

Yes!



Congratulations

The decision to say YES to Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make.

You probably have a lot of questions, and we hope that this booklet will begin to answer them, plus provide a few resources to help you learn more on your own.

We want to share with you the message of God's love and hope for you based on God's word, the Bible. We are praying for you as you begin to explore your faith.



Yes!

EVERY PERSON HAS A STORY, YOUR STORY MATTERS!

You have had experiences, both good and bad, that have brought you to where you are today. This journey you have been on may even have had some “religious” experiences that are a part of your story. The fact is God loves you. No matter where you have been on your journey.

What is even more amazing is that He loves you no matter what you have done or what has been done to you. When you look at Jesus’ words in the Gospel of John, you’ll learn that He wants you to discover what it really means to live.



EVERY STORY MATTERS!

Sadly, many people have thought that the way to experience full life is through using religious activity to make up for the wrong things we have done in our lives. The bad news is that no amount of good can overcome how our sin separates us from God
(Romans 3:23).

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO
REMEDY THIS BROKEN RELATIONSHIP
WE HAVE WITH GOD...

A good way to understand this is to look at Romans 6:23. It talks about how we all share a common experience that leaves us in desperate need of a Savior. This is what it says:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NIV)

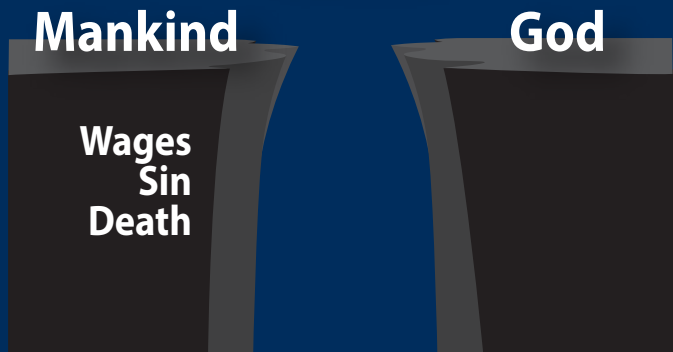
There are three words that are really important: **wages, sin** and **death**.

If you look at the word **wage**, what do you think of? Most of us think of a paycheck. We get a paycheck that we believe we deserve. This verse says that we have a paycheck coming for something: **sin**.

Sin literally means missing the mark. Everyday every one of us miss the mark when it comes to comparing our lives to a perfect God. That sin separates us from God and that leads to something that is tragic: **death**.

Death is not just a physical reality. We all will die. This verse is talking about a spiritual “death”, or spiritual separation from God. Our deepest desire is to experience a right relationship with God, but we cannot close the gap between us and God on our own...

*For the **WAGES** of **SIN** is **DEATH**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
Romans 6:23 (NIV)



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD DID...

When we were still broken and separated from God because of our sin, the Bible says that God reached out in love, grace and mercy through Jesus (*Romans 5:8*).

Jesus came and lived a perfect life so that He could offer His life as a sacrifice for our sin. Someone had to pay the penalty for our sin, and if Jesus would not have died on our behalf, we would have been separated from God forever. But Jesus DID die for us, and we have the opportunity to find forgiveness for our sin and the ability to experience life both now and for eternity because of that sacrifice. God simply asks that we make a conscious decision of our WILL to say Yes to trusting Jesus alone for salvation. It is through receiving His free gift of salvation, not our religious activity, that we can be made right with God.

SOMETHING TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN US AND HIM...

Yes!

The second half of *Romans 6:23* helps us understand this more clearly. Let's look at these three words: **Gift, God** and **eternal life**.

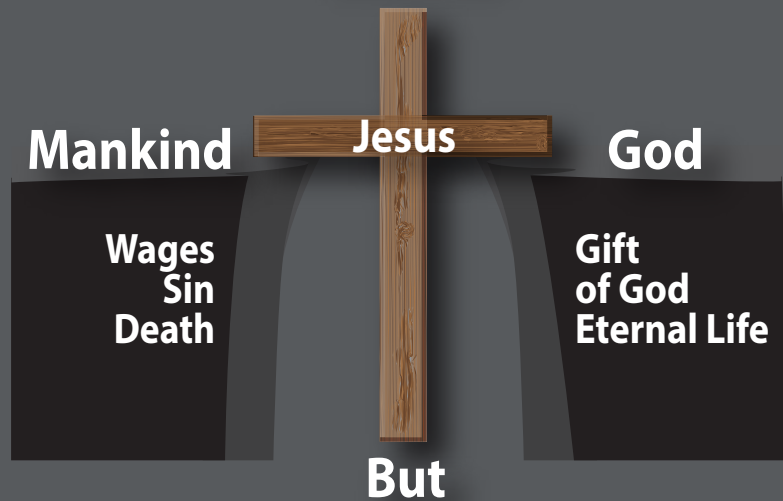
Whether or not we realize it, we have tried to close the gap of separation on our own. How? Being a good person, giving money away, and even church attendance are some of the ways we have tried. God is not impressed with our efforts because we will never compare to His perfection. So, His response was to offer us a free **gift**.

This gift comes from His heart. **God** knew we would always fall short and would always be separated from Him. So, He gave us a gift that we could not earn on our own.

This gift of God is the **eternal life** we have available to us because of Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and then sacrificed Himself in our place to pay the penalty for our sin debt. He died so we could live.

For the **WAGES** of **SIN** is **DEATH**, but the **GIFT OF GOD** is **ETERNAL LIFE** in **CHRIST JESUS** our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)



YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO SAY YES TO JESUS BY ACCEPTING GOD'S GIFT

Forgiveness of our sins is a gift from God. It comes from accepting what Jesus did for us and that He is the only way we can have our sins forgiven and finally experience a right relationship with God.

A gift isn't a gift until it has been accepted. We must individually accept that Jesus saved us from our sins to receive eternal life.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (Romans 10:9, 10 NLT)

When we say "Yes" to Jesus, the Bible says God gives us eternal life, and that this life is found in His Son Jesus.



Here are four questions to ask yourself:

1. Do I know God loves me and has a plan for my life?
2. Do I know I have sinned and my sin is a barrier to my relationship with God?
3. Do I believe Jesus paid the penalty for my sin and is the only way to find forgiveness for my sins?
4. Have I accepted Jesus as my Savior by believing in Him-by saying "Yes" to Him?

If you want to begin a relationship with God through Jesus right now, YOU CAN, by talking to Him through prayer.

"God, I confess I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died to pay for my sins and then rose from the dead for me. Today, I say YES to following You by accepting You into my life. I turn from my way of doing things, to Your way, and give You control of my life. I accept You and You alone as the only way to have my sins forgiven and the only way to have a right relationship with You. Thank You for saving me and giving me new life in You. Amen."

YOU SAID YES

We realize saying YES to Jesus is in some ways exciting and in other ways overwhelming. Our commitment to you is that we will walk along side of you as you start growing in this new relationship. Here are three connections we believe are critical for you to grow...

1 Connect with God through Reading the Bible: The Bible is the best "User's Guide" in your relationship with Jesus. We have included a beginning Bible reading plan on pages 15-16. This plan will help you become familiar with the Bible as well as help you gain some understanding to some of the basics of living in relationship with Jesus.

2

Allow others to connect with your story through baptism: Baptism is a public way we can share with others the change Jesus has made on the inside. At Sun Valley, baptism is a celebration. We think it's the best picture of what life – change looks like. Visit baptism.sv.cc to sign up to be baptized.

3

Connect with others and learn about how to grow in your relationship with Jesus. The best place to start this journey is at the New Here Dessert where you will meet the Campus Pastor along with other key staff members, discover how to take your first steps with Jesus and enjoy some dessert on us. New Here Dessert is a fun way to get connected at Sun Valley. Check out the "Events" section on the SV app or go to dessert.sv.cc to get details for the next dessert and to RSVP.

TO JESUS... NOW WHAT?



First Step

HERE'S A PLAN FOR READING YOUR BIBLE:

- 1 Get a Bible translation that is easy to read and understand. The New Living Translation is an great choice, especially if you are new in your faith. If you need a Bible, we would love to get one for you!
- 2 Consider reading through the Bible reading plan on the next two pages. It is a great way to help you take first steps in growing in your faith. Read through the chapter that it suggests for that day and focus on one thing that captures your attention.
- 3 Write down the one thing that jumped out to you and carry it with you as you go through your day so you can refer back to it and remember what you learned.
- 4 Share with someone you know what you are learning so you can encourage each other in your relationship with Jesus.



31 DAYS

31 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1	Luke 1	Preparing for Jesus' arrival
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2	Luke 2	The story of Jesus' birth
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 3	Mark 1	The beginning of Jesus' ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 4	Mark 9	A day in the life of Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 5	Matthew 5	The Sermon on the Mount
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 6	Matthew 6	The Sermon on the Mount (part2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 7	Luke 15	Parables of Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 8	John 3	A conversation with Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 9	John 10	The Good Shepherd
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 10	John 14	Jesus' final instructions
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 11	John 15	Jesus' final instructions (part 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 12	John 16	The work of the Spirit
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 13	John 17	Jesus' prayer for his disciples
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 14	Matthew 26	Jesus' betrayal and arrest
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 15	Matthew 27	Jesus' execution on a cross

31 DAYS

31 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

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|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16 | John 20 | Resurrection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17 | Luke 24 | Jesus' appearance after resurrection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18 | Romans 3 | Paul's theology in a nutshell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19 | Romans 5 | Peace with God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20 | Romans 7 | Struggles with sin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21 | Romans 8 | Life in the Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22 | Romans 12 | Life in the world |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23 | Ephesians 2 | Our life in Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24 | Ephesians 4 | Unity in Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25 | Ephesians 5 | Living in Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26 | Philippians 2 | Being Christ-like |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27 | Philippians 3 | Maturing in Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28 | Philippians 4 | Trusting Christ through trials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29 | Galatians 5 | Life in the Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30 | Colossians 3 | Life in Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 31 | 2 Timothy 2 | Being strong in Christ |

Upon finishing this reading plan, we invite you to download the Sun Valley App and read along in the Devotional with the rest of the Church!



Get the app at the iTunes store, Google Play or Windows Store.





Meet, Know and Follow Jesus

WWW.SUNVALLEYCC.COM