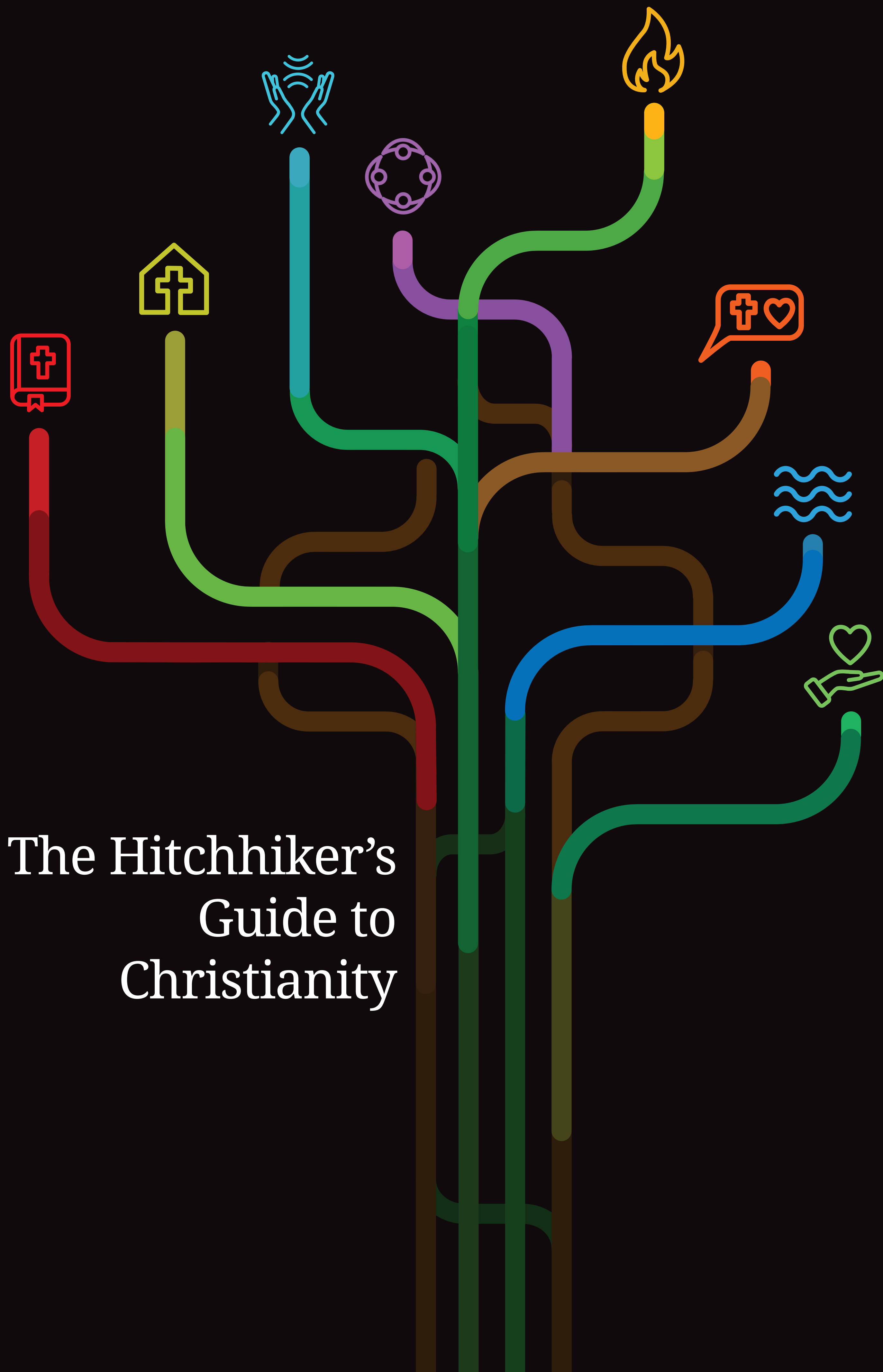
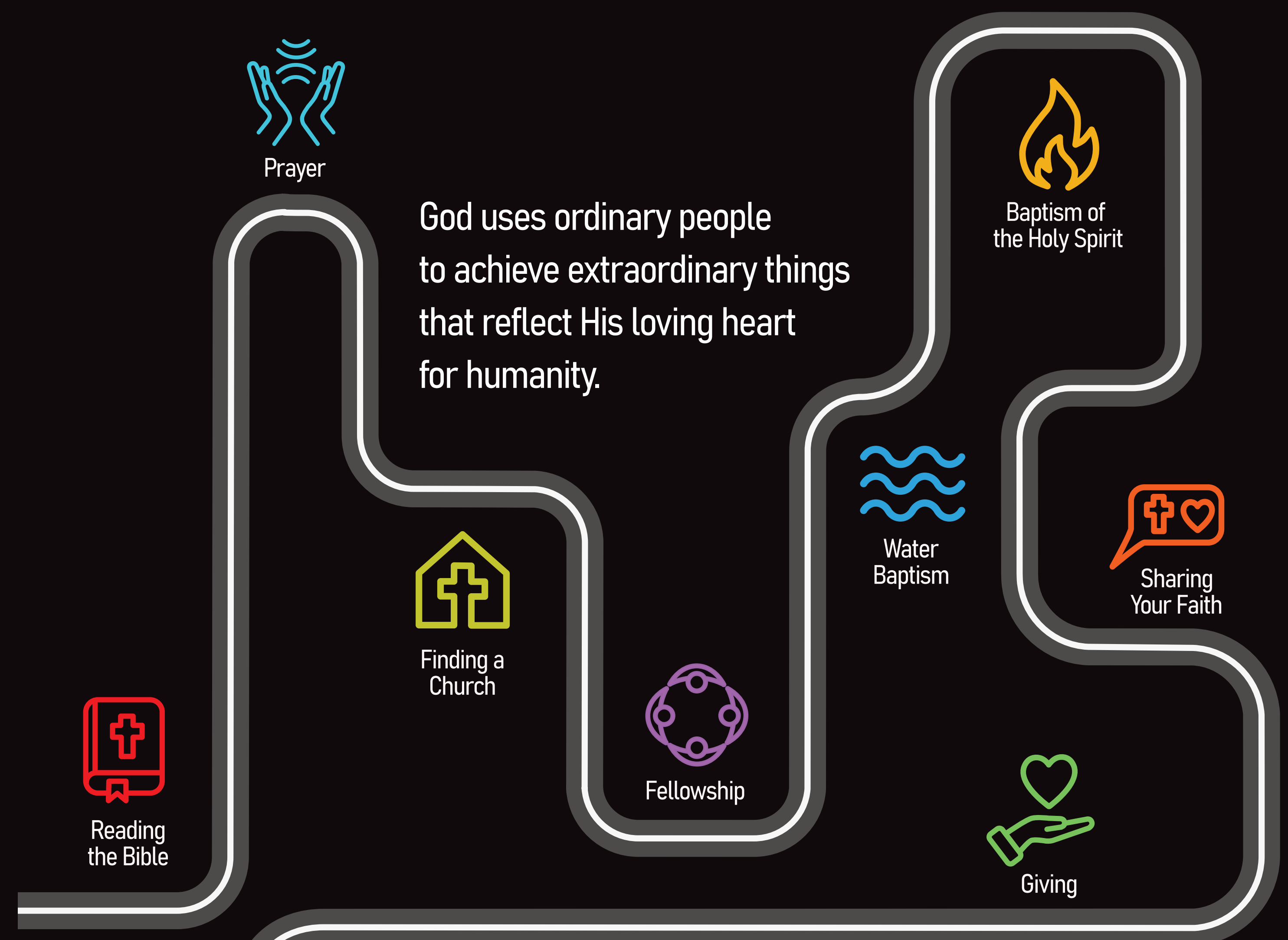


The Hitchhiker's Guide to Christianity



Your roadmap & navigation guide.



Your journey with Jesus begins here.

Welcome

Congratulations! You have dedicated your life to Jesus and have just become a “born again” believer. The moment you invited Jesus Christ into your heart to be the Lord and Savior of your life, His blood washed away all your sins, and the Holy Spirit came into your heart to seal you as a child of God.

The barrier of sin that once separated you from God has been completely removed, as He now sees only the righteousness of Jesus Christ living within you. Your eternal salvation is not achieved through good works or your own merits; it flows from His profound love and mercy for you. God is faithful and will never abandon or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). Instead of dwelling on your past, embrace your future and move forward with confidence.

God has a unique and purposeful plan for your life, which unfolds as you cultivate a personal relationship with Him through obedience and fellowship. Christianity is centered on this relationship, allowing His ways to transform you. By walking closely with Him, you will discover more of His presence. This guide serves as a starting point for your Christian journey.

**YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS HERE**



Reading the Bible

The Bible is the primary means through which God communicates with you. His Word feeds your spirit and soul, granting you strength from Him. When you read the Bible, you are listening to Him.

“ My mouth shall speak wisdom,
And the meditation of my heart
shall give understanding. ”



PSALMS 49:3

The more you read His Word, the better you will understand God’s character and His foundational truths. Unlike a regular book, reflecting on His scriptures brings new life, hope, strength, wisdom and purpose to your life.

The Bible

For many new believers, determining where to begin can be confusing and overwhelming. However, the Bible becomes clearer once you recognise the themes behind its two main sections: the Old and New Testaments.



Please refer to the visual 'The Bible Overview' located on the centre spread.

Old Testament

God’s nature and actions are revealed through historical accounts, along with the promises of a Savior.

New Testament

Fulfills the prophecy and promises of a Savior to save all of humanity’s shortcomings.

John 3:16

BOOK

CHAPTER

VERSE

The Bible consists of 66 books and is organised into chapters and verses for easy reference.

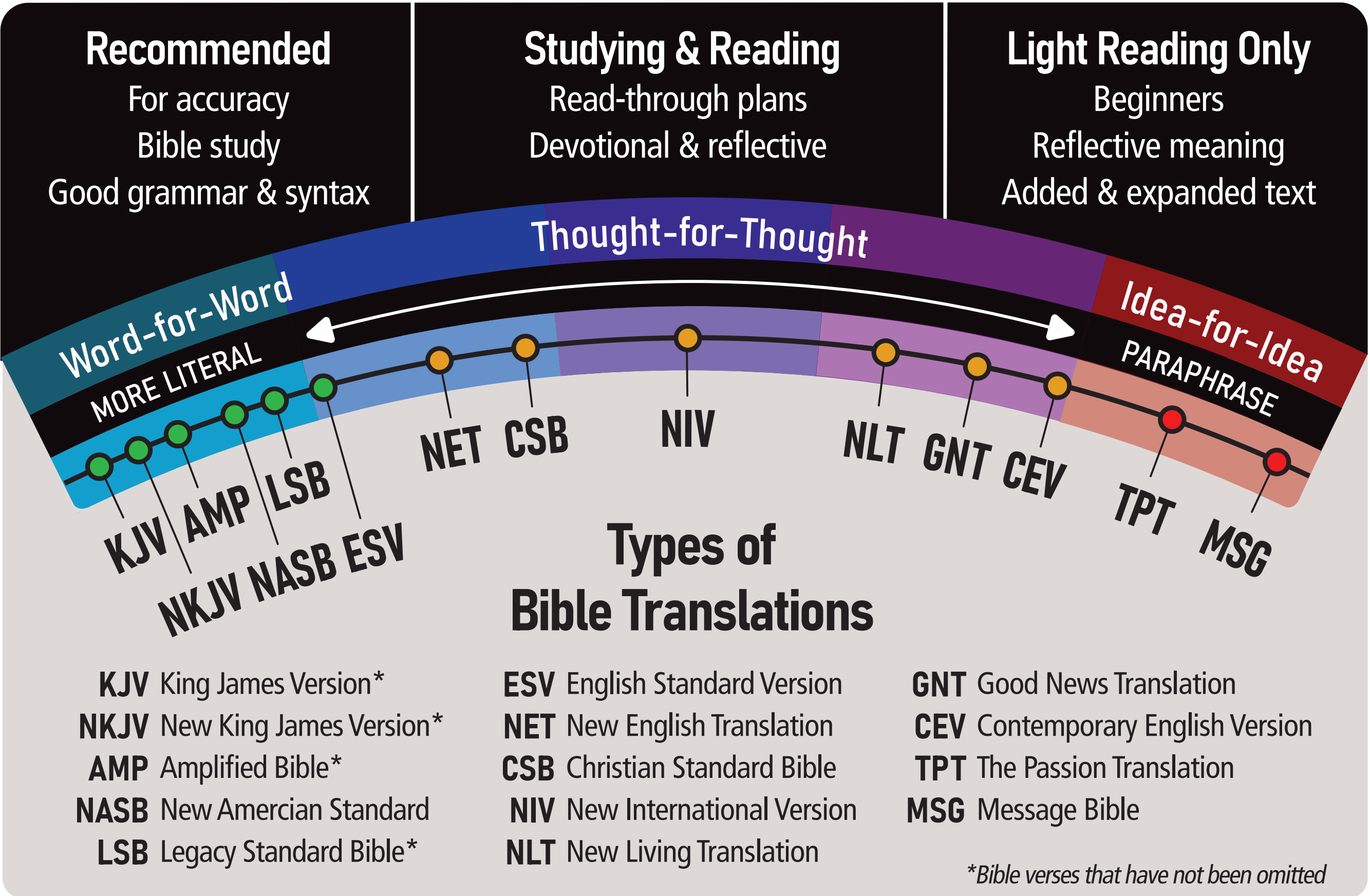
Archaic Language

The King James Version (KJV) employs a poetically crafted language, featuring terms like *thy, thou, thee, ye, doth*, which date back to the 16th century. It includes some words that are rarely used in modern English, making it difficult to understand, particularly for those who are not native English speakers. For better clarity, we recommend considering other Word-for-Word or Thought-for-Thought Bible.

Which Bible Translation?

There are over 60 English versions of the Bible, making it difficult to choose. Therefore, no single version can fully convey all the ideas expressed in the Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic texts.

Many Bible scholars use Word-for-Word Bibles and cross-reference them with other Bibles. Paraphrase Bibles are reworded for simplifications, though the translation process can be interpreted subjectively, especially when viewed alongside Word-for-Word Bible versions.



Reading Plan

If you don't have a reading plan, you may begin with the New Testament followed by the Old Testament.




Suggested key books to read first:


- **Luke** Story of Jesus
- **John** Jesus as Son of God
- **Ephesians** Your identity in Christ
- **Proverbs** Wisdom
- **Psalms** Reflective
- **Genesis** Creation story


Bible Meditation

The S.O.A.P. method is a simple and structured framework for Bible study. The acronym S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. To engage with God's Word, find a quiet place and reflect on His Words using a journal. To 'meditate the word' means to deeply reflect on and focus your thoughts on a specific word, phrase, or passage.


SCRIPTURE  Choose a scripture that stands out to you. Write it down and meditate on it carefully.

OBSERVATION  What is the meaning of the verse?
Who is this message for, or addressing to?
What is the overall theme or topic of the passage?
What is the cultural context?
Do any keywords that stand out?

APPLICATION  How does this verse apply to your life today?
Are there any areas in your life that do not align with scripture and need to change?
Have you seen growth in any areas of your life?

PRAYER  Ask our Heavenly Father for wisdom and implement this verse in your life. Praise God for His Word, and open your spirit to His truths, blessings, promises and correction.

“ But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper. ”

 **PSALMS 1:2-3**

Prayer

Prayer is a means of communicating with God, enabling you to connect with Him through both conversation and listening. It's essential that your prayers avoid becoming mere religious rituals. While religion often focuses on external practices and obligations, your prayers should always originate from the heart and truly reflect your personal relationship with God.

“ Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ”



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

One of the greatest things to do as a Christian is to learn to hear His voice. His voice could also be through an event, nature, a person, a dream or a vision. God's Word is the primary way He communicates with you. Therefore, when you hear His voice through other means, it must not contradict His Scripture.



A Gift from God

Prayer is a precious gift from God - a unique privilege that belongs only to humanity. You are designed to have intimate relationship with your Heavenly Father, allowing you to connect, worship, reflect, and grow in faith.



Daily Prayer

Spending time with the Lord each day, at any time that works for you, is vital for maintaining your spiritual well-being. Those who wait upon the Lord will find their strength renewed. The more time you spend with God, the stronger your faith will become.

Amen

Amen is a Hebrew word meaning 'truly', 'verily' or 'so be it', agreeing with a prayer and a request for God to grant it. We use it at the end of the prayer.

In contrast, Jesus begins His statements with 'Amen', (Verily, I say or Truly, I say) referring to He knows this is true firsthand.

How to Pray

The acronym A.C.T.S. is a simple prayer model that serves as a guide to assist you on how to pray. There is not a ridged formula to follow. A.C.T.S. encompasses the structure of the Lord's Prayer.



- 1 Our Father in heaven, Hallowed (Holy) be Your name.
- 2 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
- 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins,
- 4 For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
- 5 And do not lead us into temptation,
- 6 But deliver us from the evil one.
- 7 (In Jesus' name, Amen)

ADORATION



- Expressing your love, awe and praise to God for who He is.
- Praising God for His attributes.
- Worshipping Him through prayer, hymns and spiritual songs.

CONFESSION



- Acknowledge and repent from your sins and short comings.
- Asking God to search your heart and reveal sins.
- Thank God and seek for His forgiveness and forgive others.

THANKSGIVING



- Express gratitude for all the Lord has done for you.
- Thank Him for spiritual blessings and physical provisions.
- Thank Him for answered prayers, wisdom and guidance.

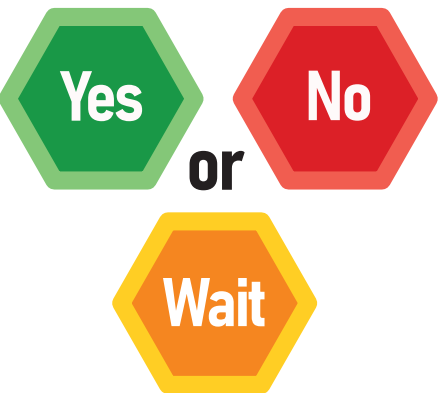
SUPPLICATION



- Humbly bring your requests before God.
- Seek God's guidance on decisions.
- Ask Him to meet your needs and the needs of others.

Answering Prayer

Its important to wait upon Him to answer your prayer. Its either:



Posture of Prayer

The Bible does not prescribe a single correct physical posture for prayer.

Standing | Sitting | Kneeling
Bowing | Walking



The key aspect of prayer is a heart positioned in humility, reverence and dependence on God.



Jesus focused on the Father's heart, love, guidance, wisdom and strength during the quietness in the morning.

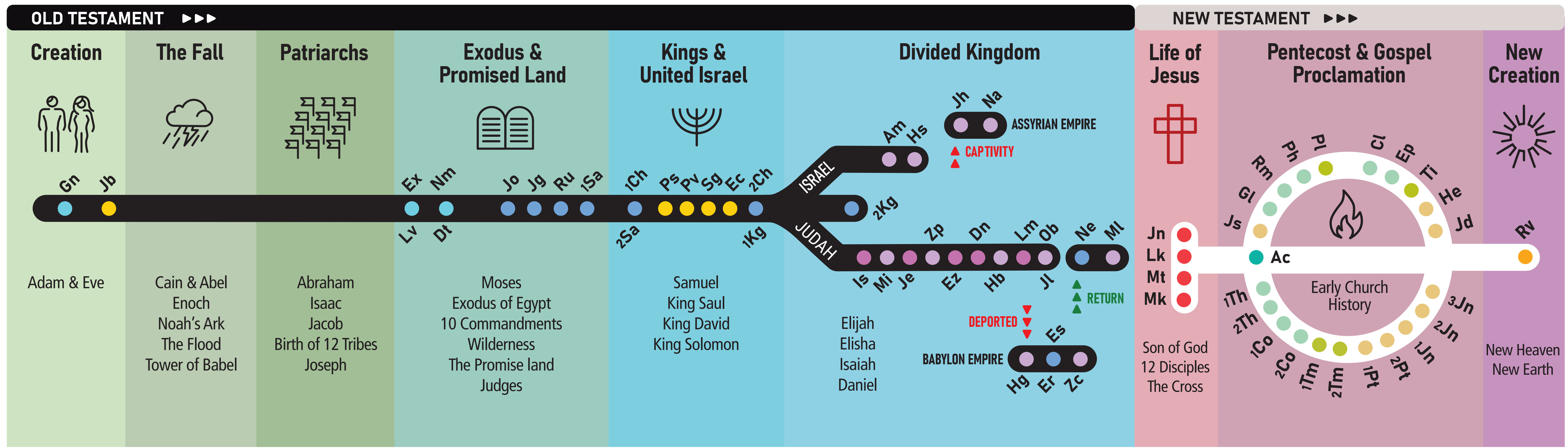
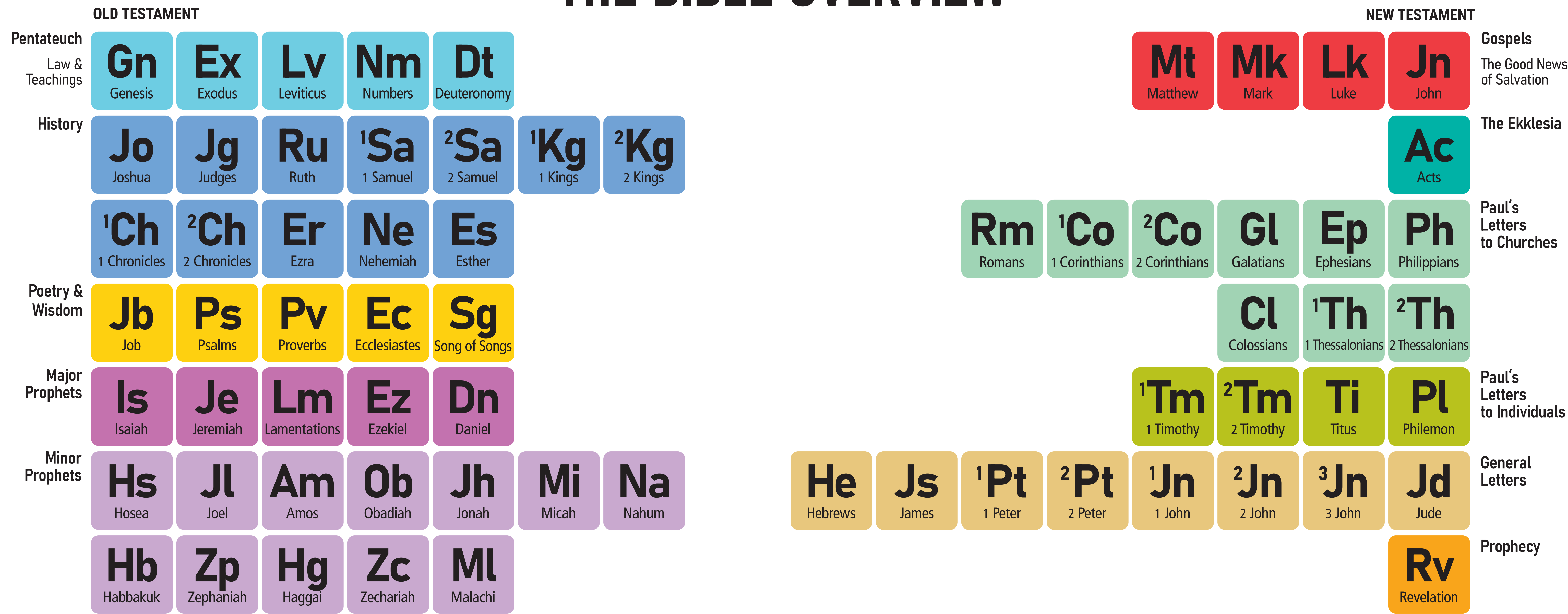


Moses lifted his hands and arms as an act of worship, adoration, surrender and receiving.



King David bowed down on his knee as an act of humility, respect and acknowledgement of the real King of kings.

THE BIBLE OVERVIEW



Finding a Church

A church isn't a building or an organisation. A church is a community of Christ-minded people who desire to seek the heart of God. The church represents the body of Christ and being the hands and feet of Jesus, makes a positive impact on the unreached community. Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

“ Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God. ”



As you journey through life, pray and seek a solid, Bible-based, and Holy Spirit-filled church.

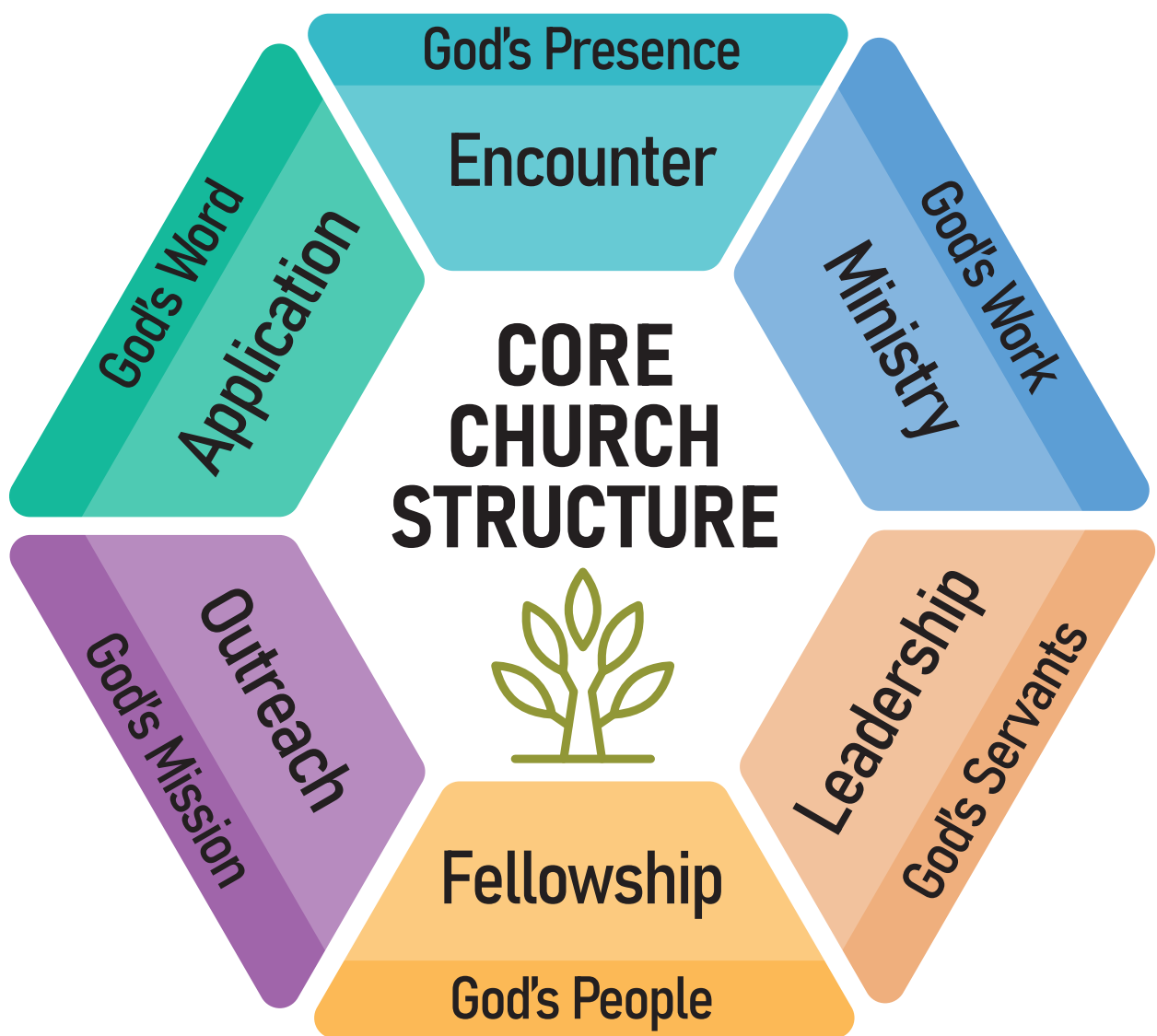
Blessings of a Church

Watching an online church service on YouTube lacks the human factor of interaction and connection. Being part of a local church brings many blessings in life.

- Being in a Christ-minded community with a sense of belonging and allows for the opportunity to make new friends.
- Spiritual growth can be achieved with guidance and support from church leaders, who provide a protective covering.
- Encouragement and support are essential when participating in a small group within a church.
- Discover your full potential by embracing your God-given talents, gifts and purpose.
- God can use you to be a blessing to others and your community.

The Ekklesia

The English word 'church' does not appear in the Bible. The original Greek term is 'Ekklesia' which means: 'a called-out assembly' or 'congregation' (Acts 19:39). Those called by God are meant to come together to make a difference in the world, serving as the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16).



Core Church Structure

- Growth**
It has always been in God's heart for His people to come together and grow as a spiritual family, being perfected by His Word and His Ways (Acts 2:42-47).
- Application**
Sound doctrinal teachings of Jesus Christ and His Word are delivered through impactful Biblical preaching that is relevant and applicable to everyday life, ensuring sermons remain true to God's Word.
- Encounter**
Prayer and worship are essential element of the Christian life. Without God's presence, the church cannot function.
- Ministry**
Ministry is part of the body of Christ. Church volunteers use their God-given talents and time to serve the community.
- Leadership**
Model on Jesus' leadership by serving others with a shepherd's heart, guiding them to Jesus, who is: The Way, The Truth, and The Life.
- Fellowship**
Nurture Christian faith that encourages spiritual growth through discipleship teaching within small group settings.
- Outreach**
The church is actively shares the gospel with God's love, making a difference in the community and nations.

The Perfect Church?

No church on earth is perfect; God works through imperfect people, including leaders and pastors, who grow and transform together through His Word.

Beware of Christian Cults

When searching for a church, consider its history, core values, and vision.

- The One & True Church**
Prideful of being the true and chosen church, they become isolated lacks accountability to other churches. They teach doctrines outside the Bible or reinterpret and delete scriptures to hide the truth.
- Leadership**
A leader who claims to be chosen by God through dreams and visions. Members show loyalty and serve them through coercion. Such leaders lack the humility to admit their mistakes.
- Twisted Truth & Intensive Study**
They will twist scripture to enforce a biased doctrine, pressuring you into frequent and intense Bible studies. This can cause church members to neglect their family and personal lives, convincing themselves that this is God's will.
- Finances**
The church members are compelled to contribute. There is no transparency regarding the church's finances or the allocation of funds.

“ And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ”

MATTHEW 24:4-5

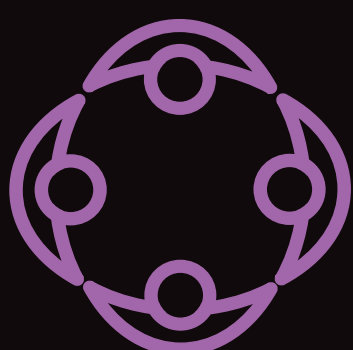
Fellowship

Being part of a small group in a church, like Jesus with His 12 disciples, is one of the best ways to grow strong in your faith through discipleship, fellowship, and accountability.

A healthy Christian desires fellowship with other believers who who sincerely seek Jesus Christ. This fellowship enable you to learn, study His Word, and ask questions.

A small group provides a safe environment where you can openly discuss your challenges, addictions and struggles without fear of judgment. The group will support and uplift you by providing encouragement and strength through Word of God.

“ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. ”

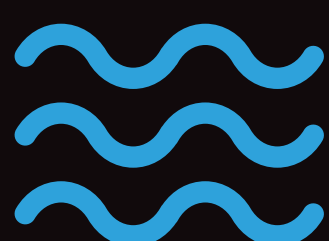


1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Water Baptism

Jesus emphasised the significance of water baptism when He instructed His disciples to baptize all those who become Christians.

“ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ”



ROMANS 6:4

Misconception of Water Baptism

Infant christening differs from water baptism because infants cannot make personal commitments to repentance or faith. True baptism should result from an individual’s own decision rather than a choice made by their parents.

Water baptism is more than just a simple ritual or religious practice; it is a joyful experience that reflects your obedience to Jesus. It serves as a public demonstration of the transformation that occurs in your heart when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Through baptism, we identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus and become a new creation in Christ.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when the Spirit of God comes upon those who seek Him. You’ll receive extraordinary power and spiritual gifts, along with a renewed boldness for ministry centered on Christ and for sharing the Gospel. This baptism is intended for every believer. The works of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ.

“ If you love Me (*Jesus*), keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper (*the Holy Spirit*), that He may abide with you forever. The Spirit of truth, whom the world (*non believers*) cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ”



JOHN 14:15-18
Paraphrase in Italics

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

REVELATION



- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirit

POWER



- Gift of Faith
- Working of Miracles
- Gift of Healing

INSPIRATIONAL



- Prophecy
- Speaking in Tongues
 - Private • Prayer (1 Corinthians 14:2)
 - Intercession (Romans 8:26-27)
- Interpretation of Tongues
 - Public • Interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27)
 - A Sign for Unbelievers (Acts 2:4-11)

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

With a sincere heart, confidently ask the Heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Luke 11:13 “ . . . Heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” You will encounter His loving presence in a way that surpasses human understanding.

One of the initial evidence of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in a heavenly language known as ‘the Gift of Tongues’ (1 Corinthians 14:2). Speaking in tongues comes from your inner spirit as it connects with God. This language is only understood by God but not by the devil. It serves as a spiritual tool that empowers your Christian life.

Even after being filled with the Holy Spirit, it is important to maintain a posture of continuous receptivity to receive fresh fire from Him. As you pursue a deeper relationship with God, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit will be cultivated in your life. To truly harness these gifts, you must practice them with faith.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is one of the 3 Persons of the Holy Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son (Jesus Christ). The Holy Spirit is not an 'it' but a 'He' and is often referred to as the Helper, Comforter, Spirit of God and Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit is not a force but a Person.

Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, believers may lack the supernatural power of God. The primary role of the Holy Spirit is to exalt Jesus, and through His power, He demonstrates the existence of a living God. Miracles, signs, and wonders continue to occur in this day and age.

When you explore the natural and physical world, you will often find that the universe reveals three profound aspects that unmistakably reflect God's fingerprint in His creation.

Colour in Light
RGB

red

blue

green

Time

past

present

future

Space

height

length

width

Matter

gas

liquid

solid

Without one, the makeup in the universe cannot exist. Three aspects must co-exist to exist.

Sharing Your Faith

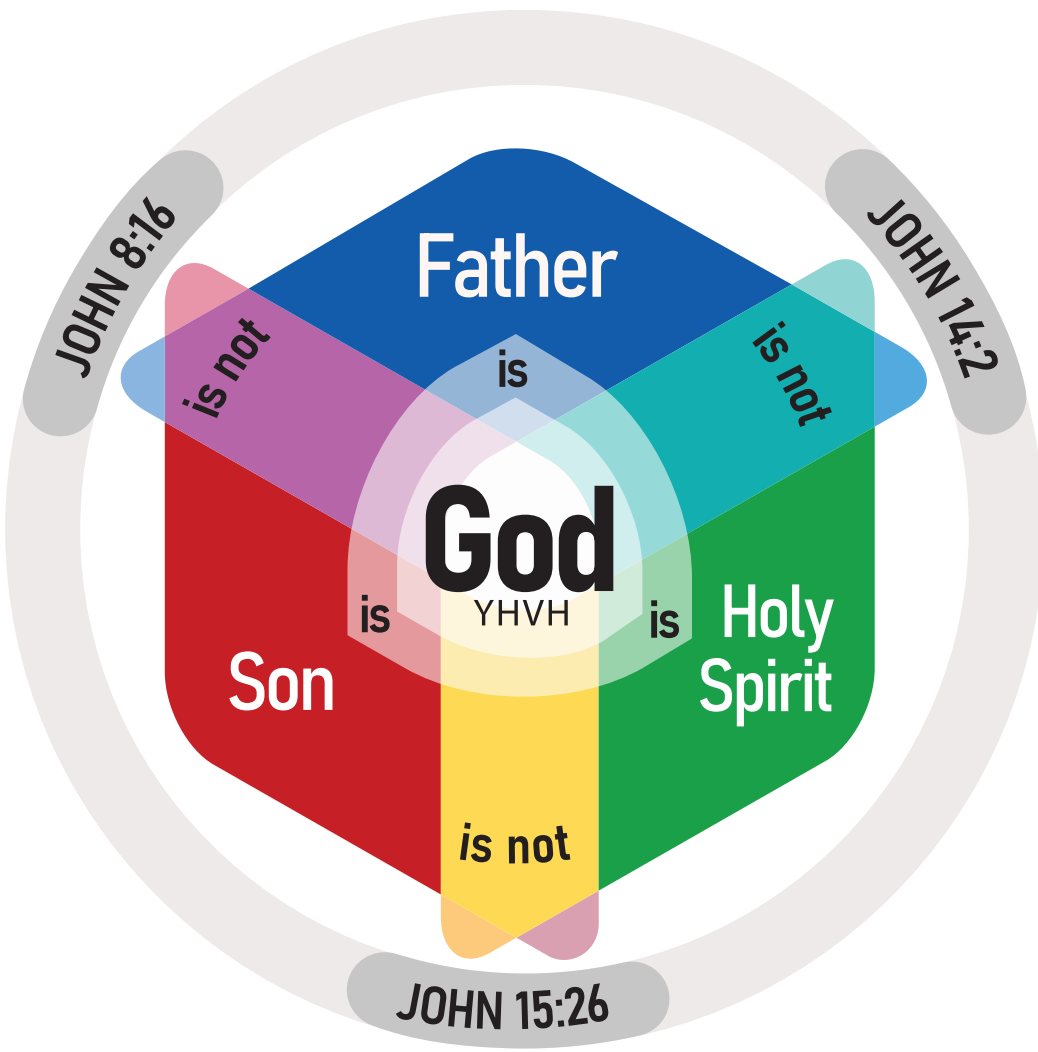
You expressed faith in Jesus Christ when someone shared the Good News of God's love and salvation with you. Now, it's your opportunity to share the gospel and what God has done in your life with others.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” JOHN 3:16-17



The Holy Trinity

Our faith is in the Holy Trinity of God. It represents the Godhead which is one God but three Persons co-existing.



“Let Us make man in Our image.” GENESIS 1:26

The Holy Trinity operates together in perfect harmony to govern the universe. Its first mention can be found in the Book of Genesis. During creation, God refers to Himself using plural terms like 'Our', 'They', and 'Us', indicating that God is not one-dimensional.

It is always God's desire for us to share His Word with others so they can discover their eternal purpose within His will for their lives. We also need to warn our loved ones about the reality of Hell. God wants humanity to avoid such a fate and instead enjoy eternity with Him through faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Giving

A generous giver reflects God's heart and love for people. The Bible also teaches that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Giving isn't just about giving money; it involves offering our lives to Jesus through serving and loving others. By using your resources and gifts, you can bring blessings to those around you.

“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” HEBREW 13:16



Resources

There are so many great free online resources and here are a few that you can begin with. Note: This booklet is not sponsored by any organisation.

YouVersion
Most popular Bible app, with many different Bible versions available.

youversion.com
Mobile version app available

Bible Project
High quality animation & visuals for learning the Bible. Videos are available on Youtube.

bibleproject.com
Mobile version app available

Got Questions
A website and app dedicated to answering frequently asked questions in the Bible.

gotquestions.org
Mobile version app available

Answers in Genesis
Scientific answers to the Christian faith: Creation vs Evolution | The Flood of Noah Aliens | UFO | The Universe

answersingenesis.org

Australian Christian Churches
If you have a problem finding a local church, please visit the ACC church directory.

acc.org.au

In conclusion, your journey continues. May God bless, guide & direct you.