

SALVATION BOOKLET

sweetwaters
CHURCH



Congratulations and well done on your decision to follow Jesus!

At Sweetwaters Church, we believe that God longs to be in a relationship with everyone He has created, however our sins separate us from that relationship. It is impossible to make up for our sin through self-improvement or good behaviour, but God extends His grace to us through Jesus to restore what has been broken by our sin. Only by accepting this gift and placing our trust in Jesus can we be saved from the penalty of sin (Romans 3:23)

After accepting the gift of salvation, many people may wonder "What's next?".

This study was created to be a resource as you grow in knowing and understanding who Jesus is. Every single practice, teaching, and part of the Christian faith has the end goal of drawing closer to Jesus, becoming more like Him, and living out from that overflow into this world. As you continue to grow in Him, certain things will help support that relationship. We encourage you to become a part of our local church, join a Life Group, and find a way to use your unique gifts and talents to serve within the church as well as your local community. Remember, you're in for one incredible journey and we are here to help you.

May God richly bless you as you follow Him.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Callie Martin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

CALLIE MARTIN
SENIOR PASTOR

If you have any questions about this study or your relationship with Jesus, please email us at info@sweetwaterschurch.co.za or WhatsApp us on 066 237 6179 and our team will make contact with you.

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PRAYER OF SALVATION

Father God,

I acknowledge that I am a sinner, in need of a Saviour

I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose again

I confess Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and repent of my sins

I ask for Your forgiveness and believe I am a new creation in Christ

I surrender my life to You and I ask Holy Spirit, that you would fill me with your power to live for Jesus everyday so I may walk in Your ways

Thank you, Lord for saving me

In Jesus Name

Amen

PART ONE | NEW CREATION

Making a decision to follow Jesus involves stepping into a new life, a brand-new way of living and being. Whether what you see around you has changed or not, you have been changed.



So, what happens when you are saved?

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Coming to Christ, recognizing Him as Saviour, and realizing that He is the way back to life in God and with God, is called **Salvation**. In salvation, we are immediately and instantly made right with God through faith. Our sin has been covered and paid for by Jesus, and we are given a righteousness that we could not earn. This first change is known as **Justification** (Just as if we never sinned.)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

A new creature can still have old patterns, habits, and voices that seem to linger. Although we are instantly freed from the penalty of sin, we still wrestle with its consequences. The ongoing change that continues throughout our lives is known as **Sanctification**. This process is seeing the beautiful work of Jesus in us, and as we grow in knowing Jesus, and loving Jesus, He so faithfully gives us the desire and the power to become more like Himself.

We hold tightly to the truth and understanding that one day we will be fully united with Him. Our lifelong journey of coming to Him and becoming like Him, everything broken in this world and in us will be restored and made right in His presence!

PART TWO | A LIFE OF FAITH

What should I do to grow in my new faith?

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:5-6



"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"

When you accept Christ, your old life has passed away, your new life has begun, and you now have a restored purpose and plan for your life.

You are not alone in living this new life. You have the presence and power of Jesus with you. In His goodness, He has given us a place to nurture and grow in our faith. Whether you decide to call Sweetwaters Church "home" or want help finding another local church to attend, being a part of God's family through a church is how He has designed us to thrive.



PART THREE | LEARNING TO PRAY

How do I communicate with God?



Prayer can seem complicated or religious to many of us, but in any healthy relationship, communication is necessary for it to be healthy and thriving.

Prayer is simply a conversation with Jesus. You can ask Him questions, tell Him your needs, tell Him who He is to you, and pray for others in your life. Jesus would routinely pray to His Father in heaven and take times of solitude away from others to focus on prayer.

God communicates to us through :

His People - the Church

Prayer - a two-way conversation with God

His Holy Word - the Bible

His Spirit - the presence of God with us

The Bible says in Jeremiah 29:12:

"Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you"

And in Ephesians 6:18:

"Pray in the spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all God's people"

ACTS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PRAYER

One very simple way to pray is using the acronym A.C.T.S. as a guide to help walk through different types of prayer.

A – ADORATION : It is important to remember that God is Holy, other, set apart, and beyond us. When we adore God, we are magnifying and giving attention to Him. We cannot make Him any bigger than He already is, but we can certainly make our view and our acknowledgment of Him larger in our hearts and minds. Spend time being aware of His greatness, His love, and His power.

C – CONFESSION : Take time to acknowledge your sin before God. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us in our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." As you confess your sin, remember, that we have been justified and made right with God through the sacrifice and love of Jesus, and given His righteousness before God.

T – THANKSGIVING : Shift your perspective and attention to His goodness in your life. You don't have to look far to see the good gifts of His love and provision. And where there is a gift, there is a giver. He is the source of any beautiful thing in our lives. As we grow to recognize Him as our provider, we grow in our trust in who He is.

Psalm 100:4 says: *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!"*

And 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

S – SUPPLICATION : Supplication is asking for something of great importance to you. This is simply letting the Lord know your needs and desires. We can be honest in asking God for what we need, and we can rest in knowing that He is our source.

1 John 5:14-15 says:

"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The most famous prayer in scripture is found in Matthew 6:9-13 known as the Lord's Prayer. These are words spoken to us by Jesus and they are such a gift to us for how to pray and talk to God. Use this prayer as a template and structure for your conversation with God.

Matthew 6:9-13:

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom comes, you will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

PART FOUR | THE BIBLE

Where do you begin?

Why is it so important?

What does a book written thousands of years ago have to do with my life today?



These are all questions many have asked. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we also accept Him as the ultimate source of wisdom, truth, and guidance for our lives. The Bible is often called “Scripture” or “The Word of God,” meaning it contains God’s ideas of what is true. When we interact with scripture, it helps to form us and give us insight into the reality of how God has created the world and created us to live within it.

Whether we are reading a newspaper, watching a show on TV, or listening to a podcast, our thoughts and ideas about life are being shaped. We are continually formed by what we give our attention to. These sources can give us narratives and beliefs about every aspect of life. Scripture is a gift to us that not only informs us about God but also renews our minds by centering us around the ways in which He has designed us.

Here are some ways you can begin to grow in your understanding and interaction with the Bible:

Obtain a Bible - Look for a version or translation that best helps you understand God’s Word. There are even free digital Bible apps (one we recommend is YouVersion)

Set aside a time and place - Spending time reading God’s Word is nourishment. Just as the food we eat needs to be taken in regularly, Scripture is something that daily re-fuels our souls and helps give us what we need to thrive. Having a plan of when you are going to be intentional about reading your Bible helps prepare your heart, and your schedule, for making this a priority.



SOAP



SOAP is a simple method for reading and applying God's Word to our lives.

SOAP stands *for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer* and involves four simple steps:

SCRIPTURE – Read a short Bible passage out loud and/or write it out.

OBSERVATION – What do you notice about the verses?

What do you think the main message is?

What verses, words, or ideas jump out to you?

APPLICATION – Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life.

PRAYER – Pray for yourself and/or for others.

*Wash me,
AND I WILL BE
whiter than snow*

PSALM 51:7

PART FIVE | NOT ALONE

When we come to Christ, He does not leave us alone to figure out how to live this life. He joins us with His Presence. This Presence is personal and is given to dwell with us and in us through the Holy Spirit. This means that the Spirit of Christ is in us, and speaks to our spirit with His comfort, peace, and guidance in and through every circumstance of life.

John 16:20 says: *"I (Jesus) am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."*

The Holy Spirit is a person, and although we do not physically see Him, He is a constant companion and with us wherever we go. In Scripture, He is described as a teacher, counsellor, comforter, close friend, and protector. God is with you, and His Spirit lives within you, You are never alone.

We get to move through this world with the reality that He is with us, He is in the room we are in right now, and when we talk, He is there to listen. How would you live this day differently if you functioned as if that were really true, that God is with you right now?

Further to this, we want to invite you on a journey of life expression within our church family...

EXPLORE who we are, and who Jesus is to us, by joining one of our Sunday morning services. Meet with a Hospitality Team member or Pastor to discover our heart as a church family or consider attending our Growth Track course.

CONNECT with the people in our church family through one of our midweek Life Groups or special events and connect your kids and teens into our age-appropriate Kid's Church on Sundays and Youth on Friday nights.

SERVE in one of our teams on Sunday within the Welcome, Worship, Production, or Kids Ministry space. Join our local mission partners as together we reach out to the community around us.

GROW through our Biblical training and Family courses or sign up for other equipping courses, bible studies, events, and annual conferences.

ADVANCE God's Kingdom with us as we serve communities in and around us, to plant more churches and share the Gospel of Christ and His Kingdom.



Now that you have been saved, by the finished works of Jesus on the cross, and God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9), we would strongly encourage you to follow through with these next steps:

ATTEND OUR GROWTH TRACK COURSE

We run a course for new believers, and new members every quarter at Sweetwaters Church, and we would really urge anyone who has just given their life to the Lord or looking at making Sweetwaters their home to attend. The course covers the key foundational aspects of our walk of faith and also serves as a space to discuss and answer any questions one might have regarding our church. Please contact the church office for more information on 031 916 2653 or email info@sweetwaterschurch.co.za

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

Fellowship with other believers is another important part of your journey as a follower of Jesus. At Sweetwaters, various Life groups (ranging in size from 5 to 15 people) meet weekly around the city. These meetings create a safe space for people not only to worship the Lord, share and discuss His Word, but also as an opportunity to share life together and pray for one another as fellow believers. To find a Life group that best suits you, please contact the office on 031 9162653 or email : info@sweetwaterschurch.co.za

GET BAPTISED

The Bible tells us that we should all be baptized as an act of obedience and public declaration of our faith in Jesus. It is an outward witness of an inward change, and should naturally follow our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Sweetwaters Church believes in Biblical Water Baptism which is by full immersion. We hold Baptism services once a quarter during the church service itself. You can learn more about baptism by attending the Growth Track course mentioned above, or again get in touch with the office on 031 916 2653 or email info@sweetwaterschurch.co.za to find out more.

BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER

We also encourage all believers to join as members of their local church, not only as a sign of commitment but also to put roots down to serve within a church-home community. If you believe Sweetwaters is the church that God wants you to call "home," we would love to invite you to join our Growth Track course. To find out more please contact the office on 031 916 2653 or e-mail info@sweetwaterschurch.co.za.

