

NEW HORIZONS

A seven part study
to help you grow
in your relationship
with God.





Loving God!

Loving People!

Loving Life!

We congratulate you on your recent decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour - the most important and most eternal decision you have ever made.

This booklet is our gift to bless you on the commencement of your journey in Life with Him.

Life in Jesus Christ is amazing. He has plans and purposes for your life that are way beyond your wildest imaginings. If you will walk with Him, you will see and enjoy this Life, and not just you, but your future generations and all those around you will be blessed.

May we encourage you to be established in your salvation, in the Word of God, prayer, fellowship and in sharing your faith with others.

Father God promises never to leave you nor forsake you and He has given you His Holy Spirit to enable you to live this life with peace and joy. As you continue on your journey, you will want to be water baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are committed to seeing you walking well on this journey,

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IN CLOSING

Let's read together Psalm 1:1-3

*Blessed is the man who does not walk
in the counsel of the wicked,
or stand in the way of sinners,
or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of God,
and on His law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.*

***He who trusts in the Lord
will never be put to shame.***

Romans 10:11

Stay close!!

SALVATION

From beginning to end, in all its various phases and aspects and elements, the Christian faith and life is determined by the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most powerful and life changing event in all of history. The gospel (or good news) in a nut shell is that Jesus died in our place. In the gospel of John we read:

***'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**

Who is Jesus that we should believe in Him?

It is important to establish right from the start **who** it is we say Jesus is.

The Bible clearly states that Jesus is the Son of God. When Jesus was asked by the high priest of the day if he was the Son of God, Jesus replied, "I am" (Mark 14:61-62).

To be the Son of God is to be equal with God i.e., to be God Himself:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1-2).

Why did Jesus have to die for us?

In the book of Romans 5:8 we read:

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

To have a relationship with God, we need to be right with Him. The problem is we all fall short of God's standard. In short, God's perfect standard is his 10 commandments which we are unable to obey and we are therefore found guilty before God. In the book of Romans 3:23 we read that "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Sin prevents us from having a relationship with God. The Bible also tells us that the consequence of having sin in our lives is death - both spiritual (the essence of who we are) death and physical (our body) death.

The death of Jesus, however, dealt with our spiritual and physical separation from God. When Jesus died on the cross, He took our place, that is, He took our sin upon Himself as if it was His own and by Him doing so he opened up the way for us to have a relationship with God.

So, do I need to do anything? Yes, you need to repent!

You're here today because you have responded to the good news that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He has died for your sins. God then calls us to repent. We need to understand that repentance is a gift from God whereby He reveals to us the need to turn around from one direction to the opposite direction in order to follow him. Repentance is something that changes you. It is realizing that you've missed the mark - God's standard. That your sin makes you think in a way, and live in a way, that is short of God's standard. Repentance needs to happen as part of any person's salvation experience.

Repentance involves your **thoughts**, your **mouth** and your **actions** regarding a matter. **Your Thoughts:** We allow God to help us think in a new way. A way that pleases him and that helps us to have a healthier mind. Romans 12:2 says we need to be, "...transformed by the renewing of our mind..." Our minds are transformed by reading the scriptures (the Bible).

Your Mouth: In 1 John 1:9 we read: ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

You must be born again.

Any one who is saved is *ready* to receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 'Then Peter said to them 'Repent, and be baptised everyone one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'

Expect to receive the Holy Spirit when hands are laid on you.

Expect that the Holy Spirit will 'give you utterance' Acts 2:4
Remember Father gives good gifts; there is to be no fear of receiving anything false or bad.

If someone is praying with you, they will lead you.

If you are on your own, say 'Father I receive your Holy Spirit right now by faith' - open your mouth - your mouth will want to work!

Remember it is the Holy Spirit Who gives the 'utterance' - our part in faith is to begin speaking.

Begin to speak and keep on speaking and praising and a clear language will come. Just as John 7 says.. It will be like rivers of living water flowing out of your belly...

Once you have received this gift, use it often. It is totally within your control to start and stop when you decide. To Father, it is a language of prayer and praise (when you are unsure of what to pray, pray in tongues). To you, it is a gift that build you up, builds up your faith. To others, when spoken out and translated it becomes prophecy. A powerful gift to be honoured, used wisely and often begin sensitive to those who may not understand yet!! Father will empower you in many other ways as well; the Holy Spirit is our indwelling person and strength of God.

When believers receive the Holy Spirit, they receive the power of the Holy Spirit into their lives. The primary purpose for the gift is that we would be Jesus' witness Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself in many gifts and ministries 'for the profit of all'.

While the primary purpose of being filled is to being empowered to witness for Jesus and to live life His way, the initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is 'speaking with other tongues'.

This is a good gift. Jesus said 'if you, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?' Luke 11:11-13

This gift glorifies God, is primarily a prayer language between you and the Father. See 1 Corinthians 14:2

As we grow in the Word the Holy Spirit testifies to Jesus Christ in our lives by outworking His character and power through our lives.

He is the promised Helper; He convicts of sin; leads in to all truth, is Comforter, Teacher and so much more because He is the Spirit of Jesus Christ sent from the Father so that we are not orphans in the things of God.

Jesus said, 'when He comes He will testify of Me..and you will testify also.. John 15:26-27

There is so much to say of the Holy Spirit, but suffice at this point to know that we must be hungry and thirsty for the things of God. Jesus said, 'if any one thirst let him come to Me and drink and out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water' This He spoke of the Holy Spirit - that you would live in strength and fullness of God and the overflow would bless everyone around you.

How then do we receive this magnificent gift of God?

How Do You Prove That You've Repented?

In Acts 26:20 we read:

..."I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."

You prove that you've repented when you change your behaviour. We change our actions to line up with our words of repentance.

JESUS IS LORD - BEING BORN AGAIN

Jesus Christ is not just a historical figure. Following His crucifixion He was raised from the dead and is alive today. In Romans 1:4 we read:

..."and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

Many people come to a point in their life where they realise that Jesus is REAL! Everyone also needs to come to the place of choosing to put his or her faith in JESUS.

It is important to be able to distinguish the difference between believing **that** Jesus is real and living a life of putting your faith **in** Him. Believing **that** God exists is fantastic but Jesus asks you to do more than that. **Put your faith in Him** - believe **in** Jesus, trust Jesus Christ as your Lord.

There is a Bible story in which Jesus explains the difference between believing **that** He is real and believing **in** Him, trusting Him as your Lord.

Let us read together John 3: 1-8

In this story Nicodemus acknowledges that he knows who Jesus is. He says, "...we know You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with him."

Notice that Jesus is not impressed that Nicodemus merely **knows that He is real**. Jesus requires something more because he makes it clear to Nicodemus that knowing **who** He is isn't enough. He tells Nicodemus that to enter the kingdom of God he must be **born again**.

Jesus then goes on to explain that he must first experience the human birth (the birth of the flesh) and then the new birth - the birth of His Spirit. We call this new birth the "regeneration" of our spirit. Biblical regeneration is a birth by which the inner most part of man's being, the deeply hidden spirit, is renewed and indwelt by the Spirit of God. Regeneration is the impartation of a new and divine life; we become a new creation; the production of a new thing. It is not the old nature altered, reformed, or re-invigorated, but a new birth from above. This new birth imparts to us new life-the life of God. The evidence of the new birth in our lives is that we have peace with God, we are filled with his abundant joy, and we have an assurance of the hope that is to come - that is; the promise of eternal life. (Romans 5:1-2)

Being born again involves living a life that is turned around - the Spirit of God helps us to do this. God wants to help you live the best life possible. We have a natural family, and when we are born again we are born into God's family too.

Over the next few weeks we will look at the four basic foundations that are key to living in the fullness of being born again: THE WORD, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP AND SHARING YOUR FAITH.

FINAL THOUGHT FOR THE LESSON

Decide today to finish well. Choosing to live with Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is an awesome and exciting decision. Even more important than choosing to live for Jesus today, is choosing to still be living for Jesus everyday.

Today's memory verse: *"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." (Romans 10:9)*

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM;

Eternal life is a gift; healing is a gift; the Holy Spirit is a gift.

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

Jesus left the earth - ascended into heaven - the disciples waited in Jerusalem as He instructed. The New Testament church was birthed when the promised Holy Spirit was poured out on all the believers as prophesied in Joel. God sent His Spirit on the day of Pentecost. He need not send Him any more nor need we wait because He has been sent.. We receive Him.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the trinity or Godhead. He is equal to Jesus and Father. He is not just a 'force' but a person who was responsible in drawing you to God and is always active in your life as a child of God. There is a difference between being born of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit.

When you are born again you become a new creature - 2 Corinthians 5:17. Only born again or saved people can be *filled* with the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 8:5,12,14-17. Hands were laid on and the believers received.

See Acts 10 'While Peter spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them who heard the word'... And later.. 'They heard them speak with other tongues and magnify God.'

Acts 19:1-3,6.. When Paul laid his hands upon them the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Since this is a believer's baptism, we wait until children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of water baptism. Remember, salvation is through Christ alone. Water baptism publicly testifies to your salvation and personal commitment to Christ, but does not bring nor secure salvation.

Because of this also, we dedicate infants to the Lord whereby the parents promise to raise their child/children in the faith until such time as those children testify to their own faith.

5. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTISED?

'Those who believe what Peter said were baptised and added to the church...'
Acts 2:41

'So Philip began with this same Scripture and then uses many others to tell him the good news about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said; 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptised?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptised him.'
Acts 8:35-38

So, when should we be baptised?

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be water baptised. Modesty should always be kept in mind when you are being baptised. Bring a towel & change of clothes.

When you come up out of the water, be expecting. The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead and

THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible (the word Bible means "books of books") contains 66 collections of written works which we often refer to as "books", the "scriptures" or the "Word of God". The Bible as a whole is separated into two parts - the Old Testament which contains 39 of the books and the New Testament which contains 27 books. The written works range from prophecies, to letters, to stories, laws, songs, poetry and historical facts spanning thousands of years of history.

Who wrote the Bible and why?

God inspired different people from all walks of life at different times in history to record His words in the various books contained in the Bible. The words that we read may have been penned by men, but the Holy Spirit guided those men as they wrote every word. As Peter states in **2 Peter 1:21**

... "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

The Bible reveals to us **who** God **is** and what is **truth**. The Bible tells the story of His love and salvation for humanity and instructs His people on how to live a life according to His plan and purposes so that **today** we can enjoy the best that this life has to offer. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Why do I need to read the Bible?

Reading the Bible provides us with instruction on how to live a life that is pleasing to God and gives us hope.

In **Romans 15:4** we read: *"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."*

What is that hope? John answers that question in **1 John 5:13** *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."* The hope is eternal life.

Reading the Bible renews our minds.

The Bible teaches us that when we are born-again we become a "new creation". In Ephesians 4:22-24 we read:

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Reading the Bible helps us to keep our lives free from sin.

In Psalm 119:9-11 we read:

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You"

Reading God's word and memorizing it is part of God's plan for you. When the word is in our heart, the Holy Spirit can use it in our day-to-day lives.

How do I read the Bible?

Set time aside regularly. There are no rules about when to spend time with Him but many people find it is the best way to start or end each day. Spending time with God is not a law to follow or a formula to get on God's "good side". God longs to have a close and personal relationship with you. The only way to really get to know Him as he desires, is to spend time with Him. Communication is key to any healthy relationship.

What are the next two Scriptures telling us?

'What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun.' 2 Corinthians 5:17

'For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.' Romans 6:4 Baptism doesn't make you a believer – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not 'save' you; only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart and confessed with your mouth.

3 WHY BE BAPTISED BY IMMERSION?

'After His baptism, Jesus came up out of the water....' Matthew 3:16

Because _____ was baptised that way. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

Example in Scripture: '...and they went down in to the water, and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water.... Acts 8:38-39

The Greek word: 'baptizo' means, to 'immerse or dip under water; to saturate' Baptism best symbolizes a burial and resurrection!

4. WHO SHOULD BE WATER BAPTISED?

'Those who believed what Peter said were baptised...' Acts 2:41

'Then Simon himself believed and was baptised...' Acts 8:13

'But now the people believed Philip's message of good news... as a result, many men and women were baptised.' Acts 8:12

So every person who believes in _____ should be baptised.

WATER BAPTISM

OUTLINE:

- 1 Why should I be water baptised?
- 2 What is the meaning of water baptism?
- 3 Why be baptised by immersion?
- 4 Who should be water baptised?
- 5 When should I be water baptised?

1. WHY SHOULD I BE WATER BAPTISED?

‘One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and He was baptised by John in the Jordan River.’ Mark 1:9

‘Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: ‘I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Matthew 28:19-20

Whose example should we follow? _____
And why should we follow it? _____

What does water baptism demonstrate?

‘...many others in Corinth also became believers and were baptised.’ Acts 18:8

‘And how can we be sure that we belong to Him? By obeying His commandments.’ 1 John 2:3

It demonstrates that we are _____
It demonstrates that we are _____

2. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM?

Water baptism illustrates Christ’s death and resurrection.

‘...Christ died for our sins... He was buried, and He was raised from the dead.’ 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

‘For you were buried with Christ when you were baptised. And with Him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.’ Colossians 2:12

Your relationship with God is no different. God can speak to you in many ways but the most common way for God to communicate something fresh to you is through the reading of His word.

Where do I start?

A good place to start is by reading the Gospel of Mark which is the second book of the New Testament. This can be followed by reading the Gospel of John and you can continue on through the remainder of the New Testament. You might also like to regularly read a chapter in the book of Psalms which can be found in the Old Testament. The Psalms are a collection of poems, songs and prayers written by people who experienced all of life’s ups and downs and through it all were encouraged by God’s goodness and unfailing love.

In order to understand the Bible, we need to study and read it regularly. **John 14:26** states:

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

Jesus promised a Teacher to all who believe in His name. The Holy Spirit will guide us as we search the scriptures for the truth. He will help us in our everyday walk with God, all we have to do is ask!

Today’s memory verse:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”
Psalms 119:105

PRAYER

Why does God want us to pray?

The main reason is because of God's love for us. God looks for intimacy with us. How strange that sounds! God, the all-sufficient, the all-powerful, the all-knowing, wishes to draw close, to communicate, to speak to us, to seek our response, to hear our prayer. It may seem unbelievable, but it is true.

At the same time, by praying we fulfill the desire we have as human beings to know God. After all, we are made in God's image. Something in our being thirsts for intimacy with God. That thirst is described in the Psalms,

"O God, you are my God, for you I long. For you my soul is thirsting. Like a dry weary land without water... so my soul longs for you, my God." Psalm 63

Something in us cannot be satisfied unless we draw near to God. ***"Our hearts are restless,"*** a famous church leader named St. Augustine once said, ***"until they rest in You."*** By praying, we rest in God.

Prayer was created to be a dynamic, personal, communication between us and our God. There is no need for any middleman. God not only hears your voice but he also listens to your heart. As we learn to pray, we enter into a dynamic way of living as we learn to hear his voice.

How do I pray?

Jesus said that this is how we should pray:

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,***

SHARING YOUR FAITH

Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" All believers have a testimony. The basis for our triumph is Gethsemane & the Cross (the blood of the Lamb) – and the authority of God's Word (the Word of their testimony) even in the face of death (martyrdom). Believers have overcome the devil by appropriating the victory (triumphing) of the finished work of Christ, by the public confession of their faith and patient endurance even in the face of death

The word testimony means an account of what one has seen, heard or known: *John 19:35. It is also* the proclamation of a personal experience: e.g. it can be the evidence itself or the giving of evidence as a witness does in court).

The Word of our testimony: The Word of God is truth: Our testimony is true: of God, and of our experience of Him. Our lives have been revolutionized. Our testimony is our verbal proclamation of what God does in our lives for good - forever!

Every Christian has a story of where they have been without God, how He saved them and what their life has been like ever since! You have a testimony. 1 Peter 3:15 says to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you. Remember: ***Before, How & After.***

Try and remember these scriptures - write them down in your Bible so you can lead other people to salvation in Jesus Christ .. This is how you came through & others can too. You were born again for this - to tell the world.

John 3:16 John 3:3 Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23
Romans 10:9-10 John 1:12

God's Word is sure. He will do what He said He would do.

The church is the body of Christ of which He is the **head** (Eph 1:22-23). You play a unique role in the church! The body as a whole cannot function successfully without the co-operation of **all** its parts. God has given each member of the body of Christ different spiritual gifts and talents. No person should be given special honor because their gift or talent appears to be more “spectacular” than another’s. The diversity of gifts is intended to accomplish God’s unified purpose. God’s method employs diversity to create unity. The body of Christ is mutually dependent on each other as we exercise our distinctive functions.

Is the church perfect?

God chooses to see Jesus in the people that have received Him. God is perfect as is His plan, but people are not. Jesus said that it is impossible that offences won’t happen in Luke 17:1. It is wise to remember that just as God is working with you, so He is working with everyone around you.

Be careful not to take on offence - it can lead to unforgiveness which is unprofitable for your prayers and life, but has eternal implications also. See the verses directly after the Lord’s Prayer: Luke 6:14-15

Choose to forgive!

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Eph 4:32

Forgiveness keeps your heart free and untangled. There may be times when issues of trust and communication need to be worked through. These times are opportunities for growth.

Check out Acts 2:42-47

Explosive church! Sun City Christian Centre host many Life Groups that meet during the week. This is where you’ll build healthy relationships with people who will care for you, and the Church grows strongly also.

Though we can memorize this prayer as a set formula, the Lord's Prayer shouldn't be repeated mechanically or without thought. Its purpose is to awaken and stimulate our faith. Through this prayer Jesus invites us to approach God as Father. There are many ways to pray. Your prayer life/ journey should continue to grow and develop. The first step in the prayer journey is to simply to talk to God with sincerity and honesty.

When and for what should I pray?

In Ephesians 6:18 we read:

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

Pray when ever you can. Jesus prayed regularly, His first disciples recalled. He prayed before decisive moments, He prayed in times of weakness and asked God to give Him strength. He frequently prayed to give thanks. His prayer was steady, thankful, and confident that God's will was for His good. Many times throughout the Gospels we read of Jesus going off to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12).

There are a number of different types of prayers. There are no rules as to how long you should pray for. The most important thing is that you pray from your heart. Just be yourself. God does not need to hear prayers using fancy words. The following is a simple structure on how we can approach our prayer time: Remember ACTS:

ACTS:

- Adoration:** Loving God and expressing your gratitude to Him,
- Confession:** You want you heart to be right towards God and others. If you have sinned, confess it and thank Him for His forgiveness
- Thanksgiving:** Praise Him for who He is and what He has done - thank Him for providing you with everything you need - present these needs with thanks as if you already have them
- Supplication:** Present other peoples’ needs to Him with thanks

Hearing God's voice

The Holy Spirit plays a vital part in your Christian life. As you practice being still before the Lord He can speak with you about changes for the better. You hear the Holy Spirit as a small voice deep in your heart. He speaks to you, within your inner most being. Sometimes you may sense that you should drop an old habit, or change the way you do something, God's voice can be heard speaking to us about all sorts of things, through His Holy Spirit.

We don't pray alone. God himself helps us to pray!

The book of Romans 8:26 tells us that:

...the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to pray!

God wishes that we come near to share our hearts and minds, our very life with One who loves us.

Prayer is God's precious gift; cherish it always.

Today's memory verse:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. "
Philippians 4:6

FELLOWSHIP

The church of Jesus Christ is neither a building nor an organization. Rather, it is a people, a special people, a people who see themselves as standing in relationship to the God who saves them and to each other as those who share in this salvation.

The Bible often likens our Christian growth to the growth of a tree (Psalm 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8). Trees require a good solid root system to grow to any decent size. Like a tree, being planted in a church enables your roots to go deep into the soil. Finding a church family with healthy soil is the best place to be planted. As you choose a church family and choose to allow yourself to grow there, you are more likely to receive the nutrients needed to assist in healthy growth.

What is church life all about?

In Hebrews 10:25 we read:

"Let us not neglect meeting with each other"

It is important to meet together because as we do, we remember Jesus and learn more about how to live for Him. We are involved with things that build us up and strengthen our faith, and encourage us to grow in God's ways. We pray and praise God together. As we meet together we encourage each other as friends, as brothers and sisters (remember we talked earlier about gaining another family when we become Christians?) and we are able to support each other through life's ups and downs.

Why are you needed in the local church?

Personal and spiritual growth involves more than just sitting in church and receiving good teaching. The Apostle Paul likens the church to a human body.

Let's read together 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.