

# New Believers' First Steps

Start at the beginning of the following list of *Tools for Mentoring* modules, or weave through them in the order that the Holy Spirit seems to be leading. This way, you can address both the topics that you know the new believers need right away, and their present questions and concerns. You can use TFM one-on-one or in a small group or class. Meet with them frequently. Make sure some more mature believers do things together with them several times a week. Make it easy for the new believers to fill their leisure time with new friends doing new, healthy, fun activities. The transition from the culture of the “world” to the culture of God’s Kingdom can be tricky; they’re in unfamiliar territory and need some friends to show them the way.

## How to find passages in the Bible

The Bible is a book of books so you don’t have to start at the beginning. You can read any book. You can use the Table of Contents to find the book you want to read.

A Bible reference numbers refer to chapters and verses to make it easier to find a passage. For example, Genesis 1:26 means chapter one of Genesis and verse 26. You might see more verses listed like this Genesis 1:26-28 which means verses 26 through 28.

The chapter numbers are bigger on the page and the verse numbers are smaller. When your Bible is open, the reference numbers at the top of the two open pages are the first verse on the left page and the last verse on the right page.

## Evangelism

Early in your times together, work through the following sections. These studies will help them to understand what salvation means and why it’s available to people, and to form a preliminary understanding of who they are in Christ. This also can help you see if they have actually confessed their faith in Jesus and decided to be His followers.

- Make the Message Clear (ask for verbal responses, not written)
- Deciding to Follow Jesus

Go with them to tell their testimony to Christians first and then to some of their yet-to-believe friends. The latter, done early in their walk with Jesus, helps keep them from slipping back.

- Your Story, God’s Story
- Answering Sincere Questions (if they have questions such as Why is there suffering? or Will everyone be saved?)

## Water Baptism

Use the whole Water Baptism module.

Schedule a time for them to be baptized. Encourage them to invite their friends and family. Plan a simple reception afterwards so you can meet their relational network, and intentionally look for people with whom you can begin building friendships. They too may be open to knowing more about Jesus.

## Prayer

Use the sections in the following order. Pray together for the people in their lives who do not know Jesus yet.

- What is Prayer
- Prayer Releases God’s Power
- How to Pray
- How Do You Hear God’s Voice?
- Why Pray?

## **The Bible**

Use the sections in the following order. I recommend meeting with them two or three times a week at first to do your regular time with God **together**. I know that's a big commitment, but it's crucial that they receive support in learning to personally connect with God. They are most vulnerable as new-born baby Christians.

- The Case for Meeting with God Regularly
- Make a Bible Reading Plan
- Your Regular Bible Reading
- God Speaks
- How to Interact with the Bible

## **Repentance and Making a Moral Inventory**

- Repentance: God's Invitation to Freedom
- God Forgives You When You Ask
- Guidelines for Making Restitution

At some point, encourage them to complete the moral inventory in this module:

- Dealing with Past Sin: Clearing Your Conscience
- Make a Moral Inventory

## **Forgiving**

Use the whole Forgiving module. It's short.

## **Overcoming Sin**

Use the sections in the following order.

- Jesus Saves You from Sin Three Ways
- Temptation
- Steps to Overcoming Sin and Changing
- Steps on the Journey of Change
- What to Count as Success

## **The Yielded Life**

- Read the introduction
- Living the Yielded Life
- Yield the Right to Do What You Want with Your Life

## **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

- The Trinity
- Experience All Three Persons of God
- The Promise of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- The Promise Fulfilled
- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is for You
- Preparing to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit