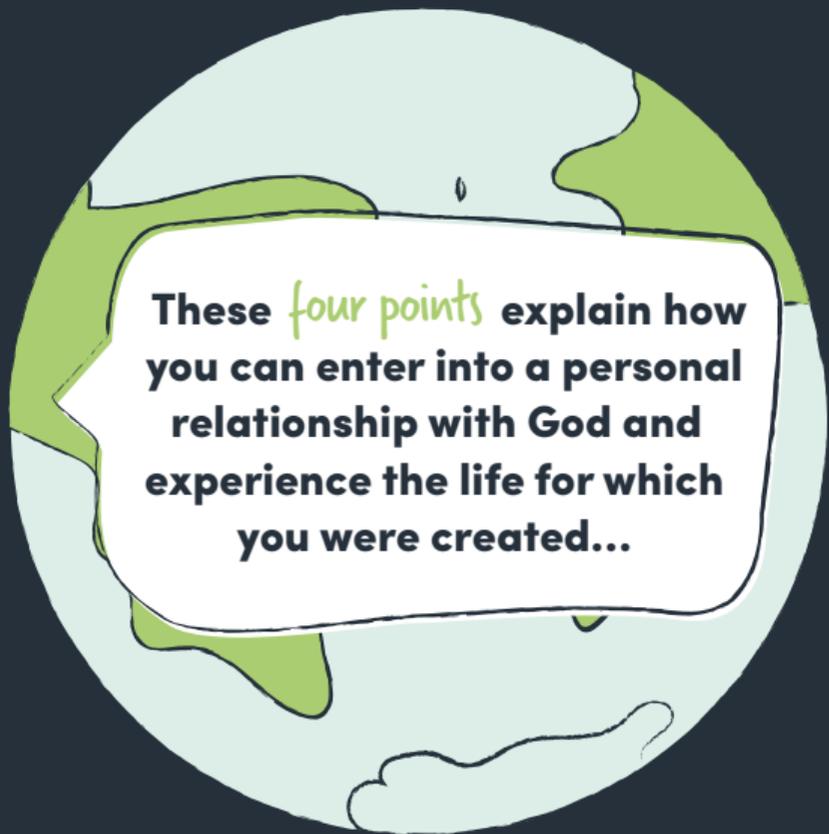


KNOWING
GOD
PERSONALLY



These **four points** explain how you can enter into a personal relationship with God and experience the life for which you were created...

1

God loves you and created you to know him **personally**.

God loves you

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **JOHN 3:16**”

God wants you to know him

“And this is the way to have eternal life – to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. **JOHN 17:3**”

Why do you think most people don't know God **personally**?

2

We are **separated** from God by our sin, so we cannot know him or experience his love.

What is sin?

We were created to live in a relationship with God but we rejected him and the relationship was broken. This rejection of God and the building of our lives around anything else is what the Bible calls sin. We show this attitude by being selfish towards others, openly disobeying God or by simply ignoring him.

Everyone is sinful

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. **ROMANS 3:23**”

Sin has consequences

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. **ROMANS 6:23**”

We are all guilty before God and will be judged for our sin. The punishment for this sin is eternal separation from God. This is what the Bible calls hell. (**2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9**)

God is perfect and we are sinful. There is a great gap between us because of our sin. Something is missing in our lives that nothing else – relationships, money, work or health – can satisfy.

We may try to bridge this gap through doing good, helping others or following a religion. But all our efforts fail because they can’t deal with the problem of sin.

God



People

The third point gives us the only solution to this problem...

3

Jesus Christ is God's only solution for our sin. Through him alone we can know God and experience his love and forgiveness.

“**Jesus is unique** – ‘Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.’

COLOSSIANS 1:15

“**Jesus died in our place** – ‘Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you home safely to God.’

1 PETER 3:18A

“**Jesus came back to life** – ‘During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive.’ ACTS 1:3A

His resurrection proved that he was God and that he had suffered God's punishment in our place.

Jesus is the only way to know God

“**Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one can come to the Father except through me.’** JOHN 14:6

Although we deserve to be cut off from God forever, in his love God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross.

Through Jesus, God has bridged the gap that separated us from him, and provided a way for us to be forgiven and restored to relationship with him.



It's not enough just to know these facts...

4

We must each **respond** by asking Jesus to come into our lives. Then we can know God personally and experience his love and forgiveness.

We must accept Jesus

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. **JOHN 1:12**”

Accepting Jesus involves:

- Agreeing with God that we are sinful and deciding to turn from our sin.
- Trusting God to forgive us completely because, as our Saviour, Jesus died for our sin.
- Choosing to love and obey Jesus as Lord; putting him first in our lives.

Jesus promises to come into our lives when we accept him

“All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.”

JOHN 14:23



It's not enough just to know or feel that this is true.

We have a **choice** to make...

These circles describe two types of people:



Self-directed person

Self is on the throne

† Jesus is outside this person's life

People like this have never accepted Jesus into their lives. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin.



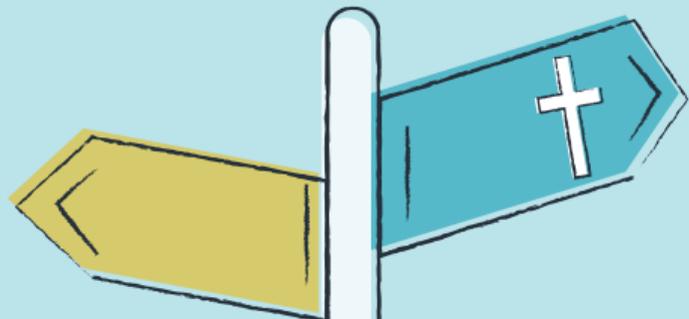
Christ-directed person

† Jesus is on the throne

Self is following Jesus as Lord

People like this have accepted Jesus into their lives. They have been forgiven and experience God's love.

Which circle best describes you? Which circle would you like to describe you?



To begin a **relationship with God**, you must put your life in his hands.

God is not so concerned with your words as he is with the **attitude of your heart**.

Here is a suggested prayer:
(Prayer is simply talking to God.)

**Lord Jesus,
I want to know you
personally.**

**I'm sorry for going my own
way instead of your way.**

**Thank you for dying on the
cross to forgive my sin.**

**Please come and take first
place in my life and make
me the person you want
me to be.**

Could you say this to God and mean it?

Why not say it now?

Jesus will come into your life as he promised.



**What happens when
you put your trust in**

Jesus?

If you have accepted Jesus into your life, trusting him to forgive you and choosing to love and obey him, many things have happened including:

- Jesus has come into your life by the Holy Spirit and he will never leave you. (ROMANS 8:9; HEBREWS 13:5)
- All your sins have been forgiven. (COLOSSIANS 1:13-14)
- You have become a child of God. He is your heavenly father. (GALATIANS 3:26)
- God has given you a new life and new power to enable you to live a transformed life. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17; EPHESIANS 3:14-21)
- You have begun a friendship with God that will last forever, and for which God made you. (JOHN 17:3; JOHN 10:10)

How can you be sure that all this has *really* happened?

You can know that Jesus is in your life because that is what God has promised and he can be trusted.

“ *And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.* **1JOHN 5:11-13**

Thank God often that Jesus is in your life, and that he will never leave you. **(ROMANS 8:38-39)**

You can know that God's Spirit lives in you and that you have eternal life from the moment you accepted Jesus into your life, because this is what he has promised.

What if you don't feel any *different*?

Do not depend on how you feel

We rely on God and his promises in the Bible, not our feelings. Feelings are valid and important, but they don't determine what is true. A follower of Jesus lives by trusting in the reliability of God himself and what he has said through his word, the Bible.



The train illustrates the connection between fact (God and his word), faith (our trust in God and his word) and feelings (a result of our faith and obedience).

The train will run with or without the guard's van, but it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the guard's van. In the same way, we can rely on God and what he has said in his word, and not depend on how we feel.

How to *grow* as a follower of Jesus

Our relationship with Jesus grows as we trust him with every detail of our lives. This trust is developed through:

- Reading the Bible daily and reflecting on what it reveals about the character of God and how he intends us to live (**2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17**)
- Listening to and talking with God in prayer to align our wills with his (**PHILIPPIANS 4:6**)
- Obeying God moment by moment, drawing on the power of the Spirit to do so (**LUKE 6:46-49; COLOSSIANS 2:6; GALATIANS 5:16-25**)

- Telling others about Jesus through our life and words (**MATTHEW 28:18-20; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20; EPHESIANS 4:1; 1 PETER 2:12**)
- Being actively involved with the community of God's people, the church (**HEBREWS 10:25; ACTS 2:42-47**)

Several logs burn brightly together, but put one aside and its fire goes out. In the same way, God doesn't intend you to live the Christian life in isolation. When you accept Jesus into your life you are born into *God's family*.

This community, the church, is at the heart of God's eternal plan. Find a church where Jesus is worshipped and the Bible is taught, and join others who are active in making Jesus known.



If this booklet has been helpful to you, please give or read it to someone else. In this way you can help another person come to know God personally.

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