains **M'Cheyne's highly recommended plan**, which can be implemented in one or two years.

Suggestions (as of 2021): <https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/>

Here you find different plans. For example: *daily change of topics, chronological plan, AT/NT at the same time, M'Cheyne*



## Appendix D - Good confessions

The Bible places great promises on our confession. When we speak God's truths, we preach to ourselves, strengthen our faith and set the stage for signs and wonders in our lives. Therefore, it is a good habit to declare God's truth daily.

*And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. (Hebrews 10:23, NET)*

The following tables list good confessions and proclamations<sup>1</sup>. The right column contains references to corresponding Bible passages as a basis for a proclamation.

Even if not every biblical truth is visible in your life yet, proclaim it anyway. An apple tree will also bear apples only after a certain level of maturity has been reached and only at a certain time of the year. But it would make no sense at all, if it did not call itself an apple tree until then. It has the ability to bear the right fruits from the very beginning. Therefore, it is the truth when this tree proclaims "I am an apple tree!".

First, you will find a list of basic truths and promises of God that will strengthen your faith and help you look away from feelings and difficulties.

Building faith ...	
When I pray, God hears and things start to happen.	The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness. <b>(James 5:16b, NET)</b>
God will provide for me today.	And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. <b>(Philippians 4:19, NET)</b>
I do not have to sin today, but can live victoriously.	So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <b>(Romans 6:11, NET)</b>
I get healthier every day.	He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. <b>(1. Peter 2:24, NET)</b>  He is the one who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases. <b>(Psalm 103:3, NET)</b>
Divine protection is my portion today.	For he will order his angels to protect you in all you do. They will lift you up in their hands, so you will not slip and fall on a stone. <b>(Psalm 91:11-12, NET)</b>
Through me, God will meet and touch others today.	Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ. <b>(2. Corinthians 5:20a, NET)</b>
Through Jesus, I am a child of God, loved and precious. Father God will bless me today.	For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father.". <b>(Romans 8:15, NET)</b>
Through me, my whole family is also blessed today.	Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household. <b>(Acts 16:31, NET)</b>
I firmly reject lies of the devil.	So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you. <b>(James 4:7, NET)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Inspired by the "Declaration Set" by Steve Backlund. Some adaptations were made.

These confessions speak things in faith even if you cannot see them yet. It is like planting an apple seed. The tree begins to grow, even if you cannot see anything at the beginning.

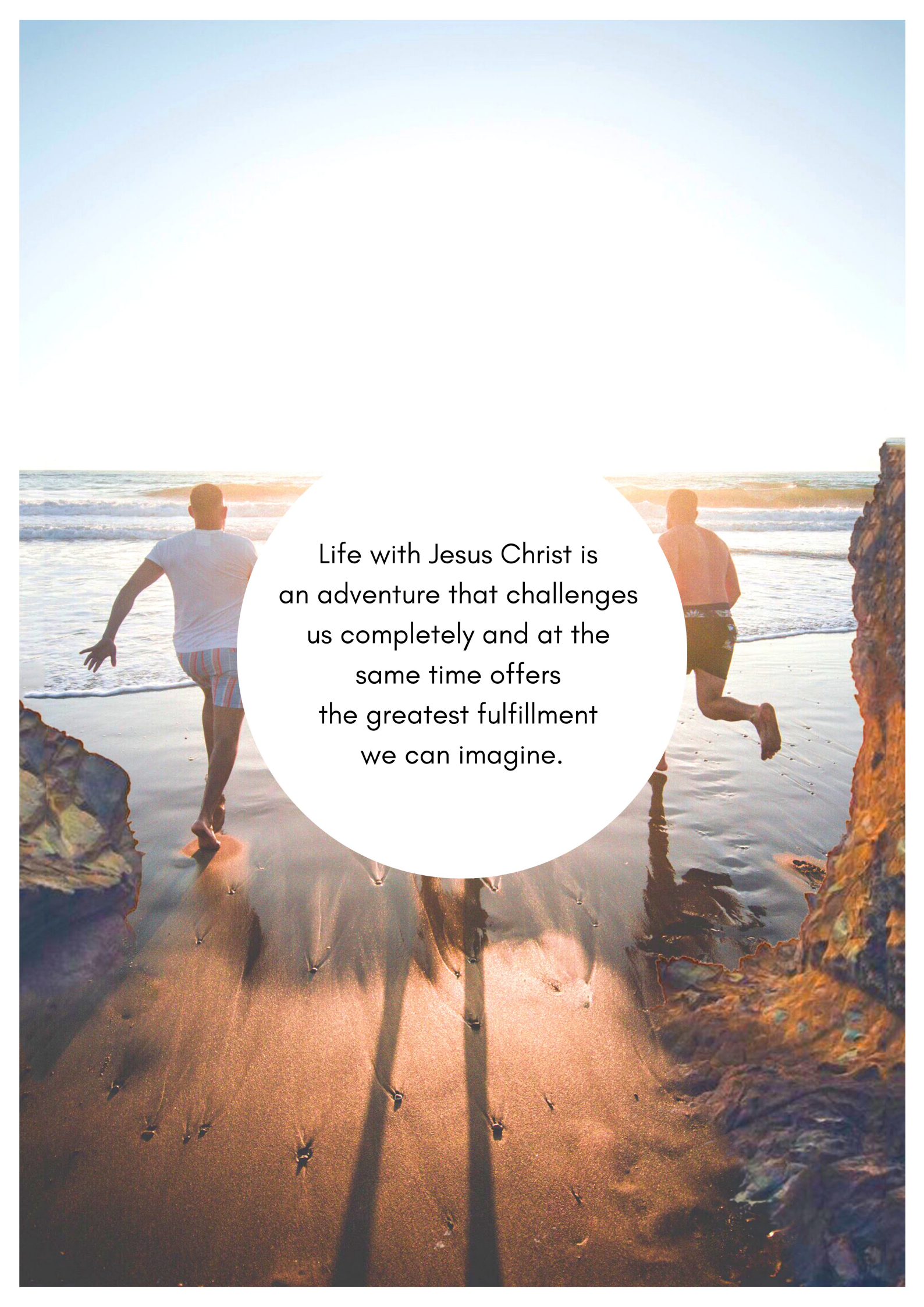
Planting in faith ...	
My words will affect what happens today.	Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love its use will eat its fruit. <b>(Proverbs 18:21, NET)</b>
Because of God, everything is possible for me today. I cannot be defeated.	I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <b>(Philippians 4:13, ESV)</b>
I will not lag behind others today. I will go ahead and have power over the enemy.	Look, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and on the full force of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. <b>(Luke 10:19, NET)</b>
My family and I are protected from all evil today.	The whole of <b>Psalm 91</b> relates to this. If you want, you can read all or part of it.
I remind God of his promises today. He will keep his word.	He was fully convinced that what God promised he was also able to do. <b>(Romans 4:21, NET)</b>
Today I have strength, love, discipline and a sound mind.	For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. <b>(2. Timothy 1:7, NET)</b>
I expect God to heal, encourage, bless and set people free through me today. I even expect the dead to rise.	But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses [...]. <b>(Acts 1:8a, NET, compare Matthew 10:8)</b>
I expect today to be the best day of my life.	I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly. <b>(John 10:10b, NET)</b>

The last group of confessions addresses your problems and challenges. Jesus often spoke directly to obstacles and told them what needed to happen. To the storm he said "Be still!" and to a sick person "Be healed!". We too encounter things and circumstances every day to which we can speak in faith.

Speaking in faith ...	
Thank you, Father, that your angels are working on my behalf today.	Are they <i>[the angels]</i> not all ministering spirits, sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation? <b>(Hebrews 1:14, NET)</b>
No attack on me will succeed today.	No weapon forged to be used against you will succeed [...]. <b>(Isaiah 54:17a, NET)</b>
Just like Jesus spoke to the wind, I speak to my emotions, thoughts and body, "God's peace reigns over you!"	So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Be quiet! Calm down!" Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm. <b>(Mark 4:39, NET)</b>
I speak to every discouragement, bad mood, sadness, frustration and stress, "Off you go into the sea, in Jesus' name!"	I tell you the truth, if someone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. <b>(Mark 11:23, NET)</b>
I declare that this day is blessed. I serve a good God who can do much more than I can imagine.	Now to him who by the power that is working within us is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, to him be the glory [...]. <b>(Ephesians 3:20-21a, NET)</b>





A full-page photograph of a beach at sunset. Two men are running away from the camera towards the ocean. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and striped shorts, while the man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark shorts. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, hazy glow. In the foreground, many birds are running on the wet sand, their long shadows cast towards the water. The ocean waves are visible in the background.

Life with Jesus Christ is  
an adventure that challenges  
us completely and at the  
same time offers  
the greatest fulfillment  
we can imagine.