



FIRST STEPS

STUDIES TO BEGIN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST
By Marlon Furtado

“Welcome to the Family”

Congratulations!

We are thrilled with your decision to trust Jesus Christ. You probably came to Jesus because you sensed that things weren't right and you needed forgiveness or your life straightened out. That's great, because Jesus does that.

But soon you will find that Jesus is walking with you through life. He will never leave you. You have begun a brand new life and the greatest adventure possible. There is nothing that will compare with knowing Jesus Christ.

RELATIONSHIP...FRIENDSHIP

One very important distinction we want you to understand is that you have **not** become *religious*. Rather, you have entered into a personal *relationship* with Jesus Christ.

There is a huge difference between the two.

- **Religions** simply present you with lifeless lists of do's and don'ts. Religions function on the level of rules and regulations.
- **Loving relationships**, however, are much more powerful than rules. You treat your friend or loved one nicely because you *want* to, not because you *have* to.

Religion tells you facts about Jesus Christ.

Christianity offers you a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Everyone wants to have a best friend — someone with whom you can relax and be yourself, laugh or get serious, share your hopes and dreams, as well as your triumphs and defeats. Jesus wants that kind of a friendship with you! Certainly, your relationship with Christ will include deep respect and admiration and gratefulness. But you will also find that you can be yourself with Him. And as you get to know this great new Friend, you will find your life changing for the better.

Our Church Rejoices With You!

When you invited Jesus Christ to become the leader of your life some very exciting things happened. Below are sentences from the Bible that describe three of these tremendous changes.

- **FORGIVENESS**

Acts 3:19 — *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that **your sins may be wiped out.**”*

- **ADOPTION**

John 1:12 — *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God.**”*

- **ETERNAL LIFE**

1 John 5:11-13 — *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.”*

The moment you placed your faith in the Lord Jesus you were completely forgiven of all your sins. You were adopted into God’s family and He is now your heavenly Father. You were also granted eternal life, which means you will live forever in heaven and you will enjoy a new quality of life here and now.

Write the date you received Christ here _____

Who would be happy to hear that you have become a Christian?

Plan to contact them soon.

As a new Christian, the first thing to do is start learning more about Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is central to your new life. You already may be quite familiar with the events of His life, but **in the event you are new to the Bible** and to church, we have prepared this brief overview of His life. We hope you become intrigued with this One who loves you more than you will ever know.

His Birth

Jesus' birth was unlike that of any other human being. Mary was a young Jewish girl engaged to a Jewish man named Joseph. An angel came to Mary and told her that she would give birth to a son. She was to name Him Jesus. Mary asked how she could possibly give birth since she was still a virgin. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would miraculously cause her to become pregnant. Shortly after this, Joseph and Mary were married. After Jesus was born, they had other sons and daughters.

His Childhood

The Bible is fairly quiet about the early years of Jesus. It does tell us that He was raised in Nazareth just like any other young Jewish boy. He obeyed His parents and showed a special aptitude for the Jewish Scriptures (our present day Old Testament). He practiced the trade of carpentry, undoubtedly learning it from Joseph.

His Ministry

When Jesus was about 30 years old He began His public ministry. He gathered a small group of men around Him for three to four years. Jesus was a wonderful teacher. He traveled through the country of Palestine, teaching the people about God. Jesus had a wisdom far superior to the other religious teachers of His day. The priests would often quote other teachers, but Jesus would say, "You have heard it said, but I say..." He spoke with authority.

His ministry also consisted of miraculous healings of people who had physical and spiritual ailments. The Bible contains numerous accounts of the blind and lame instantly being healed. Crippled arms and legs were immediately restored to normal at His command or touch. Dead were brought back to life. Deaf persons and mutes were instantly made to hear and speak. The healings Jesus performed were not medical procedures nor long drawn out recoveries. They were instantaneous and permanent miracles.

Jesus also showed His mastery over the elements of nature. Without speaking a word, He changed water into wine at a wedding. He took a few fish and loaves of bread and miraculously multiplied them in order to feed over 5,000 people. During a storm at sea that threatened to capsize the boat He and His followers were in, Jesus commanded the winds and sea to quiet down. Immediately the storm stopped. Another time Jesus walked on top of the water during a storm on the Sea of Galilee.

His Death

Jesus was such a wonderful man. He was loved by all who knew Him. All, that is, except the religious leaders of His day. They felt threatened by Him because His life and teachings and power made them look impotent by comparison. So, they trumped up false charges against Him in order to have Him tried for treason by the Roman authorities. The capital punishment was death by crucifixion. This was a prolonged and intensely painful way to die. Large nails were driven through His hands and feet, fastening Him to a cross.

It might seem as though Jesus' death was a tragedy, the waste of an innocent life. But Jesus had taught His followers that His purpose for coming into this world was that He might die. He knew He would be crucified in Jerusalem long before He ever arrived there. It was all part of His plan.

His Resurrection

Jesus died on the cross Friday afternoon. His body was wrapped in linen strips and laid in a hollowed out rock cave. A huge boulder was rolled across the entrance to seal it shut. A group of tough Roman soldiers stood guard around the tomb. On Sunday morning one of the women who had followed Jesus went to His grave to mourn. As she arrived, the boulder had been moved, the soldiers had fled, the linen strips were still in place, but Jesus was gone! He was resurrected. Jesus had conquered death and came back to life. This was not a near-death experience. Jesus had been dead for over 36 hours. It demonstrated His incredible power to conquer death.

His Ascension

For forty days following His resurrection, Jesus met with His followers. He taught them more about God, ate with them and walked with them. After this period He led them to a mountain top and rose into the air and disappeared, going to heaven.

His Return

Jesus promised to physically return someday. He will establish a kingdom that encompasses the globe. No one knows for certain exactly when that will happen. We do know that it will take place, though, because Jesus always keeps His promises.

Summary:

The Bible tells us that Jesus was so different from you and me because He was actually God who took on a human nature. He was not simply a religious man who found His way to God. He was God who purposely became a human being.

Jesus did this so that He might be our substitute. **Romans 6:23** says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* All of us deserve the penalty of death for our sins. But God loved us so much that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, who voluntarily paid our penalty for us. To all who receive Christ by faith, He will give them eternal life in heaven and a brand new life right now.

What more will I learn in these studies?

You will learn some very important things about Jesus Christ and how to live the Christian life.

You will likely be paired with a *Spiritual Mentor*. Finding a convenient time to get together, you will simply read and discuss one chapter while you are meeting together. This will allow you the opportunity to ask questions as well as develop a new friendship with this other Christian.

2. **Why the Bible Is Special**
3. **Do I Really Have Eternal Life**
4. **What Else Is New About Me**
5. **Why I Still Struggle With Sin**
6. **Baptism Is Important**
7. **How Do I Talk to God**
8. **I Want to Tell My Friends**
9. **Church Is Very Important**
10. **Daily Appointment with God**
11. **Significance of the Holy Spirit**
12. **Habits Worth Developing**
13. **Remember Bible Verses**
14. **Deity of Christ**
15. **Inspiration of the Bible**
16. **Resurrection of Christ**
17. **Gospel Foretold in the Old Testament**
18. **Jesus Is Coming Back**