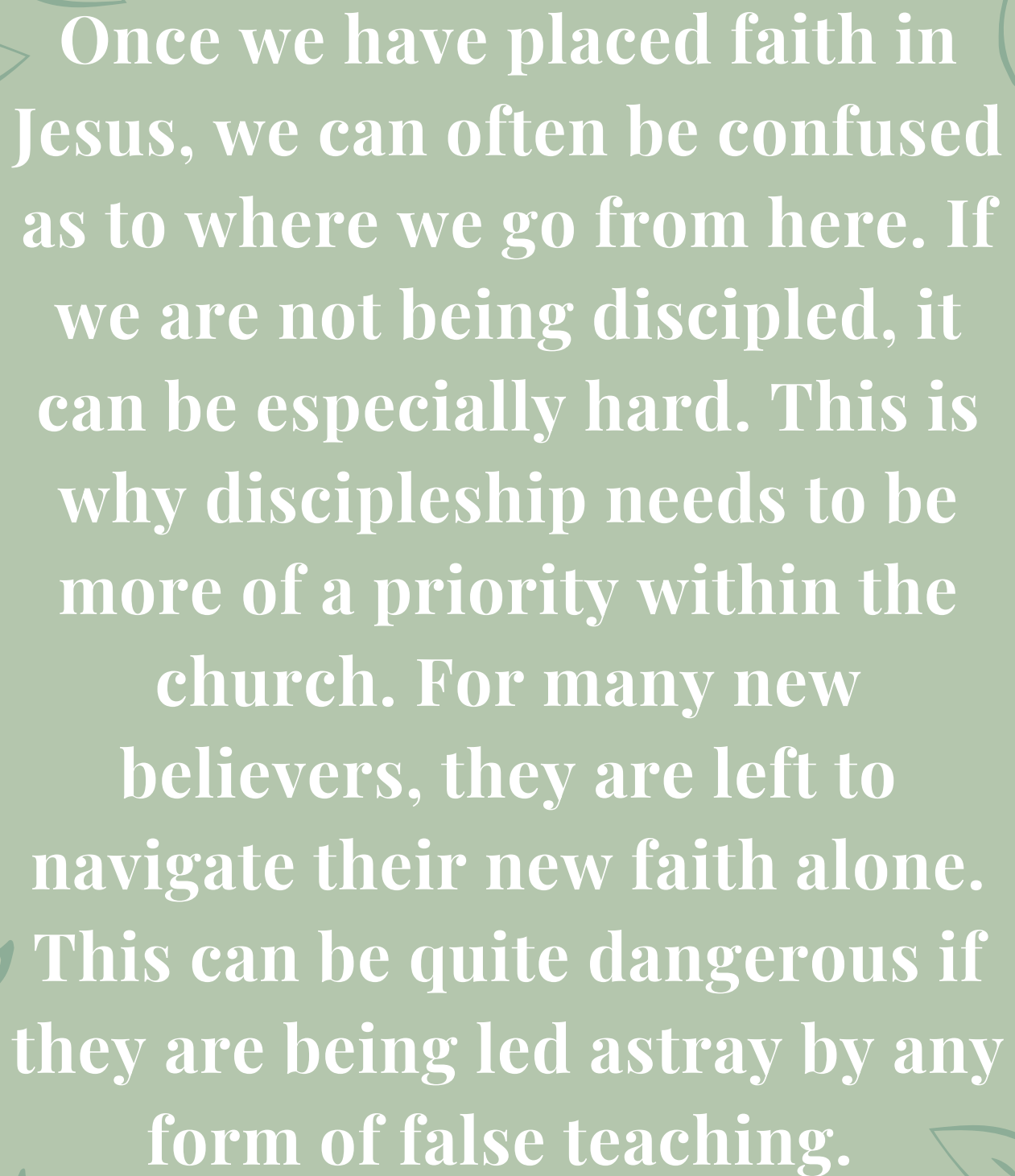


INTRODUCTION TO A LIFE OF FAITH

*A 3-Day Bible Study
for New Christians*



By: Vivian Bricker

A decorative background featuring a repeating pattern of stylized teal leaves and branches, framing the central text.





Once we have placed faith in Jesus, we can often be confused as to where we go from here. If we are not being disciplined, it can be especially hard. This is why discipleship needs to be more of a priority within the church. For many new believers, they are left to navigate their new faith alone. This can be quite dangerous if they are being led astray by any form of false teaching.

One can place faith in Jesus, only to learn falsehoods about the rest of the Bible. If you are a new believer, you need to be particularly careful about this. There are many false belief systems in the world that will try to tell you they are Christian, but they are not. For one, the Prosperity Gospel tries to sell itself as Christianity when it is not. It preaches the idea that God will give us material blessings, financial abundance, and freedom from health problems as long as we live in accordance with the Prosperity Gospel's teachings.



Rather than believing in these false teachings, we need to start cultivating our true relationship with Jesus. Salvation is only found in Jesus (Acts 4:12). With this knowledge, we need to focus on Jesus, building our relationship with Him, and following Him in our daily life. Through this three-day Bible study, we will learn the importance of proper discipleship, studying the Bible, and cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus. As we progress through this Bible study, we need to make sure our hearts and minds are in the right place.





By aligning our hearts and minds with Jesus prior to starting each day of this Bible study, it will help us learn even more about Him. It will also deepen our relationship with Him and enrich us with His love. After you finish this Bible study, try to seek out a community of believers and continue to cultivate your relationship with Jesus. As the years go by, you will see your faith, trust, and reliance in the Lord grow stronger.

DAY ONE:

Proper Discipleship

If you are a new believer, be cautious and be mindful. Ask the Lord to guide you to a good, Bible believing church. By finding a biblically based church such as this, it can help you to be properly disciplined. If you are not able to find a church that teaches in accordance with the truth, try to sign up for a few online courses to help you learn more about the Bible. Several nonprofits offer classes like these, including Our Daily Bread and InTouch.

Try looking into a few of these courses and see if they can help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Proper discipleship ideally should be done between an older believer with a younger believer; however, this is not always an option for everyone. Choose to pray to the Lord and ask for someone like this to come into your life. This could be realized in an aunt, a grandparent, or someone at a ministry.

God goes beyond our biggest hopes and blesses us with a true answer to prayer. This is certainly true when it comes to finding a Christian mentor. Pray and see where God leads. If you are currently enrolled in a Christian college, you might find a mentor in a professor. This was true for me as my mission professor disciplined me in the Lord and helped me to see my potential as a follower of Jesus.

We need these types of people in our life in order to push us to follow Jesus. If we never have these types of people in our lives, we will become stagnant in our growth. This is why it is important for us to foster discipleship and learning about the Bible from mature Christians. There is much to learn as a new believer and you don't want to miss out on any of these important teachings.



CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:



- *Are there any Bible-based churches I can attend in my town? If there are, would I be up to going to church there?*
- *Is there anyone in my life who can disciple me?*
- *If there is nobody who can disciple me, what are a few other means by which I can still reap the benefits of discipleship?*

DAY TWO:

Studying the Bible

As a new Christian, it is also important to study the Bible for ourselves. The best way to learn about the Bible is to read it ourselves. Everything written in the Bible is there to help, guide, and instruct us (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We never need to doubt the influence the Bible will have on our lives or the important lessons we will learn from its pages. Through the Bible, we learn about the fall of mankind, the history of God's people, and how Jesus died in order for us to receive salvation.

If we neglect reading the Bible, we will never grow in our walk with the Lord. Instead, we will stay a baby Christian and never become mature believers. If we want to start learning more about God, we need to open our Bible today. The Bible will be able to answer any question we have and point us back to the Lord. The more we read the Bible, the more we will know about God.

When we look at the Bible for the first time, it can look intimidating. We do not need to allow it to intimidate us because God does not demand us to read the Bible straight through in one sitting. Instead, we can take our time reading the Bible and soak in all of its lessons. This might mean reading a few passages a day or an entire chapter. Take it at your own pace and pray before as well as after reading the Bible.

Before we read the Bible, we need to ask God to open our eyes to what He wants us to see. This will help us better understand what God is trying to tell us through His Word. After we finish reading the Bible, we need to pray again and ask God to help us apply our Bible reading into our lives. Through praying to God and reading the Bible, we will grow in our Christian walk, and equip ourselves with a proper understanding of who God is and how He impacts our life in a beautiful way.



DAY THREE:

Cultivating a Personal Relationship with Jesus

From the moment we place faith in Jesus, we need to be working toward a wonderful relationship with Him. Similar to any relationship, we have to put work into cultivating a healthy and fulfilling relationship. This means we need to spend personal time with the Lord in prayer and Bible study. If we never put time and energy into our relationship with Him, we will never grow in our faith or in our closeness to Him.

This is why we need to prioritize spending time with the Lord each day. We can pray to Jesus at any time of day, no matter what we are doing. In fact, the Bible tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We can pray without ceasing by bringing our hearts before the Lord throughout our day. Whether we are stressed about an exam, a meeting at work, or a job interview, we can offer up prayers to the Lord.

Jesus truly cares about us and He desires a personal relationship with us. Since we are now a Christian, we will need to work to cultivate our relationship with Him each day and continue working on our relationship with Him for the rest of our lives. There will never come a day when we are “done” with our relationship with the Lord. We have to be intentional in our relationship with the Lord and not allow anything to interfere with our time with Him.

New Christians have much to learn, but you also have a hunger that tends to fade away with time.

Utilize this hunger to learn all you can about God and the Bible. Study, pray, and spend time with Him as much as you can. Seek out support and advice from trusted believers in your own life and continue to build your relationship with Him. Jesus is our greatest friend, and He will be with us through the light and the darkness.



END OF BIBLE STUDY PRAYER



“Dear Jesus, as a new Christian, I am ready to follow You. Please help me to have proper discipleship, to continue to read the Bible, and to cultivate a strong relationship with You. Help me to learn more about You each day and deepen my relationship with You. I praise You and thank You, Amen.”

Vivian Bricker loves Jesus, studying the Word of God, and helping others in their walk with Christ. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Christian Ministry with a deep academic emphasis in theology.

Her favorite things to do are spending time with her family and friends, reading, and spending time outside. When she is not writing, she is embarking on other adventures.