

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/>

KNOWING GOD

On this path you will learn some amazing things **ABOUT GOD.**

You can actually **GET TO KNOW GOD** in a very real, personal way.

This is an amazing discovery and adventure!
God has provided you with a path . . . just start walking.

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/>

LEARN ABOUT GOD

As you take small steps down the path, you will begin to discover that God is a very **BIG God**.

God is:

- All-Powerful
- All-Knowing
- All-Loving

God is right with you, helping you,
every step of the way.

READ:

1 JOHN 4:16, NIV

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

PSALM 103:8, NIV

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/god-our-king/>

GOD OUR KING

God is the highest authority and greatest being in the Universe. **God is our majestic KING!**

Nothing is beyond God's ability to control. All things are working toward His eternal purpose.

God is the ultimate writer of History. He is bringing everything to its grand and glorious conclusion.

The Lord commands legions of Angels to work out His purposes in heaven and on earth.

Though for a time God has allowed man to live in evil thoughts and actions,

God the King will bring all evil to an end, and establish His eternal Kingdom.

READ

PSALM 24:10, NIV

10 Who is he, this King of Glory? The LORD Almighty – He is the King of glory.

LIVE IT

God is *very* great. His power is beyond our understanding, and His love is real.

What are some words you would use to describe the greatness of God?

Since God is so powerful, how do you think you should respond to Him?

PRAYER

“Father God, I humble myself in your great presence today. Help me to know that your ways are bigger and better than my ways.

You made me for your glory and I am here to live for you.

Help me to trust you with every part of my life. I kneel in prayer and I declare in my heart and out loud that you, Jesus, are the one true King, and you are my King today, in every area of my life.

In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/creator-of-all/>

CREATOR OF ALL

God is the giver of all life. There is nothing that God did not create. The Lord God is the creator of the universe and our planet Earth. God brought the billions of stars into existence by the mere power of His word.

God is the creator of all the animals and plants on the earth. The Lord is the creator of all human beings. God is also the creator of the unseen realm; God created vast hosts of angels.

God is involved in His creation. **GOD IS ACTIVE** in the world every single day. God holds everything together.

READ SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 1:1, NIV

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

ISAIAH 45:12, NIV

12 It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

LIVE IT

Every human being is precious and valuable to God because everyone is made in God's image.

This means that you are loved by God. You can be confident that God has a plan for your life!

Even if you find it difficult to believe, stop for a moment and pray the following:

PRAYER

"Father God, I am amazed at your creation! From the smallest insect to the stars in the sky, you are the great Maker of all. Thank you for holding all things together and for being active in my life today.

*I come to you in prayer simply declaring out loud that you are the Great Creator God!
Please create new desires within me and help me live for you. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."*

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/powerful-knowing/>

POWERFUL & KNOWING

God knows **EVERYTHING!** He knows the number of fish in the sea, birds in the air and the number of hairs on your head. God knows your every thought before you even have the chance to think or act on it.

Not only is God all knowing, He is all-powerful. God's not just a little bit more powerful than the strongest man on earth; He is infinitely more powerful.

God has no limits.

READ SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 40:28, NIV

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

PSALM 29:4, NIV

4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic

PSALM 139:1-6, NIV

1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

5 You hem me in-behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

MATTHEW 10:30, NIV

30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

LIVE IT

When you pray to God, remember these two simple truths: God is powerful. God knows all things.

If your situation feels hopeless, remember, God knows everything and has the power to change anything, you can trust Him with your whole life!

On a small piece of paper, write down one area of your life that you find it difficult to trust in God. Keep this paper in your pocket and for the next week, let it remind you to

believe in God's power. Pray for victory over this struggle,
The Lord is much stronger than your problems!

PRAYER

“Father God, thank you for being the everlasting God. You created this world and You created me. Thank you for not growing tired or weary, and for understanding every part of my life so much more than I ever could. Lord Jesus, I trust you today. Please help me to rest in You. I believe Your power and trust that You know me very well.

In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/god-is-love/>

GOD IS LOVE

God loves us with a kindness and loyalty that words cannot describe.

The world's definition of love is very different than God's. To say that we love something may mean that we temporarily feel strongly about it, but **God's love is SO MUCH GREATER.**

God's perfect love lasts not just for the moment, or the near future, or even for years down the road; God loves us for eternity! God's love is not just a feeling, it is an action. **God is LOVE.** He desires for us to live safely within His care and love!

READ SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 4:16, NIV

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

1 JOHN 4:8-11, NIV

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

LIVE IT

God's love is so great, so perfect, so wonderful. Stop for a moment and declare to God your belief in His love. His loyalty, patience, kindness, faithfulness, tenderness.

For example, you might pray: "God, I believe that Your love is loyal." Or maybe, "God, I praise You because You are compassionate and kind."

So many good things are wrapped up in God's love for you. You are greatly loved.

PRAYER

"Father God, I praise you. You are love! Thank you for loving me.

I embrace your love. I know that your love will help me to love others. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/relationships/>

RELATIONSHIPS

God created us for relationship.

In fact, God wants us to have a relationship with Him. The Lord also wants for us to have relationships with others.

Relationships are intended to be good. Consider the tender and loyal love of a mother for her young baby. This is a mere glimpse into the heart of God's love for us. God's love is faithful loyal and true

READ SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 3:1, NIV

1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him

PSALM 103:8, NIV

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

LIVE IT

God made you because He deeply desires a relationship with you! He also wants your relationships with others to be marked by peace, unity and love.

Do you experience these things with others? If not, ask for God's help.

God is faithful and forgives you for your sins. Forgive those who have sinned against you and ask for forgiveness from those you have wronged.

PRAYER

“Father God, thank you for seeking a friendship with me through Jesus. I accept your friendship today and ask that you would help me extend the same love and friendship to others. I need your grace in this.

Please heal the pain in my heart from broken relationships and strengthen the bonds of those I am closest with. In Jesus Name I ask these things, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-god/god-is-eternal/>

GOD IS ETERNAL

Everything has had a beginning. Your life had a beginning. Humankind had a beginning. Earth had a beginning. Even the Universe had a beginning.

God has no beginning and no end. He is not limited by time. **God is the only eternal being.**

Because of this fact, the future and the past are already completed in God's view, and nothing escapes His notice. This is God's eternal plan!

READ SCRIPTURE

PSALM 16:11, NIV

11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

ISAIAH 26:4, NIV

4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

LIVE IT

Since God is eternal, it is essential to keep an eternal outlook in our everyday lives. Consider writing down the following statement and saying it out loud every morning for the next 7 days.

“Only one life, will soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last!” ~C.T. Studd – English Missionary to China

Notice how this perspective will begin to motivate your thoughts, words, and actions.

PRAYER

“Father in Heaven, I praise You for eternity! Thank you that this life is not all there is. I ask that you give me your perspective on life and keep the truth of Heaven always before me. I want to live for Your great and eternal purposes.

I kneel before You today and picture in my mind Your glorious throne in Heaven. May my thoughts, words, and actions bring You glory today as I live with eternity in mind. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/the-lord-our-creator/>

THE LORD OUR CREATOR

God is the great artist and creator!

The Lord God recorded His creation story in the Bible.

Keep wandering down the path to learn about the story of God's creation.

READ SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 42:5, NIV

5 This is what God the LORD says – he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/the-lord-our-creator/perfection/>

PERFECTION

When God created the first man and woman He placed them in a special garden and declared creation no longer to be merely good, but very good.

It was a beautiful and perfect place. They had all they needed. The Lord gave them authority over the creation.

God gave them great freedom. He allowed man and woman to name the animals and they were free to eat of any tree in the Garden. This was a perfect garden; it was paradise here on earth. **Man was in perfect relationship with God.**

READ SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 2:4-25, NIV

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-

5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground,

6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground-trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)

13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

LIVE IT

Stop for a moment and imagine the most beautiful, peaceful, joyful scene you can.

The Bible teaches that Heaven is a place like this, a place where the glory of God illuminates everything. There is no more pain, tears, or sorrow.

Make it a practice of picturing the glory of Heaven when you come to God in prayer.

PRAYER

“Father God, I praise You for Your perfection. You alone are perfect and through Jesus have brought me into a perfect relationship with Yourself.

I know that you are preparing a place in Heaven for those who trust Jesus. By Your mercy and grace, I look forward to this place where I can worship and live for you eternally. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/the-lord-our-creator/fall-of-man/>

FALL OF MAN

Mankind was perfect and innocent. In fact, God preferred that they not know about evil and sin.

He gave them only one rule. Do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil because your eyes will be open to the reality of sin.

The evil angel, Satan, who rebelled against God and had been cast to earth, came to them and spoke lies. He tempted them to doubt God's command.

They gave into temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. They were deceived. Their act of rebellion separated them from God. Man and woman then knew about evil because they did not obey God.

READ SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 3:1-7, NIV

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ “

4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.

5 “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

LIVE IT

What would our world be like if *everyone* disobeyed God’s laws completely?

What would it be like if *everyone* lived in obedience to God’s laws?

PRAYER

“Father God, I confess my sin before you today and acknowledge that I am accountable to You for the sins I have committed.

Jesus, please give me eyes to see clearly the deception of Satan in this world. As I stay close to You Lord, I ask for your grace to keep me far from sin.

Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who strengthens and guides me each day. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/the-lord-our-creator/evil-in-the-world/>

EVIL IN THE WORLD

From this first act of disobedience the world was “fallen.” Since then man has been falling far short of God’s goodness and holiness. Man’s sin and disobedience separates him from a relationship with God. No matter how good man is he still falls infinitely short of God moral perfection.

Death, sin and suffering had entered the world and mankind had fallen away from God.

When we say a person is good – we are comparing him or her to other people who are less good on our human scale of goodness. But compared to God, none of us are even close to God’s infinite goodness.

The Bible’s word for falling short of God is sin. Sin is in each of us and separates us from a Holy and perfect God. As long as that sin remains in us, we have no chance of entering into a relationship with the Holy and morally perfect creator.

But God had a plan to save us from sin, keep reading.

READ SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 3:23, NIV

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 6:23, NIV

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LIVE IT

What is your typical response to the brokenness you see in our world today? It's completely natural to feel sad, angry, or simply confused. The truth is that these things grieve God as well.

How do you think Jesus may want to use you as an instrument of His love and grace toward the pain and sorrow you see around you? Begin to pray for His direction and love to guide you.

PRAYER

“Father God, I praise you for saving me through Jesus Christ today! I am so grateful for all that you’ve done for me. Thank you. Lord, please help me reach out in love to the brokenness around me today. I need your wisdom and direction to know what to do. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/gods-plan/>

GOD'S PLAN

Even though Adam and Eve (the first people) sinned against God, God was still good to them.

God decided to help them, to save them!

Since man could never reach all the way up to God, The Lord reached down to man.

READ SCRIPTURE

PSALM 18:16, NIV

16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/gods-plan/god-our-father/>

GOD – OUR FATHER

All children long for the protection and blessing of a good loving father.

Tragically, many people are never blessed with this important human need. Still worse is that some of us have feelings of betrayal and hurt from our fathers.

No human can ever perfectly measure up to being a perfect father.

However, our Father in Heaven is the perfect Father, because He is God.

Our Heavenly Father is loving, kind and compassionate. He is full of mercy.

Our Father is burdened and concerned about the well being of His children on earth.

So what did He do?
Keep walking . . .

READ SCRIPTURE

EPHESIANS 1:3-4, NIV

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

PSALM 103:13, NIV

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

LIVE IT

Regardless of what your earthly father may have been like, you can trust the pure, gentle, kind and perfect love of God the Father. He cares deeply and has a great compassion toward you.

Do you believe this? What obstacles keep you from embracing God's love for you today?

Talk with God honestly about your obstacles.

PRAYER

"Father in Heaven, I confess that sometimes I look at you as being cruel, far away, or somehow different than You actually are. Forgive me Lord. I choose to believe what You have revealed about Yourself in the Bible. Please help me to see You as you truly are: full of love, compassion, and kindness. Father, help me to experience Your love in a fresh way today. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen"

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/gods-plan/jesus-gods-son/>

JESUS – GOD’S SON

God the Father made a decision. He sent His perfect son, Jesus into the darkness of this world.

Jesus came as a little baby, born miraculously of a virgin into a humble peasant family.

Jesus did not come to set mankind free in a political or physical sense. He came to set man free from the power and curse of sin and the eternal separation from God.

He would break the power of death.

The name Jesus means “the LORD saves” and that is what He did. He was a perfect man, and He was God.

Jesus taught us how to live and how to return to God, our Father.

READ SCRIPTURE

JOHN 3:16-17, NIV

16 “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.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

LUKE 1:26-35, NIV

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

LIVE IT

If you trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, God sees you through the “lens” of Jesus. He sees Jesus’ righteousness when He looks at you.

The Bible says there is “...*no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” ROMANS 8:1

What great news! Pray to God today for opportunities to share this hope with others. When opportunities come up, be bold to speak of God’s great love and trust the results of your sharing to Him.

PRAYER

*“Father, thank you so much for Jesus, your Son, who you sent to save the world from sin. And Jesus, I want to thank you also, for your willingness to endure suffering and death so that my sin could be paid for. I am so grateful to you! Thank you for your sacrifice which has given me eternal life. Today and everyday I choose to remember your great sacrifice and live for you!!
In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen”*

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/>

LEARN ABOUT JESUS

Jesus was the only perfect person ever to walk the earth.

He was a carpenter that lived in Israel 2000 years ago, but
He was also the Son of God!

Read on to learn about His amazing life, His teachings
and His great love for all people.

READ SCRIPTURE

I JOHN 5:11, NIV

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 JOHN 1:5, NIV

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/his-birth/>

HIS BIRTH

The birth of Jesus was announced only to a chosen few – to humble shepherds, and to a few leaders outside of Israel. The time had come to bless all the nations of the earth.

The God of the universe came to the world in humility. He came as a baby, and this baby would be the one who would save the people of the world from their sin.

The all-powerful God became a man.

READ SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:1-20, NIV

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

LIVE IT

Jesus was miraculously conceived. An angel named Gabriel came to Jesus' mother Mary and said that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High God would overshadow her. (See Luke 1:35)

Jesus entered this world completely pure, holy and set apart from all sin. He was 100% God but also 100% man. Stop for a moment and praise God for this incredible truth!

By trusting Jesus you are putting your hope in the *only* perfect One who is able to take away sin.

PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, I praise You for coming in the form of a man so that I would have a God I could relate to. Thank You for living a perfect life and in doing so giving me an example to follow. Thank You for paying for my sins. Remind me, oh God, of the amazing way You came to earth and died for me! In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/earthly-life/>

EARTHLY LIFE

For more than 30 years – Jesus grew, lived a simple life, and worked as a humble carpenter.

Jesus began His ministry at the age of 30. His follower's (called disciples) were mostly fisherman and common people. They were young, some were even teenagers.

Jesus spent much of His time with the “sinners” – the prostitutes, those addicted to alcohol, the sick, and with beggars. He cared for them, He loved them; Jesus was kind and generous and His love changed them.

READ SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 9:11-13, NIV

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

MATTHEW 9:36, NIV

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

LIVE IT

Isn't it amazing that Jesus was both God and man? He lived a perfect sinless life, in full obedience to God.

Yet there were times that He was hungry, cold or lonely. He scraped His knee playing with friends. He felt pain. He laughed, He cried. He loved those around Him. He lived a fully human life.

PRAYER

“Jesus, help me to remember that you lived a perfect life. Help me to learn how to follow your perfect ways. Help me also to remember that you can sympathize with my suffering. You are such a good friend to me! Thank you!”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/teaching-miracles/>

TEACHING & MIRACLES

Instead of spending His time with the powerful and the affluent, Jesus spent most of His time teaching and working with those who had been rejected.

He actually preached against those who used religion to gain earthly power and called many of the religious leaders hypocrites. Jesus taught that every person has a place in the Kingdom of God if they would simply believe in Him. He taught with great love, power and authority.

Jesus cast out evil spirits, healed the sick and preached. He taught the people what God's Kingdom looked like.

READ SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 11:29-30, NIV

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

MATTHEW 9:35, NIV

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

LIVE IT

Pray for someone who is sick, discouraged, or hurting in some way.

Teach someone one simple truth that God is showing you right now. It might be how you have seen Him answer prayer or maybe how you are coming to understand His amazing grace.

Share the love of Jesus. He loves everyone and offers a good plan for their lives.

PRAYER

“God, you are Holy and completely good. You showed us what the Kingdom of God looks like when Jesus came to earth, healing the sick, casting out demons, teaching truth. Help me to follow in Jesus’ example. I look forward to one day being in Heaven with you, but in the meantime am excited to live each day for You! Give me strength, love, and passion to follow You today. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/his-death/>

HIS DEATH

God the Father asked Jesus to pay the price for all the sin in the world. Jesus responded to His Father's will.

Jesus willingly allowed evil men to conspire together and they nailed Jesus to a cross to die. He died after great suffering.

God's Son gave Himself as a sacrifice for all of mankind.

READ SCRIPTURE

I PETER 2:24, NIV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

ROMANS 5:6-11, NIV

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Read MARK 15 in your Bible

LIVE IT

Jesus paid it all. Every sin you have ever committed, or will commit, was paid for at the Cross. For this reason we can respond to Jesus by giving Him our all!

Is there an area of your life that you are holding back from Jesus?

Make a list of those things that you find difficult to surrender to Him. Ask Jesus to help you release these things and trust His power and forgiveness today.

PRAYER

"Lord, thank you for dying for all of my sins . . . past, present and future. Thank you for paying the price for my sin and giving me eternal life through your death on the

*cross. Jesus, I believe in you and thank you for your
eternal gift!*

In Jesus name I pray, Amen”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/redemption/>

REDEMPTION

Redemption is a word that means to save, or make right, or to pay a price.

Jesus is our redemption. His shed blood paid the price for our sin. It cost Him great suffering, humiliation and even death.

God's redemption is not by our own efforts, but instead by what God did for us.

READ SCRIPTURE

PSALM 32:1, NIV

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

EPHESIANS 1:7, NIV

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

1 PETER 2:24, NIV

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

LIVE IT

Jesus makes things right. He redeems our lives from sin, fear, loneliness, sorrow and death (to name just a few)! He gives us beauty in exchange for the ashes of our lives (ISAIAH 61:3).

How does this encourage you today? How is God's redemption impacting your life?

PRAYER

"Father God, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for redeeming my life through Jesus Christ.

In You, Jesus, I have redemption through the blood You shed. I praise You for forgiving me of all sin according to the riches found in the Father's grace.

Help me to always remember how great of a price you paid and how much I have been freed from. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/the-resurrection/>

THE RESURRECTION

After giving His life for us on the cross, Jesus was buried in a tomb and a huge stone was rolled in place of its entrance.

But early Sunday morning, on the third day, there was an earthquake and the ground shook and the tomb was opened. Jesus was alive again!!!!

The soldiers guarding the tomb ran in great fear.

Jesus rose from the grave showing that the power of death that has plagued mankind from the very first sin, was finally broken. This event was called the resurrection.

Jesus proved that He was God, perfect and victorious through His love and sacrifice for us.

READ SCRIPTURE

JOHN 20:1-20, NIV – THE EMPTY TOMB

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE

10 Then the disciples went back to their homes,

11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

JOHN 11:25, NIV

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

LIVE IT

Do you realize that the same Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you? ROMANS 8:11

Are you dealing with any challenge that takes more power than it took to raise Jesus from the dead?
How should this truth motivate you in trusting God with your problems today?

PRAYER

“Jesus you said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;’ (JOHN 11:25).

You conquered sin and death through Your Resurrection and also ensured that I will one day rise to new life after I die. Thank You, Oh God, for this is the greatest gift I could ever receive. May You help me to live in light of this joyful reality today! In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen”

<http://followingthepath.com/knowning-god/learn-about-jesus/believe-receive/>

BELIEVE, RECEIVE

To simply know what God has done is not enough. God asks you to respond. God invites you to believe and accept His plan of salvation. The Bible says to **believe** that Jesus came to earth, lived the perfect life, died for our sins, and rose again showing His final victory over sin.

This belief involves **receiving** God's gift (grace) of forgiveness that comes only through Jesus Christ and what He did for you.

Again, this faith is God's free gift. You cannot work for it or it would not be a gift.

Many people say a simple prayer like this to express this faith.

>“Jesus, I want to know you. I want you to come into my life. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin so that I could be fully accepted by you. Only you can give me the power to change and become the person you created me to be. Thank you for forgiving me and

giving me eternal life with God. I give my life to you. Please do with it as you wish. Amen.”

If you sincerely asked Jesus into your life just now, then he has come into your life as he promised. You have begun a personal relationship with God.

Remember, it is not at all the words or even the prayer that is important, but the true attitude of your heart.

You are about to discover a brand NEW LIFE, keep walking.

READ SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 10:9-10, NIV

9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

JOHN 1:12-13, NIV

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-

13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

LIVE IT

There is no greater gift you could receive than believing in God's grace through Jesus Christ.

If you recently embraced this gift through faith, we want to congratulate you!

Stop for a moment to praise God for the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

"Father God. My heart is overwhelmed by Your love today. I praise You for giving me a new life in Jesus Christ.

It is the longing of my heart to keep growing as Your child. Help me to live my life out of the overflow of this new friendship with You. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen."

