

Steps to *Knowing* God

1. God is Love

God loves you and made you for relationship with Him.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. 1 John 4:16

2. God is Creator

God created the universe and the first man and women, Adam and Eve. All people are made in God's image. He is spirit (John 4:24), so we aren't like God physically, but we're like Him spiritually. We can think, choose, and communicate. God wants us to think, choose, and communicate with Him.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

3. God Is Holy

God can't do wrong. Everything God does is right and holy. Adam and Eve were created holy, but also with a free will. They used their ability to choose, and sinned. Sin is disobeying God's law or turning away from God's love and grace.

God created Adam first and gave him the first command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15–17). The Bible tells us that God made Eve from Adam's side. They were separate human beings but were to be united as one flesh (Genesis 2:23–24). Even though they both ate from the tree, Adam was chosen to be the representative of humanity's sin. This is how sin, including death and disease first entered into humanity and into our world.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

4. All People have Sinned

Every human has sinned in some way in their lifetime. Death is the punishment for sin. You might say humans are all under a death sentence. Our death sentence includes our physical death and spiritual death. Spiritual death is separation from God and all goodness.

We may actively rebel against God by stealing, lying, etc., or we may passively rebel by being selfish, unforgiving, etc. Indifference to or failure to learn God's ways is still sin.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

5. God Is Judge

Whoever disobeys God rebels against the Creator of the universe. Being righteous, God must judge wrongdoing and impose a sentence or penalty. Good works don't excuse or cover sin. If we do nothing, or if we try to pay the penalty ourselves, we're condemned to spend eternity in hell.

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. Matthew 25:46

6. Jesus Christ Is Eternal God

Jesus is our eternal God, God the Son, who was born by the power of the Holy Spirit to the Virgin Mary more than 2,000 years ago. Being fully-God and fully-man, Jesus obeyed God the Father perfectly, and completely met His requirements (the Law) for us. He became our righteousness. Sinless Jesus died on a Roman cross, shedding His blood to pay the penalty for our sins.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

7. Trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Leader)

After three days, God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, proving He is *the* Son and Savior. Christ's death and resurrection was for everyone's benefit. However, only those who individually accept the *free* gift (payment of their sins) will be saved from God's righteous wrath. No one can accept the gift of salvation for you. (Salvation is the act of being saved from the penalty and power of sin.)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John. 14:6

8. Repent and Follow God

Repent means to turn away from your sins. Repent and turn to God. Follow Jesus.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Acts 3:19–20

Pray in Faith

Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God who died for my sins. I haven't obeyed God and I'm truly sorry. Right now, I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want God's plan for my life and so, in faith, I will follow and obey You. Thank You Heavenly Father for saving me and loving me. I love You. Amen.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10:9–10

If you prayed and trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior after reading *Steps to Knowing God*, please go to our website: injesussteps.org and fill out the "New Decision to Follow Christ." Or email us: kathleen.skaar7@gmail.com with the date (month, day, and year) of your decision to follow Christ. We want to rejoice with you and help with next steps!

God is pleased with your decision and all heaven is rejoicing:

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

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Steps for *Following God*

Following God also means following His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Jesus' followers disciples. Disciples are students or followers who learn, act, and think in accordance with their teacher's example. Not only does Jesus teach us how to live, He also empowers us to obey His holy instructions.

1. Rely on Jesus through God's Spirit

God is one unity with three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a divine mystery beyond human understanding but revealed throughout the Bible. The third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, helps and empowers us to follow Jesus. We must rely on Him to lead us.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13–14

2. Pray and read the Bible

God loves you and wants to be in fellowship with you continually. Prayer is simply communicating with God. We can communicate with God anywhere and anytime.

God's word, also known as the Bible, helps us relate to Him in our prayers. It teaches us His ways. As you read your Bible, ask and expect God to speak to you through it. The Bible teaches the truth of God's love and the wonderful plan He has for your life. That plan rests in the person of Jesus Christ.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

Pray: Holy Spirit, thank you for helping me communicate with God, understand His word, and remind me of Jesus' teachings. Lead, guide, comfort, and empower me to follow Jesus in my Father's holy service. I pray for all my thoughts, words, and actions to glorify God. Amen.

3. Confess daily and receive forgiveness

Confess means to acknowledge and agree with God about our sin. God is forgiving and will purify us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We continue to sin because we were born with a sin nature. Plus, we have an enemy tempting us toward evil. The enemy is Satan (the devil), a fallen angel, who is leading other fallen angels (demons) against God and us.

Satan and his demons will attack new believers trying to get them to disobey God. They'll use a number of tactics to make it seem that following Jesus is too hard or not worth it. Be aware and keep praying. Cling to Jesus and He will see you through the battle.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8–9

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. Be baptized

Baptize is a Greek word that means to immerse, dip, or submerge. When believers are baptized in water it represents their belief in, and commitment to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for salvation. It's a public declaration of being a follower, a disciple of Christ.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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 6:3–4

5. Attend and join with a church

A church is a body of believers who join together to worship and serve God. God is relational and desires His people to come together in learning, fellowship, encouragement, and correction.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

6. Share the good news with others

Tell or share with others how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Some people may be believers and rejoice with you, others may accept Christ on your testimony; still others may become angry and abusive toward you. No matter the outcome, you have honored God by sharing what the Lord has done for you.

Jesus did not let him, but said, "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 5:19

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32

7. Connect and unite with a discipleship team

Jesus modeled the way for discipleship groups. Although He preached and worked miracles for all, He called individuals and formed them into a small team of followers. He calls us to do the same by becoming and reproducing disciples.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25

Visit our website at injesussteps.org or email us: kathleen.skaar7@gmail.com to get start a discipleship team.

*All Scripture citations are from the NIV

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