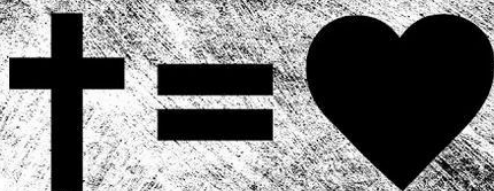


# EPIC FOLLOW-UP GUIDE

The story of Jesus and the Church Community



Get this plan on the YouVersion Bible app

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# WHAT IS A FOLLOW-UP <sup>1</sup> GUIDE?

We all know that following up with someone who is interested in taking their next step of following Jesus is important. A Follow-Up Guide is an intentional strategy to help student leaders mentor their peers who want to take the next step.

The focus of this guide is to help students learn the story of Jesus and the story of the church community.

This guide is also accessible on the YouVersion Bible app by searching "First Priority Follow-Up Guide" or scanning the QR code on the front of this guide.

Student leaders who are following up with their peers can help them become strong in their faith by knowing the story of Jesus and getting connected to a church community.

# LAYOUT OF THIS GUIDE <sup>2</sup>

This guide is designed for ten days. That does not mean that it has to be completed in ten days consecutively, but rather ten intentional meetings. Each week will have the following:



## **WATCH**

This section will have a Bible Project video to watch together.



## **READ**

This section has Bible verses to read together.



## **BIG IDEA**

This section has the big idea to discuss.



## **PERSONAL QUESTIONS**

This section will have personal questions for reflection.



## **COMMUNITY QUESTIONS**

This section will have questions to discuss.



## **GOING DEEPER**

This section will have questions to help you go deeper in your faith.

# TRAINING LEADERS

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## PLAN

Students should plan out the following:

- Identify the person that will be going through this guide.
- Get their commitment to do all ten lessons.
- Make sure the other person knows how to access the lessons on the YouVersion Bible app or has one of these guides.
- Decide on a day, time, and location to meet weekly until you finish the plan.

## TIPS

- Be in prayer - pray for the person.
- Listen - listen to their story and their questions.
- Eat - make food, coffee, or snacks a part of the meetings.
- Serve - find ways you can help the person with things they are struggling with or need help with.
- Share - share your personal story of following Jesus as you have the opportunity.

# THE STORY OF JESUS

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## DAY 1



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



The Birth of Jesus: Luke 1-2



### READ

Read the following Bible verses together:

Luke 1:1-4 • Luke 1:26-38 • Luke 2:8-14 • Luke 2:25-35 • Luke 2:41-52



### BIG IDEA

God sent Jesus to bring salvation by turning our world upside down.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Jesus did not come to earth in the way that the Jewish people expected. In what ways has God shown up in your life that were also unexpected?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

As we will soon read, Jesus' ministry on earth and plan for salvation turned the world upside down. But even before His ministry began, what details of Jesus' birth narrative already started turning the world upside down?



### GOING DEEPER

Did you know there are 44 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled in the New Testament? While these prophecies are spread throughout multiple books in the Old Testament, many of them can be found in the book of Isaiah. Read through the book of Isaiah and highlight the prophecies you encounter about Jesus.

# THE STORY OF JESUS

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## DAY 2



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



### READ

The Baptism of Jesus: Luke 3-9

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Luke 4:1-22 • Luke 4:42-44 • Luke 5:27-32 • Luke 6:12-49 • Luke 7:36-50 • Luke 9:1-6



### BIG IDEA

Jesus brought Good News that frees us.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Jesus came to rescue everyone including the poor, marginalized, and outsiders of society. Have you ever felt like an outsider? How is God freeing and renewing you currently?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

In what ways is the Kingdom of God radically different from any other kingdom that has existed before?



### GOING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 61:1-2. Why do you think Jesus chose to read that passage while at the synagogue? What is the significance of that passage?

# THE STORY OF JESUS

6

## DAY 3



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Luke 9:23-26 • Luke 8:9-15 • Luke 11:1-4 • Luke 15 • Luke 17:1-5



### BIG IDEA

Jesus taught us how to live a life to the fullest.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

How does this parable support or challenge the way you view God as a Father?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Jesus calls out the religious leaders for ostracizing the poor, sick, and sinful. Why do you think Jesus was so hard on them? How was the way of life for a typical religious leader different from what Jesus modeled?



### GOING DEEPER

Reread the parable of the Prodigal Son. This story sets apart the one true God (represented by the father in the parable) from all other gods of other religions. While other religions are about striving to attain the favor of a distant god, what makes our God so radically different? How does the father react when his wayward son returns home? How does this tie into the gospel?



# THE STORY OF JESUS

7

## DAY 4



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



### READ

**The Crucifixion of Jesus: Luke 19-23**

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Luke 19:28-48 • Luke 20:1-18 • Luke 21:1-19 • Luke 22:1-22

Luke 22:39-71 • Luke 23



### BIG IDEA

Submitting to the way of Jesus is the opposite way of the world.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Reread the passage where the criminal Barabbas is released while Jesus is sentenced to death. How does this foreshadow what Jesus ultimately did for you?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Why did Jesus have mercy on those who were involved in murdering Him, to the point where He even asked God to forgive them?



### GOING DEEPER

Read Exodus chapter 12:1-11, then reread the passage where Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples. In what ways did Jesus ultimately become the fulfillment to the Jewish tradition of Passover?

# THE STORY OF JESUS

8

## DAY 5



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



The Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Luke 24



### BIG IDEA

Jesus' kingship was revealed through the breaking of His body and pouring out of His love.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Jesus went the extra mile to not only reveal Himself to his disciples, but to show them His scars, eat with them, and remind them of His fulfillment of the Scriptures. He loved His disciples and wanted them to understand all He had done. In what ways has Jesus revealed Himself to you in your life?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

The Kingdom of God, which Jesus perfectly demonstrates during His ministry on earth, values humility and self-sacrifice. How is this at odds with the typical values of the world in which we live? Why can it be so difficult for us to follow Jesus' way of living?



### GOING DEEPER

Jesus rises from the dead, transforming His lifeless broken body into a new creation. He wants the same for us when we make Him the Lord and Savior of our lives. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. In what ways has God begun to make you into a new creation?

# STORY OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY <sup>9</sup>

## DAY 6



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



Pentecost: Acts 1-7



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Acts 1:1-11 • Acts 2:1-4 • Acts 2:36-47



### BIG IDEA

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom of God through the church community.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

The Holy Spirit turned disciples of Jesus into “mobile temples where God now dwells.” How does it feel to think of yourself carrying the presence of God with you - scared, excited, nervous? There is no wrong answer, just be honest with God about it.



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Did you know that one of Jesus' main goals was (and still is) connecting people from all cultures and nations? When the Holy Spirit fell on the people in the upper room, He gave them the ability to speak one another's language so that they could share their faith in God and connect with one another. How do you feel knowing that God loves everyone equally and considers us all His children that He wants to unite?



### GOING DEEPER

The disciples and apostles were attacked from the outside because of their faith in Jesus and the desire to help others. How do you feel attacked/influenced from the outside (peer pressure, social media, etc.)? Do you believe that God wants to help you, not punish you, when you feel attacked/influenced? How can you welcome Jesus and others to help you in fighting against those attacks? Read John 16:33.

# STORY OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY<sup>10</sup>

## DAY 7



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



The Apostle Paul: Acts 8-12



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Acts 8:1-4 • Acts 2:1-4 • Acts 2:36-47



### BIG IDEA

The church community includes all people.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

For a long time, Jewish people considered non-Jewish people unclean. God made it clear that He considers everyone who follows Him clean and forgiven of their sins. How does it feel knowing God sees you the same way?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

How do you see God still uniting people today? What are some ways that we can try to connect with people who aren't like us?



### GOING DEEPER

Saul was a man who fought against Christians, hunting down and arresting them. When Saul had an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Jesus changed Saul's name to Paul. Paul was a believer in Jesus who began fighting for Christians instead of against them. In Paul's many letters in the Bible, we see that his personality didn't necessarily change once he became a believer in Jesus, he just started fighting for a different cause. Becoming a believer in Jesus doesn't mean that you have to completely change who you are.

Jesus already knows who you truly are and wants to help you use your strengths for good in His kingdom. You can be who you are with Jesus on your side. Read Psalm 139:14.

# STORY OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY<sup>11</sup>

## DAY 8



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



### READ

Paul's Missionary Journeys: Acts 13-20

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Acts 13:1-4 • Acts 14:21-28 • Acts 18:1-11



### BIG IDEA

How Paul started communities in cities across the Roman Empire.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

A big part of Paul's message was telling people that there was a new King who wasn't mean or selfish. Instead, He was a loving and selfless king named Jesus. How has Jesus shown up in your life to show that He loves and cares about you unconditionally?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Paul traveled across countries and continents telling people about Jesus. Without having to make travel plans, what are simple ways that you can share the good news of Jesus with the people around you?



### GOING DEEPER

The love of Jesus creates communities where all people are equal. Jesus doesn't rank people based on the color of their skin, the kind of clothes they wear, or the amount of money they have. Jesus loves everyone equally and died for everyone for that reason. It can sometimes be hard to see people the way that Jesus does.

Sometimes we want to rank people based on what they look like or the kind of life they live. Today, consider how you can start learning to see and love others the way that Jesus does: equally.

# STORY OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY<sup>12</sup>

## DAY 9



### WATCH

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Acts 21:1-40 • Acts 28:1-30

**Bound for Rome: Acts 21-28**



### BIG IDEA

How Paul started communities in cities across the Roman Empire.



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

God changed Saul's name to Paul. This helped Paul to see that God really had forgiven and forgotten the sins of his past and saw him as a new person. What in your life do you struggle to believe that God can forgive you for? Do you believe that God looks at you and sees His child that He loves, not your mistakes?



### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What are some ways that you can share the good news of Jesus in everyday life? How does it feel to know that being a part of the kingdom of God means being a part of something that is global and has been around for centuries?



### GOING DEEPER

Because the disciples were willing to risk being rejected, the gospel was spread throughout the country and world. Without their willingness to speak up, those people may have never learned the good news of Jesus.

The same is true for you. Someone was willing to share the good news of the gospel which can change your life, or maybe it already has. You have the potential to be the person that changes someone's life in the same way. That doesn't mean you have to start preaching to everyone you meet; it just means allowing Jesus to become a part of your everyday life and conversations and watch how He wants to introduce Himself to the people in your life.

# NEXT STEPS

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## DAY 10

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Watch this video from the Bible Project.



### READ

Choose some of the Bible verses to read together:

Hebrews 10:19-23 • Proverbs 3:5-6



### PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Have you already begun a relationship with God? Challenge: What are some actions you can take to grow closer to Him? Read Hebrews 10:19-23
2. What do you hear God saying? Challenge: What should you do about it? Proverbs 3:5-6
3. If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, what is holding you back? Challenge: Have an honest conversation with God about it and find someone to discuss it with.
4. Are you connected to a youth group? Challenge: Ask a friend to help you find a youth group where you can be a part of a community and grow in your relationship with God.

**WE HAVE ONE OBJECTIVE:**

**TO TAKE  
THE HOPE OF  
CHRIST**

**TO EVERY STUDENT**