

Series Title: First Steps

This series is designed to equip new believers with the foundational truths of the Christian faith. Each week challenges participants to understand God's Word and take a step forward—whether in **faith**, **repentance**, **baptism**, or **sharing their story**—so they can continue living as committed followers of Jesus.

Series Key Verses

Mark 1:14–18

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Week 1: Believe – Put Your Faith in Jesus

Key Concept: Faith in Jesus is the source of my salvation and growth as a Christian.

The Purpose of the Gospel of John

John 20:30–31

Jesus performed many other signs... But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Definition: What is Faith?

Faith means being fully convinced that:

- God is real
- His Word is true
- Seeking Him transforms your life

Hebrews 11:1–2, 6

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... Without faith, it is impossible to please God... He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Focus: Faith Must Be in Jesus

- Saving faith isn't in your own efforts, but in Jesus—His perfect life and sacrificial death
- Through Him, you are made righteous and adopted into a new eternal identity

Romans 3:21–26

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... All are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Proof: Faith Produces Good Works

You are saved by grace through faith—not by works. But real faith leads to visible life change.

Ephesians 2:8–10

You are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do.

Reflection Questions

- Are you fully convinced of God's truth and earnestly seeking Him?
- Is your faith in Jesus alone—not your good works—to save you?
- Is your faith showing in your life? What new good works might God be calling you to?

Week 2: Repent – Change Your Mind & Direction

Key Concept: Repentance gives me God's power to change.

Definition: What is Repentance?

Repentance means a change of mind and direction—turning away from sin and toward God with sorrow and desire to change.

It's not just regret—it's transformation.

2 Corinthians 7:9–11

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret.
Worldly sorrow brings death.

Focus: Turn from Self, Turn to God

- Repentance is a full U-turn from self-centered living to a Jesus-centered life
- You stop loving sin and start loving obedience to God

Acts 3:19

Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out and times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 20:21

We must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

Galatians 5

Turn from the acts of the sinful nature (vv. 19–21) and turn to the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22–25)

Proof: Repentance Shows in Behavior

Matthew 3:8

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Acts 26:20

Repent and turn to God—demonstrate your repentance by your deeds.

Example: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10)

Zacchaeus repented by repaying what he stole and giving generously. Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house."

Reflection Questions

- Have you changed your mind about living for yourself?
- Have you turned to Jesus with godly sorrow?
- Are your new behaviors showing repentance?

2 Peter 3:9

God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Week 3: Be Baptized – Go Public with Your Faith

Key Concept: Baptism is a public symbol of your new life in Jesus.

Definition: What is Baptism?

The Greek word *baptizo* means to immerse, submerge, or dip repeatedly.

Acts 8:36–39

The Ethiopian eunuch saw water and said, "What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" He was baptized immediately.

Meaning

Baptism is a symbol:

- Going under water = death to sin
- Coming up = new life in Christ

Romans 6:3–4

All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death... so we may live a new life.

Importance

- Demonstrates obedience to Jesus
- Publicly identifies you as a disciple

- Fulfills Jesus' command to make disciples

Matthew 28:18–20

Go and make disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded.

Making Disciples Involves:

- Going – Be intentional in your everyday life
- Baptizing – Help new believers express their commitment
- Teaching to obey – Help others live it out, not just learn it

Reminder

If you've repented and believed in Jesus, be baptized as a step of obedience and public identification with Christ!

Week 4: Share – Tell Your Story

Key Concept: God uses your story to bring others to Jesus.

Our Mission: Make Disciples

We are sent to share the gospel so others can hear, believe, and be saved.

Romans 10:9–15

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how will they call unless someone shares the message?

Steps:

- Before someone calls on Jesus, they must believe
- Before they believe, they must hear
- Before they hear, someone must share
- Before someone shares, they must be sent
- We are the sent ones—called to share so others can be saved

Example: Samaritan Woman (John 4:39–42)

She simply shared her story: "He told me everything I ever did." Many believed because of her testimony, and even more believed after meeting Jesus themselves.

Salt & Light (Matthew 5:13–16)

- Salt preserves and adds flavor. Be the influence of Christ in your community.
- Light gives hope and clarity. Live openly for Jesus and let your good works point people to God.
- Sharing your story is part of being salt and light in this world.

Reflection Questions

- Are you making disciples by telling others what Jesus has done for you?
 - Are you looking for daily opportunities to share your story and be a witness?
 - Are you praying for boldness and open doors to speak the gospel
-