



INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL
GOSPEL CHURCH



FIRST STEPS IN CHRIST

Getting acquainted
with the basics of the
Christian life





Welcome TO GOD'S FAMILY

Now that you have become Born Again by surrendering your life to Christ and received Him as your Lord and personal Saviour, you have begun life's greatest adventure. It is an adventure which will enable you to enjoy God's best and eventually lead you to Heaven when you leave this earthly life.

This booklet is designed to help you take the very first but important steps in getting acquainted with the basics of the Christian life. There are five main topics which have been simply outlined to be studied with the help of your follow-up Counsellor.

I pray that you will find the studies meaningful and beneficial.

God richly bless you.

For further inquiries, kindly contact us via;

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Step 1

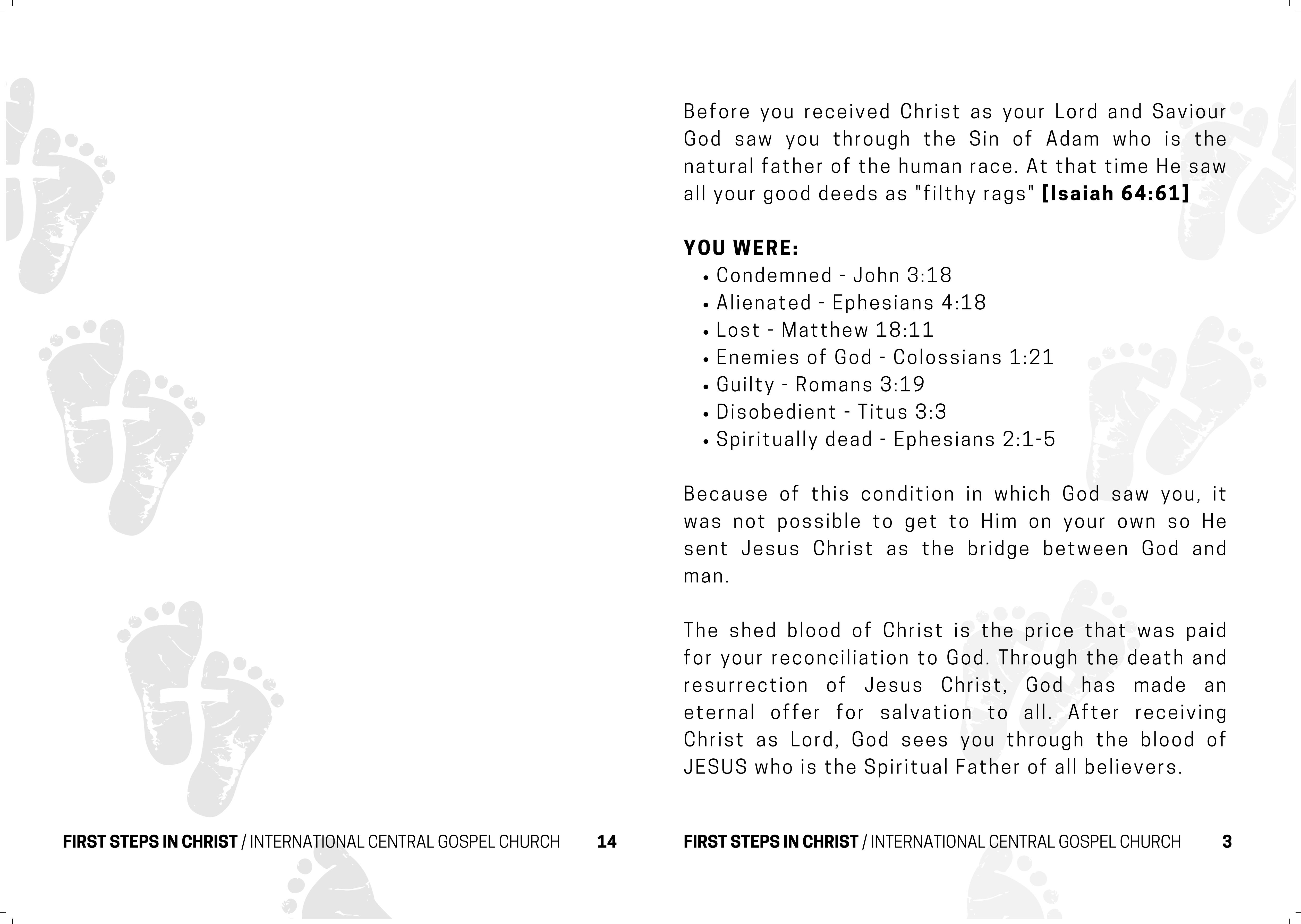
DISCOVER YOURSELF

MEMORY VERSE

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. [Romans 5:19]

Every human being desires to have an identity because it serves as the means by which we are seen and known by others. The way we are seen by men is important but then, the way God sees us is MOST IMPORTANT.

The Bible which is God's Word to us serves as the mirror through which we really see ourselves as God sees us.



Before you received Christ as your Lord and Saviour God saw you through the Sin of Adam who is the natural father of the human race. At that time He saw all your good deeds as "filthy rags" **[Isaiah 64:61]**

YOU WERE:

- Condemned - John 3:18
- Alienated - Ephesians 4:18
- Lost - Matthew 18:11
- Enemies of God - Colossians 1:21
- Guilty - Romans 3:19
- Disobedient - Titus 3:3
- Spiritually dead - Ephesians 2:1-5

Because of this condition in which God saw you, it was not possible to get to Him on your own so He sent Jesus Christ as the bridge between God and man.

The shed blood of Christ is the price that was paid for your reconciliation to God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has made an eternal offer for salvation to all. After receiving Christ as Lord, God sees you through the blood of JESUS who is the Spiritual Father of all believers.

In Christ, we are rescued from sin and its consequences and honoured as God's special people - [1 Peter 2:9]

NOW YOU ARE

- No longer condemned - Romans 8:1
- Rescued from Satan's power - Colossians 1:13
- Forgiven - Ephesians 1:7
- Loved - Ephesians 1:4
- Alive - 1 John 5:11-12
- Children of God - John 1:12
- Reconciled to God - 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

APPLICATION

Live in accordance with your position in Christ by praying for God to guide you in every situation.

Congratulations on the completion of your first step in your walk with Christ. These, however, are not the only steps that you will need to take in your continued walk with Him.

There are many other things you will need to know to enable you to develop a closer relationship with Jesus. I therefore, recommend that you join the Church's Adult Bible Class Lessons where you will learn more about your new life.

Remember that **G R O W T H** in Christ comes by:

G - Go to God your Father daily [John 15:7]

R - Read and study your Bible daily [Joshua 1:8]

O - Obey God [John 14:21]. Your obedience to God will determine success in life [Deuteronomy 28]

W - Witness Christ by your word and your deed [Matthew 4:19; Colossians 3:17]

T - Trust God in everything [1 Peter 5:7]

H - Holy Spirit will control your life [Romans 8:14]

Stay blessed in the Lord.

God's gift of salvation is His free offer to all of mankind no matter their sin, race or creed. Those who accept this gift by faith, apart from works, become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

You do not need to know the Bible before you can tell someone about what God has done for you. Just ask for the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you in boldness.

Your Christian Witness will:

- Help people to know about Gods love - [Luke 8:39-40]
- Rescue sinners from Hell - [Ezekiel 3:18-19]
- Expand the kingdom of God - [Acts 1:8]
- Give you a Heavenly Reward - [Revelation 22:12]

APPLICATION

Pray for those in need of salvation through Christ, then visit them and share God's Word with them.

Step 2 **FEED ON THE WORD**

MEMORY VERSE

"Like newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby" [1 Peter 2:2]

As food is necessary for the growth of the human body so is the Word of God necessary for spiritual growth. Jesus said in **Matthew 4:4** that **"man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"**. In order to build a strong Christian life, it is vital to develop a consistent and systematic Bible reading and study habit.

Our knowledge of God comes through the Bible. As we submit ourselves to its claims (authority), we place ourselves under the authority of God.

Approach your Bible prayerfully and ask for God's guidance and illumination in your studies.

Since the Bible is God's Word to you, find out how relevant its lessons are to your life. Is there a good example to follow? Is there a bad example to avoid?

These are some of the benefits you will get from studying God's Word.

It will:

- Make you wise [2 Timothy 3:15, Proverbs 19:20]
- Keep you from sin [Psalm 119:9-11, Proverbs 7:1-5]
- Help your faith in God to grow [Romans 10:17]
- Direct your paths in life (i.e. in your education, marriage, work, etc.) [Psalm 119:105]

APPLICATION

Endeavor to spend at least ten minutes daily to read a selected Portion of the Bible beginning from John's Gospel.

Step **5**
WITNESS

MEMORY VERSE

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." **[Mark 16:15]**

As Christians, you have the privilege of answering to the Great Commission of Christ that is to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. Through your life of love and holiness as well as your preaching of the word of God, you can make others know about God and salvation through Christ.

God is depending on you for the salvation of your family and friends, so be bold to tell them about your new life.

A brick lying by itself has no purpose or meaning. But when it takes its place in a building, alongside all the other bricks that make up the building, it has an identity and purpose. We are all part of one building - The Church **[1 Peter 2:5]**

Your association with believers means that you may have to leave some old friends and make new, serious Christian friends who can help you to grow in Christ.

Your Fellowship with other Christians will:

- Enable you to get to know other believers in the family of God [Hebrews 10:25]
- Allow you to have matured and experienced believers to share your problems with. (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Give you the chance to also be of help to the work of God - [1 Corinthians 3:9]
- Help you discover and operate your spiritual gift - [1 Corinthians 14:26]

APPLICATION

Decide not to allow another church member's life to discourage you from continuing to serve the Lord because nobody is perfect yet and we are all growing.

Step **3**
PRAY

MEMORY VERSE

"...men ought always to pray and not to faint" **(Luke 18:1)**

Prayer is your spiritual breath. It is the lifeline that keeps you connected to the Lord so go to Him daily in prayer. Your heavenly Father wants you to communicate with Him regularly.

Prayer is telling God in your own words what is on your heart. You don't need any big "spiritual" words; just talk to God and you will see how easy it is.

Here are some benefits of Prayer:

- It will help you to overcome temptation [Matthew 26:41]
- It will build you up spiritually [1 Corinthians 14:41]
- It enables God to meet your needs [John 16:23-26]

There are no special "Holy" places or occasions for prayer. God wants you to pray to Him at any time and in any place.

Through Prayer we: **(Matthew 6:9-13)**

- Acknowledge Him as Our Father.
- Thank Him for what He has done for us.
- Praise Him for His love and power.
- Make requests for people in need.
- Make requests for our own needs.
- Ask for forgiveness when we sin.

Remember - *"A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian"*

APPLICATION

Your heavenly Father is delighted when you talk to Him in prayer so set aside at least ten minutes every day to pray.

Step **4** **FELLOWSHIP**

MEMORY VERSE

"Not forsaking the assembling of our selves together as the manners of some is; but exhorting one another. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25)

Your need to fellowship in a good church with other believers is very important for your Christian life. It will enhance your spiritual growth and quicken your journey toward maturity in Christ.

Always remember: "One broomstick can easily be broken but a bunch of them is almost impossible to break".