

Congratulations!

We're thrilled to welcome you to the Christian life! Your decision to begin trusting Christ to help you and guide you in your daily living is the most important decision you could ever make. The Christian life is a wonderful, exciting journey and you have taken the first step.

Our Student Ministry staff is committed to helping you grow as a follower of Jesus, and getting you involved with a church family. If you have any questions, please call us or grab one of us on a Sunday. We have enclosed a few things for you to read to give you some information on the decision you've made to become a Christian.

While some of these ideas may seem strange or scary, we encourage you to take some action steps so you can grow in this journey called Christianity. We've labeled these action steps as "Three Keys to Growth" on the next page.

God bless you!

Otterbein Church
Student Ministry Staff

1

Communicate with God

2

Consistent Quiet Times

3

Commitment to a Small Group

Three Keys to Growth

Communicate with God

Think about one of your close friends for a moment. At one point in your relationship, you didn't know that person too well. What happened? How did a complete stranger become a close friend?

There are many things that go into creating a solid relationship, but one of the most significant aspects is communication. Imagine having a best friend, but never talking to them! That would be crazy and no best friend at all! The same is true with God. If you want to grow close to Him, then you have to communicate with Him.

Communicating with God is called prayer. Here's a simple "ACT UP" plan to

Adoration ("I praise you God because...")

Confession ("Forgive me for...")

Thanksgiving ("I thank you God for...")

P-lifting ("Today help me to encourage...")

what do I need?

A "quiet time" means spending time alone with God. All you need for a quiet time is two things:

1. A Bible.

The Bible is God's instruction manual for life and provides insight into the character of God. If you're going to know more about God, you've got to read about Him. If you want to grow as a Christian, you need to consume spiritual food from the Bible that is nourishing to your faith.

Any Bible written in English has been translated from the languages of its original writers. Some English translations are easier to understand than others, so make sure you have a readable version. Some tough translations of the Bible to read are the King James Version (KJV), the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). We can give you a free New International Version (NIV) to help you in your time alone with God. On the next page you'll see a simple plan that will help you in reading the Bible and knowing where

Consistent Quiet Times

2. A Place.

It doesn't matter where you spend your time with God, as long as your away from other people and distractions. This place might be anywhere, from your bedroom to your closet. Just make sure you can be alone and go to the same place for all your

how do I start?

1. With PRAYER

Prior to you reading the Bible, ask God to help you. Ask him for wisdom to understand His Word and for the strength to apply His teaching. God won't give you any instructions for living without giving you the strength to follow through.

Consistent Quiet Times

2. With A PLACE

A lot of people try to read their Bible from cover to cover. Few make it all the way through. One of the reasons is the books of the Bible are not arranged in a way that one book leads directly to another. Trust us on this one and later, after further study, you'll discover what we mean.

If you want a good overview, start by reading the gospel of John (New Testament) and then Genesis (Old Testament). By reading these two books you'll get an overview of the life and work of Jesus and the big picture of God's creation and our human condition.

3. With PERSISTENCE

The Bible is not easy reading! Some parts are difficult to understand. We encourage you not to give up. Reading the Bible will do awesome things for your relationship with God. Please feel free to ask questions of anyone on our Student Ministry staff. We'd love to help you grow closer to God by helping you understand His Word!

Commitment to a Small Group

If you've already been to AMDiscovery, then you've noticed that our Student Ministry has lots of people. That's positive, because there's diversity and excitement, but negative because it can be overwhelming to newcomers and easy to hide. To grow as a follower of Jesus you're going to need relationships with other believers in a small group to get the nourishment you need to survive.

One way to get involved with a small group is to go to a CREW. They meet in homes located all over the Waynesboro area, so there's bound to be one close to you. Call the church for information or maps to the CREW that would be best for you.

Conclusion

Your relationship with God is an adventure of getting to know Him better. It is a process that takes time, not an overnight achievement. You'll still have hard days, missed quiet times, and you'll make plenty of mistakes. But don't stress out! God is in control and He will use all these things to shape you into the person He wants you to be. Our prayer for you is not that your life will be easy, but that your relationship with God will grow strong!



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NOW
THAT
I'M
A
CHRISTIAN...

three action steps
to help you
mature in your faith

...HOW
CAN
I
GROW?