

THE JOURNEY AHEAD:
YOUR NEW LIFE IN
CHRIST



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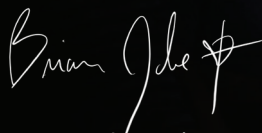
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BAPTISM!

I am so excited that you have taken this important, life-changing step in your faith. In the book of Acts, whenever someone put their belief in Jesus, their next step was always baptism—the public declaration of their newfound faith. Whether you have believed in Jesus for a long time, or have recently placed your faith in Him, the step of obedience you have just taken is a huge catalyst to faithfully following Him for the rest of your life.

Following Jesus is a journey. In fact, the Scriptures use the term “walk” to describe this life-long commitment. As you begin your journey—your new life in Christ—we want to come alongside you and equip you with tools and support to make your faith strong and enduring. This ten-day devotional is just that: a tool to help you with some basic principles of the Christian faith. There is also some information at the end of this booklet about various groups you can get involved in at Compass to take the next step in your faith journey.

Once again, I am excited for you! I am praying for you. And I wanted to be among the first to say, “Welcome to the Compass Family!”

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Brian Jobe







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DAY 1: WHO IS GOD?

Who is God? That's a BIG question, and if you ask people the world over, it is a question that will produce a lot of different answers. However, in the Christian faith we believe there is one God who has eternally existed and is the Creator of all things. The very first sentence in the Bible introduces God and His creative power.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Creation is actually one way that God has revealed Himself to people. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in his letter to the church in Rome:

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. **Romans 1:20**

We can learn a lot about God simply from the world around us. Perhaps more importantly, we can learn a lot about God from His attributes. The Bible tells us that God is good, merciful, all-powerful, and all-knowing. But God's most amazing attribute is love.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4:8**

God is love. That is a stunning realization. God's motivation is always perfect and holy love.

REFLECT:

Where have you seen God revealed in creation?

When thinking about God, does the word "love" come to mind?

If not, how does today's reading affect your understanding of God?

DAY 2: WHO IS JESUS?

According to Google, there are approximately 4,200 religions in the world today. With so many options and competing ideologies, how can we be sure that the God of the Bible, and by extension His Son, Jesus, is the right one? The author of Hebrews gives us this insight:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **Hebrews 1:1-2**

On the surface this may not sound like a verse that proves the exclusivity of the Christian faith. But what the author is telling us is that in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, God declared once and for all that He alone is the way to salvation. Consider these truths about Jesus:

Jesus lived a sinless life.

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. **1 Peter 2:22**

Jesus claimed to be the only way to God.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

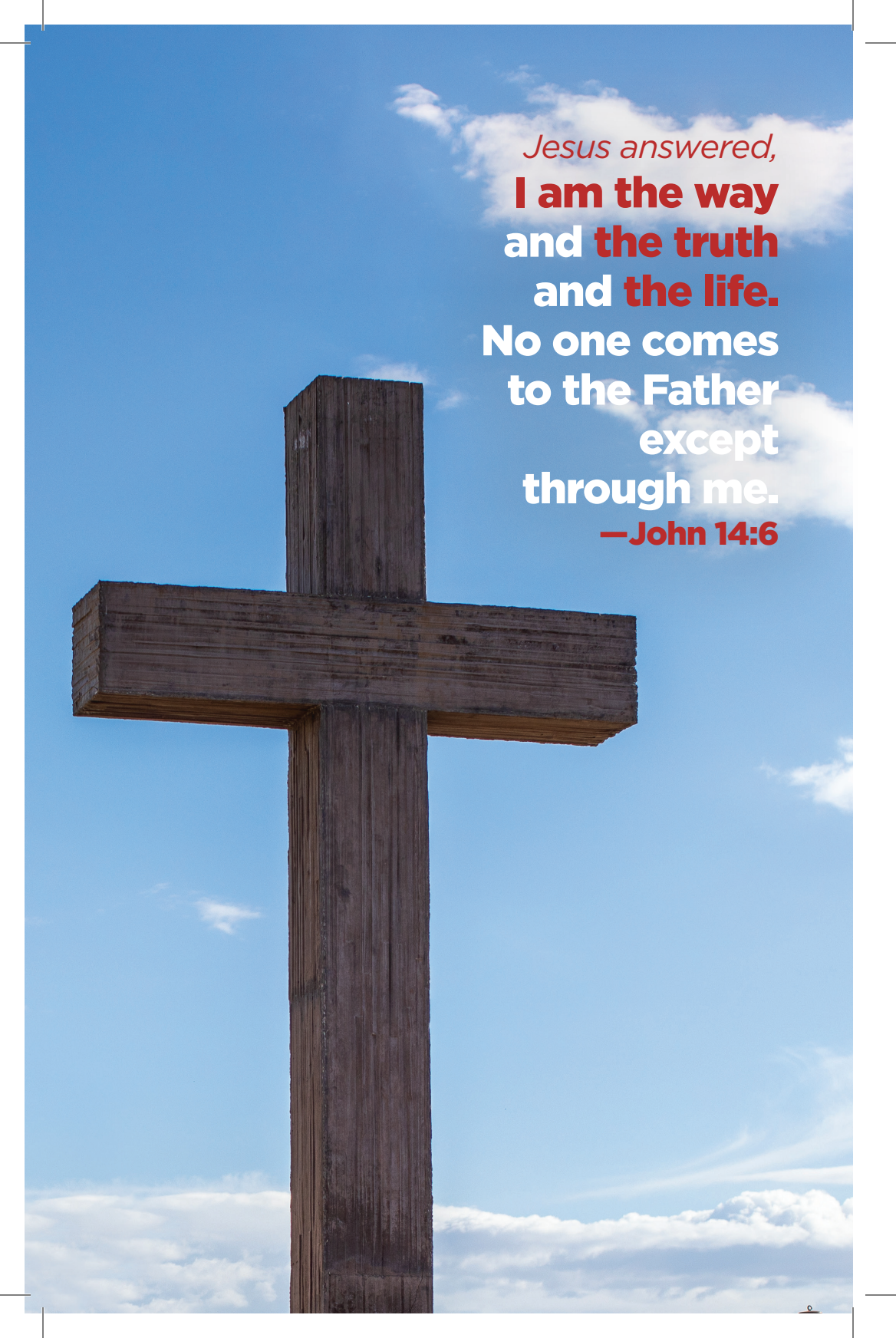
Jesus was raised from the dead.

...and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 1:4**

Jesus was God's once-and-for-all exclamation point at the end of His, "I love you!" to the world. Jesus' perfect life and His resurrection from the dead are proof that He was the one and only Son of God.

REFLECT:

What qualities about Jesus make Him like no other person in history?

A large, weathered wooden cross stands against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of thick, dark wood and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Jesus answered,
I am the way
and **the truth**
and **the life.**
No one comes
to the Father
except
through me.
—**John 14:6**

DAY 3: WHO AM I?

Who am I? This may sound more like a question you would find in a philosophy textbook rather than the pages of the Bible, but faithful men and women of God have wondered about this for thousands of years. David, who was Israel's greatest king, wrote these words:

...what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them? **Psalms 8:4**

In other words, "Do I have value as a person?" God's answer to this question is a resounding, "YES!" The Scriptures reveal that God created us to love us and to have a relationship with us.

And from far away the Lord appeared to his people and said,
"I love you people with a love that will last forever."
Jeremiah 31:3 (NCV)

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 John 4:10**

It has often been said that love is a verb. It is one thing for God to tell us, "I love you," and since He is God we can trust that. But God has gone the ultimate distance to actually show us His amazing love.

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**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8**

REFLECT:

How does it make you feel knowing the lengths God has gone to in order to show you His love?

DAY 4: THE WORD OF GOD

Perhaps you have heard someone say, “I just wish God would speak to me!” As we learned on Day 2: Who is Jesus, God has spoken to us through Jesus, His Son. John, one of Jesus’ closest disciples, used figurative language to describe Jesus in this way:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**

Jesus was the living embodiment of the written Word of God. To hear from God, and to learn from Jesus, we only need to look to the pages of the Bible! Here are some important truths about the Word of God:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

To say that Scripture is God-breathed means that it comes from Him. Even though people physically wrote the words, God inspired them. The Bible is a living book—it applies to all people across all time. The Word of God is also an important spiritual weapon that can help us in our daily battle against the devil and his schemes.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes...Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **Ephesians 6:11, 17**

REFLECT:

How might the Bible equip you and help you in your walk with God?

What intentional step could you take to make the Bible a regular part of your daily life?

DAY 5: TALKING TO GOD

We learned on Day 3: Who Am I, that God created us to love us. Love requires a relationship, and a relationship requires communication. Yesterday we discovered that God speaks to us primarily through His Word, the Bible. Today we are going to focus on prayer, or how we talk to God. Prayer intimidates some people. After all, we are conversing with the Creator of the universe! But we should never be afraid to approach God in prayer. God desires to be close to us.

■ Come near to God and he will come near to you. **James 4:8**

When we think about talking to God, questions like, “Where do I start?” and, “What do I say?” are completely natural. In fact, Jesus’ disciples wondered these same things. One day when Jesus was praying, His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

■ He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive every one who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” **Luke 11:2-4**


This model prayer, often referred to as the Lord’s Prayer, was not necessarily something to repeat verbatim, but was a model for how we can talk to God. Notice the familiarity of calling Him “Father,” the reverence given, and the simple trust of asking Him to supply our basic, daily needs. We can also take our cares and burdens to God. In return, He promises to give us comfort.

■ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Phillipians 4:6**

REFLECT:

What are some cares you can take to God today?

What are some ways you can praise Him and thank Him?

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful grip. The hands are positioned in the center-left of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the contours of the hands against a dark, almost black background. The overall mood is one of solemnity and devotion.

**Come near
to God **and**
he will come
near to you.
—James 4:8**

DAY 6: THE POWER OF ONE ANOTHER

Poet John Donne famously said, “No man is an island.” Nowhere is this truer than in the church of Jesus Christ! In fact, the Bible has dozens of “one another” passages. One of the Apostle Paul’s favorite metaphors for the church is “the body.” Listen to how he describes it as one cohesive unit:

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **Romans 12:4-5**

What a stark contrast from the fragmented individualism we see in the world today! The first Christians, who were heavily persecuted, understood this need for unity in the church.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47**

Another function of the body of Christ is to encourage one another and help each other remain faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

REFLECT:

How does the unity in the church differ from what we see in the world?

How have other believers encouraged you?

How might you encourage another believer this week?

DAY 7: USING OUR GIFTS

Yesterday, we learned that the church is a body—a group of people who are intricately woven together by a common bond in Jesus Christ. Let's examine a passage we looked at yesterday in a broader context:

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. **Romans 12:4-8**

Think about the gifts you have. Do you like to encourage others? When you are in a group are you typically the leader? Maybe you prefer to work more “behind the scenes” in a serving role. Whatever your unique gifts might be, we can draw two conclusions about them from the passage above:

1. **Whatever gifts we have are given to us by God in His grace.**
2. **We are to use those gifts to benefit others.**

Jesus was the ultimate example of a servant, and He modeled that for us to imitate. On the night before He was arrested and crucified, Jesus was together with His disciples. In these last hours of His life on earth, Jesus humbled himself and washed His disciples' feet—a task normally reserved for servants. Afterwards He said:

“Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” **John 13:12-15**

REFLECT:

How can you use your unique gifts to serve and bless others?

DAY 8: COMPASSIONATE GENEROSITY

We live in an amazing time and place in history. America is one of the wealthiest nations in the world. We are surrounded by affluence, convenience, and most of us live in relative comfort. It is a sobering realization that more than 80 percent of the world's population lives on less than \$10 a day, and almost half the world lives on less than \$2 a day.

One way that God has called the church to make a difference in the world is through generosity. God looks upon the poverty and misery of people and has compassion on them. God invites His people into this ministry of compassion. There is incredible joy that comes through generosity. Listen to these words of Jesus:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Luke 6:38**

“...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” **Acts 20:35**

While there are many ways we can give to those less fortunate, God has established a means for doing so through the church called ‘tithing.’ A ‘tithe’ means a tenth. God asks His people to give a tithe of their income to the church to provide for the ongoing ministry of the church.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” **Malachi 3:10**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

REFLECT:

Are you cheerfully and generously partnering with God in His ministry of compassion to others? If not, pray about how you can start.

DAY 9: BLESS

At Compass, we believe that every follower of Jesus is called to live on mission with God. We fulfill that mission by “Loving God. Loving People. And Sharing Jesus.” You might be asking yourself, “How do I do that?” Here are some simple, practical ways to live on mission with God. We call these the **BLESS** practices:



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

I will pray for the people in my life and the places that I'm in.



LISTEN

I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.



EAT

I will share meals and spend time with people in my life.



SERVE

I will respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways.



SHARE YOUR STORY

I will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in my life with others.

And that's it... it's that simple! These practices are meant to help all of us discover the part we have to play in the mission of Jesus. Fulfilling our part can bring purpose and meaning to our lives like we've never known. By living out the mission of Jesus, we just might play a part in changing the world.

REFLECT:

Make a list of at least three people you know who do not know Jesus.

*Pray for those people and ask God for an opportunity to use the **BLESS** practices to share your story with them.*



DAY 10: WALKING IN THE LIGHT

It has been said, “If you’ve never met the devil on the road of life, it’s because you’re both heading in the same direction.” It stands to reason, then, if we are walking with Jesus we are bound to meet opposition at some point. Scripture warns us:

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8**

This warning is not meant so much to scare us as it is to prepare us. Throughout this booklet we have looked at several ways we can prepare ourselves for the journey ahead. Scripture reading, prayer, fellowship—just to name a few—are not things to be done once and then forgotten. Rather, these are regular practices that are the hallmarks of a disciple’s life. Jesus modeled this for us, and John wrote:

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. **1 John 2:6**

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **1 John 1:7**

One way to walk in the light is to regularly read God’s Word. The Bible provides direction and instruction as we continue on our faith journey.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. **Psalms 119:105**

We also need frequent encouragement from other believers for the times when the road gets rough and we stumble.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

The following page has some next steps that will help you connect with God and connect with the church at a deeper level. May God bless the journey ahead—your new life in Christ!

YOUR NEXT STEPS AT COMPASS



Rooted is an 11-week, small group discipleship experience. Rooted isn't just another program or Bible study. Group members learn about the things Jesus wants His followers to do, then they participate together in planned experiences where they put those things into practice. Rooted will take your faith to the next level! For more information about Rooted, scan the QR code above or visit our website: compassaz.church/rooted



Compass Groups are all about building community. They're environments for you to grow in your walk with Christ, to build relationships with others, to be cared for and to use your spiritual gifts. In Groups you experience everyday life together and grow in your faith. For more information about Groups, scan the QR code above or visit our website: compassaz.church/groups



Celebrate Recovery (CR) exists to walk people through their hurts, habits, and hang-ups through Christ-centered twelve steps and eight principles. CR is for everyone looking for healing, help, and hope. We all have our own struggles, and CR is a safe place where there is a community of people to walk through life together while letting Jesus work on our struggles. For more information about Celebrate Recovery, scan the QR code above or visit our website: compassaz.church/celebraterecovery



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