

WORKSHEETS

WHAT'S NEXT?

Starting Your New Life in Jesus



CRAIG HAMLIN

CHAPTER 1

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come.”
~ 2 Cor. 5:17

#1 You Are God’s Child!

*“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
(John 1:12)*

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Begin each prayer with “Father,” reminding yourself that you belong to Him. **John 1:12** is another good verse to know.

REFLECT

⇒ How does being God’s child change how you see yourself?

⇒ What fears keep you from trusting God as your Father?

PRAY!

“Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family. Help me to trust You as my perfect Father.”

Notes:

#2 You Have Eternal Life!

“Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

When you feel afraid, say: “I have eternal life in Christ.” Remember that every promise from God is absolute and confirmed. You have nothing to fear! God has already given you eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

REFLECT

⇒ How does eternal life give you confidence in daily struggles?

⇒ What are you most looking forward to about eternity?

PRAY!

“Father, you have promised and given me eternal life. In you is life, and I want to thank you for giving me hope and eternal life that will one day be in your presence.”

Notes:

#3 You Are Forgiven!

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

MAKE IT STICK

Make confession part of your daily prayer. Use a journal this week to write down things to confess during your prayer time. Speaking your confession gets it out in the open.

Key Takeaways: _____

REFLECT

⇒ What mistakes or sins are you still holding onto that God has already forgiven?

⇒ How does God's forgiveness free you?

PRAY

"Lord, thank You for forgiving me. Help me live free from guilt and shame."

Notes:

#4 You Have a New Family

“So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household.” (Ephesians 2:19)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Start building friendships in your church. Find a small group at your church. Get into a discipleship group with some people of your own gender and build lasting friendships. Friendships are easy if you follow this simple Chinese proverb: “I went out to find a friend and found none. I went to be a friend and found many.”

REFLECT

⇒ How does belonging to God’s family encourage you?

⇒ What step can you take this week to connect with your church?

PRAY

“Father, thank You for my new family in Christ. Help me build strong relationships.”

Notes:

CHAPTER 2

LEARN TO PRAY, READ GOD'S WORD AND LISTEN TO GOD

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.”

~ Joshua 1:8

#1 Talk with God through Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6–7)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Pray 5 minutes a day, using the Lord's Prayer as a guide.

REFLECT

⇒ What makes prayer hard for you?

⇒ What would it look like to build prayer into your daily routine?

PRAY

“Father, thank You for inviting me to talk with You. Help me be faithful in prayer.”

Notes:

#2 Read the Bible Daily

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
(Col. 3:16)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Start with the Gospel of John — one chapter a day. This is a good book to begin your journey. John was one of Jesus’ disciples and was there throughout Jesus’ ministry.

REFLECT

⇒ How can reading the Bible guide your choices?

⇒ When has Scripture helped you?

PRAY

“Lord, give me a hunger for Your Word.”

Notes:

#3 Listen to God's Voice

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

After reading, pause for two minutes. Ask: "God, what are You saying to me?"

REFLECT

⇒ What helps you recognize God's voice?

⇒ What distractions do you need to silence?

PRAY

"God, help me hear You clearly and obey Your voice."

Notes:

CHAPTER 3

BE INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AND SERVE OTHERS

“And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”
~ Hebrews 10:24-25

#1 Commit to the Church

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Make Sunday worship a priority. Don’t find excuses to miss, even when you are on vacation. Skipping out on Sundays indicates a wishy-washy faith. You don’t get into heaven by going to church, but you long for heaven when you do!

REFLECT

⇒ Why do you need community?

⇒ How does gathering encourage you?

PRAY

“Lord, thank You for the church. Help me stay connected. Let me be an encouragement to others.”

Notes:

#2 Find a Small Group (Acts 2:46–47)

“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKING IT STICK

Join a Bible study or small group. You should also consider being a part of a gender-specific small group that may be a smaller size (2-4). Your priority must be spiritual transformation through maturity and multiplication. Whether that means being knee-to-knee with a spiritual mentor weekly or with a larger group, open your life so someone can pour the Jesus in them into you.

REFLECT

⇒ Who could walk with you spiritually?

⇒ What would you hope for in a group?

PRAY

“Father, lead me to people who will strengthen my faith.”

Notes:

#3 Serve Others

“For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don’t use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.” (Galatians 5:13)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Volunteer this month — in church or your neighborhood.

REFLECT

⇒ How does serving show Jesus to others?

⇒ Where can you serve now?

PRAY

“Jesus, help me serve with joy and humility.”

Notes:

CHAPTER 4

LIVE FOR CHRIST DAILY

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
~ Colossians 3:17

#1 Walk in Obedience

“If you love me, you will keep my commands.” (John 14:15)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Choose one command this week and obey it. Think about how you might apply a passage you are currently reading. You might start with “I will...”. Let your response be SMART: Specific | Measurable | Actionable | Realistic | Timely

REFLECT

⇒ Why does obedience prove love?

⇒ Where do you need to obey now?

PRAY

“Lord, help me be a doer of Your Word.”

Notes:

#2 Rely on the Holy Spirit

"I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Pray each morning: "Holy Spirit, lead me. Guide my every step today. Let me walk in your power and not my own."

REFLECT

⇒ Where do you need God's power?

⇒ How can you yield more to Him?

PRAY

"Holy Spirit, fill me today. I yield my life so that I may be conformed to the image of Christ."

Notes:

#3 Imitate God's Character

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly beloved children, and walk in love as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial fragrant offering to God." (Eph. 5:1-2)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Choose one trait (kindness, patience, forgiveness) and practice it this week.

REFLECT

⇒ Which trait do you want to grow in?

⇒ How can others see Jesus through you?

PRAY

"Father, make me more like You. Help me imitate your character every day."

Notes:

#4 Fight Spiritual Battles

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.” (Eph. 6:10-11)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Memorize Ephesians 6:10–18.

REFLECT

⇒ Which piece of armor do you need most?

⇒ How does knowing the enemy is real prepare you?

PRAY

“Lord, clothe me in Your armor today.”

Notes:

CHAPTER 5

BAPTISM AND SHARING YOUR FAITH

“Therefore, go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
~ Matthew 28:19

#1 Baptism

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the Holy Spirit’.” (Acts 2:38)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

If you haven’t been baptized, talk to your pastor.

REFLECT

⇒ What does baptism declare?

⇒ Why is it important?

PRAY

“Lord, thank You for saving me. Give me the courage to take the step of baptism.”

Notes:

#2 Share Your Faith

“So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thess. 2:8)

Key Takeaways: _____

MAKE IT STICK

Write down three people to pray for and share with.

REFLECT

⇒ Who first shared Jesus with you?

⇒ Who can you share Him with?

PRAY

“Father, give me boldness to share Jesus with others.”

Notes:

WHAT'S NEXT? CHALLENGE

Write your story of faith in 3–4 sentences. Practice sharing it with a friend.

Reading the Bible for New Believers

Adapted from Keith Ferrin (<https://www.keithferrin.com/blog/bible-study-beginners>)

Here are the three, simple parameters for the *New Disciple Challenge*:

Principle 1: Focus on Five Books

I already mentioned them above, but here's a quick overview of each book. (These overviews are taken from my book [How to Enjoy Reading Your Bible](#).)

- **Matthew** – Matthew (also known as Levi) was a tax collector who became one of Jesus’ twelve disciples and traveled with Jesus during the approximately three years of His earthly ministry. He focuses pretty heavily on Jesus as the Messiah/King and how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies (facts and predictions about future events).
- **Mark** – Mark (also known as John Mark) was not one of the twelve disciples. He traveled with the Apostle Paul on his first missionary journey. He focuses on Jesus’ humble servant attitude. What He did, what He taught, and how He lived.
- **Luke** – Luke was a doctor, as well as a close friend and traveling companion of the Apostle Paul. He is the only known Gentile (non-Jewish) author in the New Testament. Luke is the “detail guy.” He paints a clear picture of Jesus as the perfect Son of Man.
- **John** – John was one of the twelve disciples (so was his older brother James) and refers to himself as “the disciple Jesus loved.” He is out to show his readers that Jesus is not only fully human, but He is fully God as well. As we come to know Jesus’ humanity and divinity, we also see that real, abundant, eternal life can only come through Him.
- **Acts** – Luke is also the author of Acts. In the book of Acts, Luke gives an account of the formation, growth, success, and struggles of the early church. The first third of the book focuses primarily on the work and teaching of Peter (one of the twelve disciples). The latter two-thirds focus on the conversion of the Apostle Paul (previously a Christian hater and killer) and his three missionary journeys.

Principle 2: Read Each Book for Two Weeks

Pick an amount of time. If you can do 30 minutes, that would be ideal. If not, you'll need at least 15-20. If you only read 5-10 minutes a day, you'll never get into the "flow" of the narrative and it will be hard to remember what's happening from day to day. Again...similar to reading a novel 1-2 pages each day. Boring!

Start with *Matthew* and read it for two weeks. Since a normal-paced, out loud reading of Matthew will take about 2.5 hours, you'll probably walk through it 2-3 times in those two weeks.

After that, spend two weeks in *Acts*.

Then spend two weeks in *Mark*.

Then **go back to *Acts*** for two more weeks.

Two weeks in *Luke*.

Two weeks in *Acts*.

Two weeks in *John*.

Finish with another two weeks in *Acts*.

At the end of 10 weeks, you will have walked through each of the gospels 2-4 times (since some are longer and others are shorter) and the book of Acts 8-10 times. Your knowledge and understanding of the life of Jesus and the first few decades of the early church will be well-established.

Here's the breakdown of reading times for each of the five books (approx):

- Matthew = 2 hours, 21 minutes
- Mark = 1 hour, 23 minutes
- Luke = 2 hours, 24 minutes
- John = 1 hour, 51 minutes
- Acts = 2 hours, 15 minutes

NOTE: These breakdowns are taken from [this in-depth blog post](#) by Crossway.

Principle 3: Talk About It

Whatever we talk about we get more interested in. Your favorite hobby. Sports. Movies. Cooking. Think of any topic you love. I'm guessing that you have some friends you could talk with about it for hours on end.

The Bible is no different.

Talk about it and your interest will grow. Always do it alone and you'll find yourself setting it aside after a few weeks.

Obviously, if you can find 2-3 friends to join you for the New Disciple Challenge, and you get together at a coffee shop once a week, that will be the best case scenario. However, I've heard of people who email or text each other every day to check in. Other people have discussed their Bible reading over Zoom/Skype/Facetime/etc. Still others start a private Facebook group where they share what they're seeing, learning, enjoying, questioning, and applying.

Whatever you do...please find at least one other person to go on this journey with you! You weren't meant to do this alone!