F O L L O W I N G J E S U S

7 IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO AS BELIEVER IN CHRIST

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
2Corinthians 5:17NKJV

A simple guide to help you take your next steps in faith.

Congratulations on Your New Life in Christ!

As a new believer in Christ deciding to follow Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. Your sins are forgiven, you have been made new, and you now belong to the family of God.

> *"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure."*
> *Ephesians 1:5NLT*

What comes next matters. The choices you make in these early days will shape your walk with Christ for years to come. This guide walks you through seven simple but important steps to help you grow strong in your walk with God. Take these steps one at a time, and know that you have a church in Freedomhouse that is here to support you with every step you take.

> *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way."*
> *Psalm 37:23NKJV*

1 Get Baptized

Baptisms are an outward expression of an inward change. We take this step as believers to follow the example Jesus set before us as He was baptized Himself. It's our public declaration that we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ.

Baptism doesn't save you; your faith in Christ already has. Rather, baptism is your first act of obedience as a believer. God's Holy Word directs us to be baptized, and when we take that next step of faith, we are letting the world know that we're dying to our old self and have been raised to new life in Christ.

> ***Bible Verses About Baptism***
>
> *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."* Acts 2:41NIV
>
> *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."* Mark16:16NIV
>
> *"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* Romans 6:4NIV

YOUR NEXT STEP: Get Baptized

Click Here to Sign Up for Baptism

Freedomhouse currently offers baptisms on the third Sunday of each month at Fullerton, Irvine, and Español campuses. Don't wait. Take your next to get baptized. Choose your campus and sign up for the next baptism.



2 Plant Yourself In Church

God never intended for you to walk out your faith journey alone. The church is your spiritual family, the place where you're fed the Word, discipled, encouraged, and held accountable. There is no other place more dedicated to your spiritual formation than the House of God.

Also, the Bible teaches us that we should plant ourselves in God's house so that we can grow deep roots. It isn't until we plant ourselves in church that we are able to produce a life full of the blessing and fruit God has always intended for us. Prioritizing God's house and attending services regularly are essential to growth and maturity for all believers in Christ.

> ***Bible Verses About Being Planted In Church***
>
> *"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God."*
> *Psalm 92:13NKJV*
>
> *"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."*
> *Hebrews 10:25NLT*
>
> *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer."* *Acts 2:42NLT*

YOUR NEXT STEP: Plant Yourself in Church



Don't just attend church. Plant yourself in the House. Choose a campus and service time that works for you, commit to attending consistently, have a meal with us at Starting Pointe, and build relationships with people in church.

For service times head over to our Website freedomhouseoc.org or follow us on Instagram @FreedomhouseOC

Click Here to Sign Up for Starting Pointe

3 Read Your Bible

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is therefore without error or contradiction, and is the sole authority for faith and practice for all believers. All our beliefs come from the Bible.

The Bible is a showcase of God's love towards you and His guide for how to live. The more time you spend in it, the more you'll know God's voice and His heart. It is important to make reading the Word of God a daily habit in your life. A great place to start is in the Gospel of John to get to know Jesus for yourself.

> ***Bible Verses About The Bible***
>
> *"All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness" 2Timothy 3:16NASB*
>
> *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105NIV*
>
> *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1NIV*

YOUR NEXT STEP: 30 Day Reading Plan Through The Gospel of John

Week 1	**Day 1** **John 1** *The Word Became Flesh*	**Day 2** **John 2** *Jesus Reveals His Glory*	**Day 3** **John 3** *You Must Be Born Again*	**Day 4** **John 4** *Living Water*	**Day 5** **John 5** *Authority to Give Life*	**Day 6** **John 6** *The Bread of Life*	**Day 7** **Review** *Look back on chapters 1-6*
Week 2	**Day 8** **John 7** *Living Water for the Thirsty*	**Day 9** **John 8** *The Light of the World*	**Day 10** **John 9** *Jesus Heals a Blind Man*	**Day 11** **John 10** *The Good Shepherd*	**Day 12** **John 11** *Resurrection and the Life*	**Day 13** **John 12** *The Hour Has Come*	**Day 14** **Review** *Look back on chapters 7-12*
Week 3	**Day 15** **John 13** *A New Command - Love*	**Day 16** **John 14** *The Way, Truth, and Life*	**Day 17** **John 15** *The Vine and the Branches*	**Day 18** **John 16** *The Spirit's Work*	**Day 19** **John 17** *Jesus Prays for You*	**Day 20** **Review** *Look back on chapters 13-17*	**Day 21** **John 18** *Jesus Is Arrested*
Week 4	**Day 22** **John 19** *The Crucifixion*	**Day 23** **John 20** *The Resurrection*	**Day 24** **John 21** *Jesus Restores Peter*	**Day 25** **Review** *Look back on chapters 18-21*	**Day 26** **John 1 & 21** *Reread side by side; see the whole arc*	**Day 27** **John 3** *Reread; memorize John 3:16*	**Day 28** **John 15** *Reread; what does abiding look like?*
Week 5	**Day 29** **John 17** *Reread; pray it back to God*	**Day 30** **Your Story** *Write your own testimony*	Finishing this plan isn't a finish line, it's a beginning. Consider reading through John again, or moving into another Gospel like Matthew, Mark, or Luke.				

4 Pray

Prayer is simply talking with God. It's a big part of how your relationship with Him grows. You don't need fancy words to do it; you just need an open heart, a willingness, and the intention to pray to Him. The best thing you can do in prayer is to be honest with Him about your needs, struggles, and gratitude toward Him.

For a believer in Christ prayer is not the metaphorical spare tire in the trunk of your car. It is the steering wheel. It's not something to be done only when things go wrong in life. Prayer is something to be done daily in all moments of life too. Through prayer we have access to his presence and power. Set aside time each day to talk to God and listen for Him.

> ***Bible Verses On Prayer***
>
> *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* *Philippians 4:6-7NKJV*
>
> *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* *1Thessalonians 5:17NIV*

YOUR NEXT STEP: How to Pray The P.R.A.Y. Method ~ *Matthew 6:9-13NIV*

Praise
Acknowledge who God is and express gratitude for what He has done.
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." *v.9*

Repent
Take responsibility for sins you've committed and seek forgiveness.
"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." *v.12*

Ask
Bring your needs and the needs of others before God.
"Give us today our daily bread." ... *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."* *v.11,13*

Yield
Surrender your will to God's will, and trust His plans.
"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." *v.10*

A simple pattern for prayer, straight from the words Jesus taught His disciples.

5 Join a Connect Group

Connect Groups are an open door into the life of our church family. When you are in a Connect group, you experience the love and strength of biblical community. Faith grows best in community. This is where deep friendships form and where you'll be known, supported, and encouraged to keep growing.

Connect groups are a place where you are protected, and supported. They are also a place to be equipped to become more like Jesus, and live a faith-filled life.

> ***Bible Verses About Community Within Connect Groups***
>
> *"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer."* Acts 2:42NLT
>
> *"And let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds"* Hebrews 10:24NASB
>
> *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* Proverbs 27:17NIV

YOUR NEXT STEP: Join a Connect Group

Start building relationships with people who will encourage you, pray with you, and help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Connect Groups are a place to find biblical community, receive support and encouragement, grow spiritually, and become more like Jesus.

1. **Find a Connect Group**
2. **Attend your first group**
3. **Introduce yourself**
4. **Commit to going for the next 4 weeks**

Click Here to Find a Connect Group



6 Live a Life of Generosity Through Serving and Giving

God has given you gifts in time, talent, and treasure. These gifts are not for yourself but to serve His church and bless others. This is how we build God's church. We do it through serving and being a part of the Dream Team, the volunteer army here at Freedomhouse Church. To be a part of Freedomhouse's Dream Team, all you have to do is go through Starting Pointe and Growth Track. Once completed, you will be empowered to walk in your God given purpose.

We also build God's church through giving, and giving comes through living a life of generosity that God has called us to. Generosity is built upon a foundation called the tithe. The Bible teaches us that the tithe is the first 10% of our income that belongs to Him, in obedience to God's Holy Word. When we bring the tithe to God, we are putting Him first. Anything beyond the tithe is generosity, and generosity isn't about an amount; it's about the heart posture in which we bring our giving to God.

Bible Verses About Living A Life Of Generosity

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1Peter 4:10NIV

"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:8-10NIV

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2Corinthians 9:7NIV

YOUR NEXT STEP: Put God First

Serve. Discover how God as gifted you and find a place to serve. Complete Growth Track and take your next step toward the Dream Team.

Click Here to Sign Up for Growth Track

Start putting God first with your finances. Ask God to help you become a generous person. Begin by learning what the Bible teaches about the tithe and generosity, and make giving a regular part of your worship.

Click Here to Start Giving



7 Share What God Did within You With Others

Sharing your story is a big part of your walk with Jesus. What God has done in your life is a powerful testimony of the goodness of God and can point someone else to Him.

You don't have to be a bible scholar or have all the answers to share your story, but you do need to know your story matters. Just be honest about who you were, what God has done in your life, and who you are today because of Him. Start with the people closest to you. Your story could be exactly what someone needs to hear to take their next step toward God just like you did.

> ***Bible Verses About Sharing Your Story***
>
> *"Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."* Mark 5:19NIV
>
> *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* 1Peter 3:15NIV
>
> *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses…"* Acts 1:8NIV

YOUR NEXT STEP: Tell someone your story.

Be willing to tell someone what Jesus has done in your life.

YOUR STORY

1) WHO I WAS: What was my life like before Jesus?

2) WHAT JESUS DID: How did I encounter Jesus?

3) WHO I AM NOW: What has changed since following Him?

This week, share your story with one person who doesn't know Jesus, and invite them to church with you.

Following Jesus is a Journey

Growth takes time, and God is patient with you. You don't have to figure it all out at once. Take these seven steps one at a time, and don't be afraid to reach out.

Talk to your pastor, connect group leader, or anyone on our church team. You don't have to walk through this alone we're here to walk alongside you.

If you have any questions please send us an email to anaheimconnections@freedomhouseoc.org or call us at (714) 773-0012.

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6NIV

Welcome to the family of God. We're so glad you're here.

@freedomhouseoc
www.freedomhouseoc.org