



Coronavirus

Start ▶

God, Jesus and
the journey of
life in six sessions



Session 1 - Life is for Living

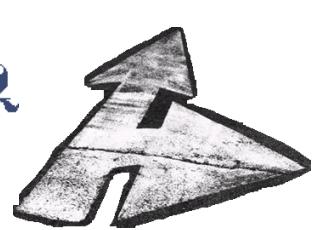
The video clip for session 1 can be found at: https://youtu.be/pOcT_haLYDM

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

We all have a life. But where is it going? What is it really all about? What's the point of it and where will it end? Let's have a think about life and what it's all about....

Here are some phrases to describe life:

- a pile: a matter of collecting material things
- a circle: doing the same thing every day
- a splodge: having no purpose or meaning
- a journey: having all your life goals mapped out



A CIRCLE going round and round and getting nowhere

MY LIFE GOALS:



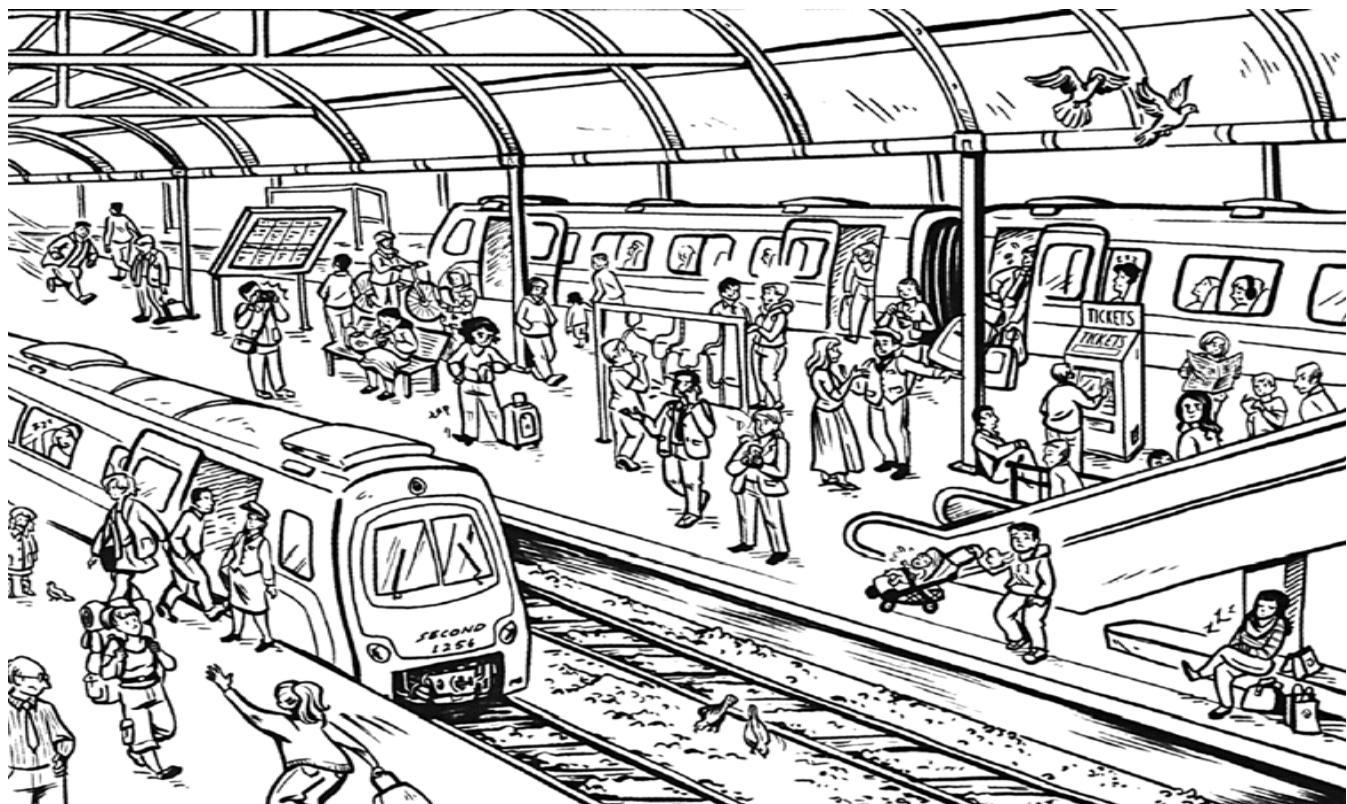
- Enjoy my family
- Manage my finances
- Travel the world
- New car
- Good personal health
- Nice house
- Loyal friends
- Lots of hobbies
- Lasting joy
- No worries
- Latest gadgets
- Inner peace

LIFELINE?

B ----- D

A TRIP TO THE RAILWAY STATION

If spiritual life is like a trip to the railway station, where would you put yourself today?



NEXT WEEK

We will be thinking about what is the evidence for the existence of God.

Session 2 - Oh My God

The video clip for Session 2 can be found at: <https://youtu.be/azTF9kxt4rA>



Most people have some sort of belief in a God. Can we find out more about whether God actually does exist or what he is really like?

FOR AND AGAINST

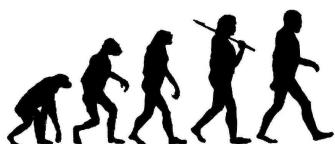
Can you list below evidence for and against the existence of God?

For

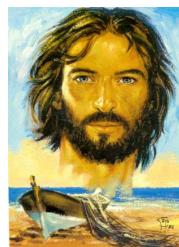
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Against

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Scientific explanations



Jesus



The awesome universe

MAKE A MARK TO SHOW WHERE YOU STAND AT THE MOMENT

FOR 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 AGAINST

So what is God like?

Consider these Bible pictures of God. Each one tells us something about who we are in relation to him. Can you fill in the chart?

God is described as	This means I am a
Shepherd	Sheep
Father	
Friend	
Creator	Creature
Judge	
King	
Saviour	
Husband	

My favourite picture of God is.....

PSALM 23

Because the Lord is my Shepherd,
I have everything I need!
He lets me rest in the meadow grass
and leads me beside the quiet streams.
He gives me new strength.
He helps me do what honours him the most.
Even when walking through the dark valley of death
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me,
guarding, guiding all the way.
You provide delicious food for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You have welcomed me as your guest;
blessings overflow!
Your goodness and unfailing kindness
shall be with me all of my life,
and afterwards I will live with you forever in your home.

Session 3 - Jesus Who?

The video clip for Session 3 can be found at: <https://youtu.be/Hcy-ve0RI-U>

THE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS

- Evidence left by Christians

LUKE 1.1-4



Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- Evidence left by non-Christians

Josephus

Tacitus

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS ALREADY?

Fill in what you know. Some questions are easy, some are difficult and some are trick questions.

Place of birth:

Date of birth:

Religion:

Social class:

Father's occupation:

Education:

Income:

Marital status:

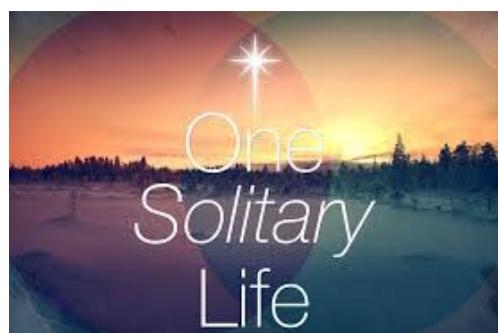
Friends/Associates:

Character weaknesses:

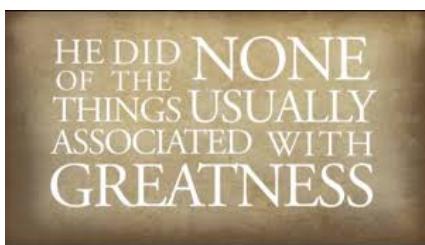
Any unusual behaviour:

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS

- He was human: Mark 6 v1-3
- He was divine: John 14 v8-10
- He came to reconcile us to God: 2 Corinthians 5v19
“God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself”



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.



He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never travelled more than 200 miles from the place He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

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He was only 33 when public opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

Session 4 – What's Gone Wrong?

The video clip for session 4 can be found at: <https://youtu.be/dR9pr0XO544>

INTRODUCTION

- Creation is being destroyed.
- Relationships breaking down.
- Ourselves – we can't seem to do what we want to do and often do the things we don't want.

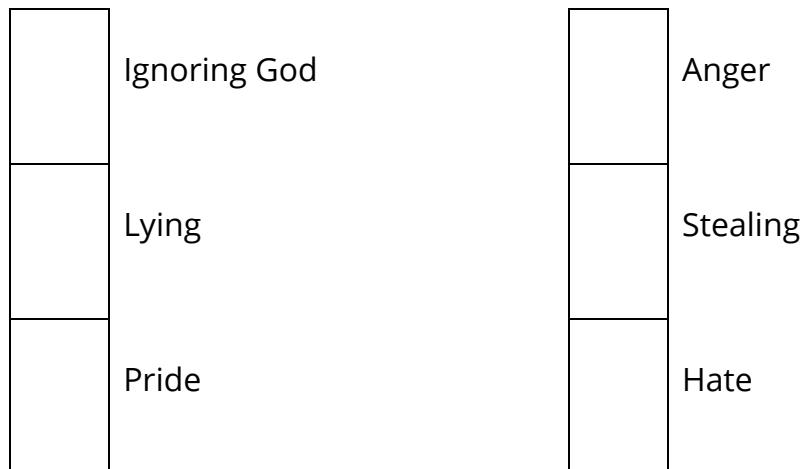
This week we are thinking about "What's gone wrong?"

MARKS OUT OF 5

Here's something that should be filled in with a smile on your lips. The following things are all described as sins in the Bible...most of us do some of them every day!!! Go through the list giving yourself a mark between 0 and 5.

HAVE A GO AT THE EXERCISE

<input type="text"/>	Swearing	<input type="text"/>	Envy
<input type="text"/>	Immoral thoughts	<input type="text"/>	Bitterness
<input type="text"/>	Drunkenness	<input type="text"/>	Immoral acts



For all of us have sinned and fallen short of God's Glory.

Romans 3: 23



DAVID, BATHSHEBA AND URIAH - 2 Samuel 11.1-28

READ PSALM 51 BELOW AND ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How many times does David acknowledge he is a sinner?
- Does David believe God can forgive him?
- Does David think his life can change?
- Is it fair that God should forgive David?

PSALM 51.1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother

conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.



Spoils our lives

Separates us from God

Sentences us to death

Session 5 - Dying to save us

The video clip for session 5 can be found at: <https://youtu.be/QFuapm0oJUw>

HYMN: THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY

There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us,
he hung and suffered there.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price for sin
he only could unlock the gate,
of heaven and let us in.

Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming love
and try his works to do.

Underline two or three phrases that speak to you.....

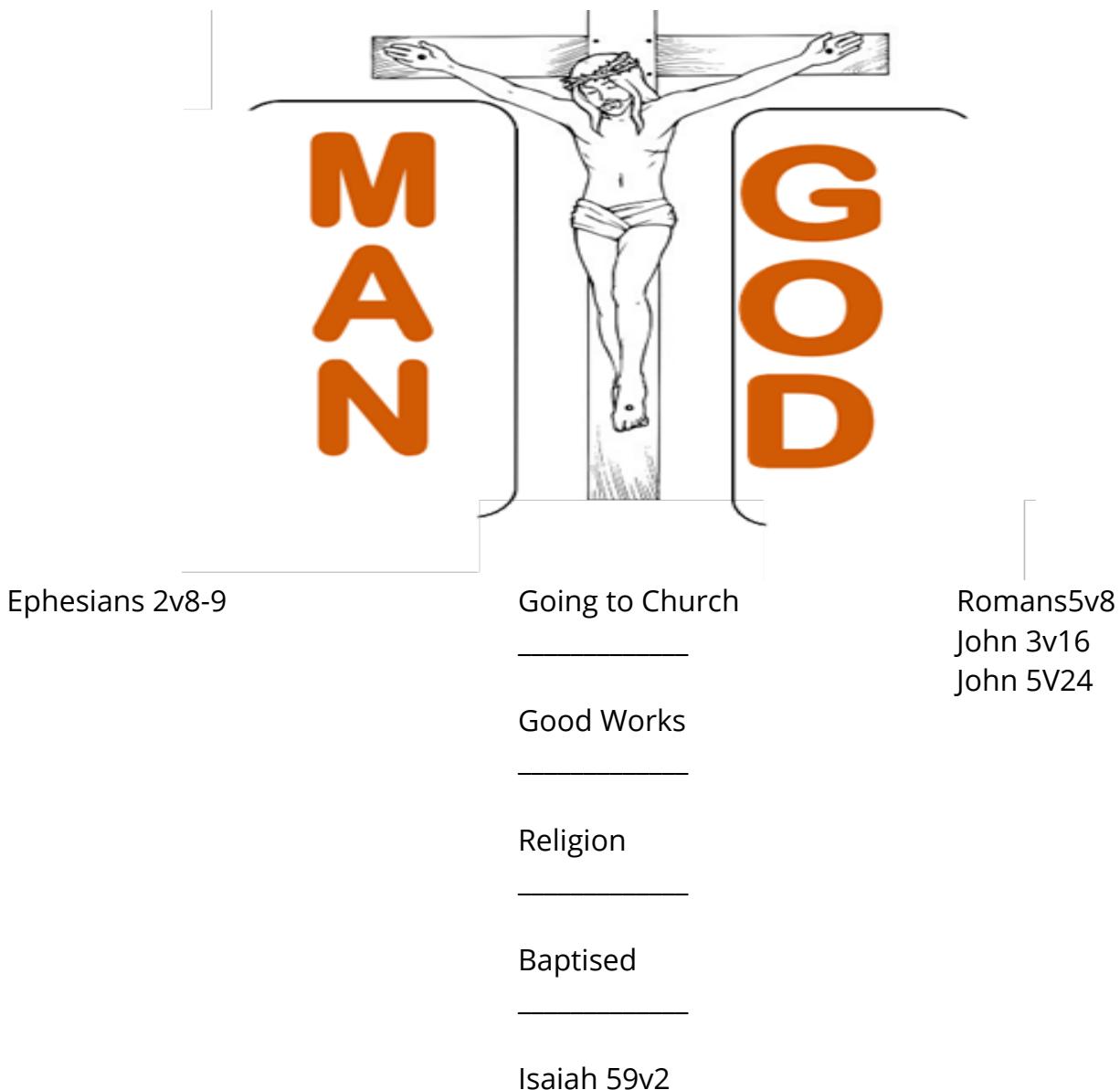
FACT

There is more written about
Jesus' death than any other
part of his life.

Why do you think this is?

FOUR WAYS TO LOOK AT THE CROSS

1. The Bridge



2. The Temple

3. The Book on the Hand

4. The Judge and Son

REFLECTION

- i) Which one of these four illustrations have you found most helpful?
- ii) With reference to the first illustration:

- Which side of the ravine are you on?
- Which side do you want to be on?
- Are you trying to build your own bridges, or are you trusting in the cross?

CONCLUSION

Next week we are going to think about how a person becomes a Christian, and I am going to give you an opportunity to say a prayer of commitment.

Session 6 - Into the Arms of Love

The video clip for session 6 can be found at: https://youtu.be/Cv26rJT2_nc

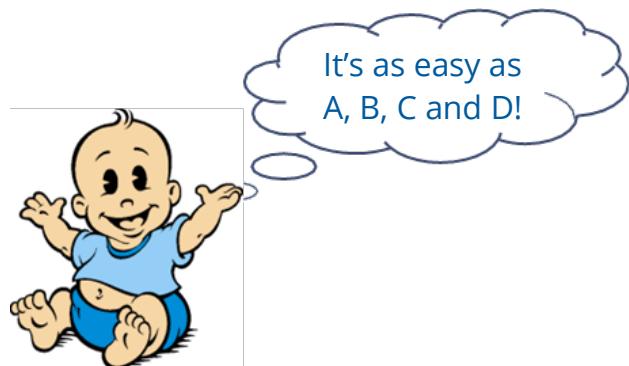
It is as simple as **A-B-C-D.**

A FOR ADMIT

B FOR BELIEVE

C FOR CONSIDER

D FOR Do



BIBLE STUDY - John 3 v1-16, the story of Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to

you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

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.

DISCUSS THESE ISSUES:

- Why do you think Nicodemus came at night? Do you identify with this?
- What did Jesus mean by being "born again"?
- What did Nicodemus stand to lose by giving his life to Jesus? And what did he stand to gain?

THE "LADDER OF SALVATION"

I now want to really grow

I have told someone what I've done ...

I'm beginning to experience new life ...

Yes, I'm going for commitment ...

I'm nearly there ...

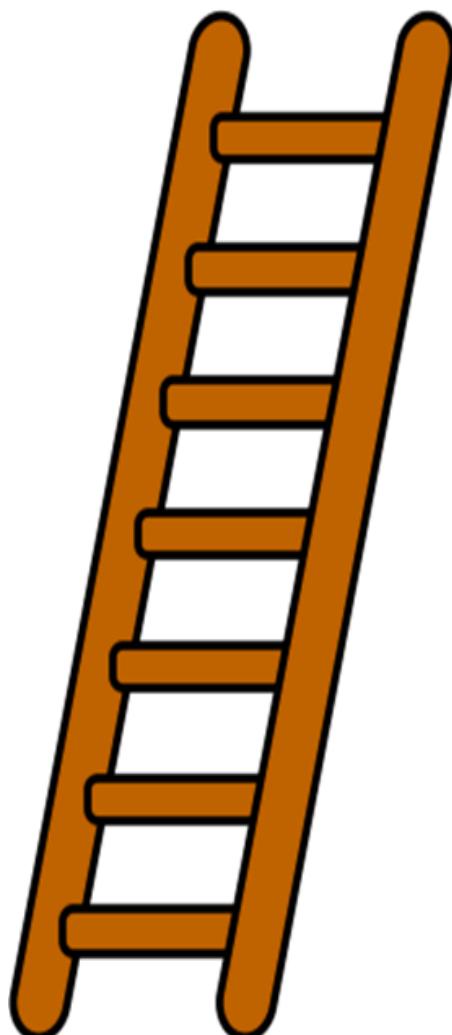
I'm seriously searching ...

Something is happening ...

I've still got serious questions ...

I'm just not interested ...

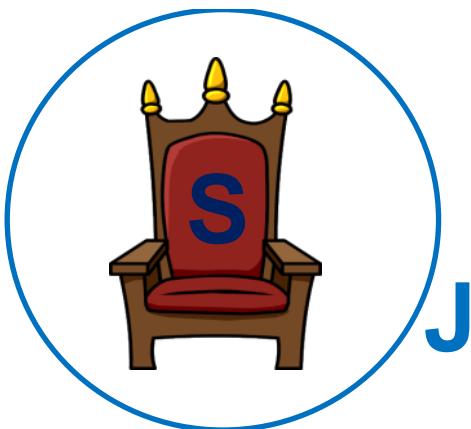
I'm a total unbeliever ...



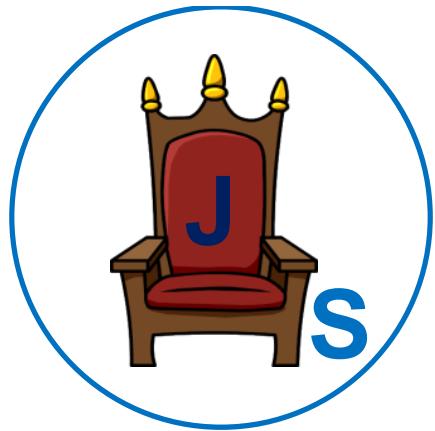
- Put a cross on the ladder where they were at the start of the course.
- Put a cross on the ladder where they are now.

THE CIRCLES OF LIFE

Self-directed person



The Jesus directed person



- Which circle better describes you now?
- Which circle would you like to describe you?

MAKING A NEW START:

Lord God

I am ready to make a new start with you.

I ask you to forgive the mess of my past life, to help me believe in you, and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus all of my days.

Amen.

If you have said this prayer and meant it, here are a few first steps as you start your new spiritual life:

TELL SOMEONE: If you talk with your local church leader, they should be able to give you a copy of the START booklet.

START PRAYING: Why not develop a brand-new good habit of learning to pray.

START READING YOUR BIBLE: It's probably best to start in the New Testament with Mark's Gospel. If you don't have a modern version, get in touch with your local church leader.