

HOPEUC

YOU'VE SAID

Yes

NOW WHAT'S

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the New is here

1 CORINTHIANS 5.17

CONGRATULATIONS! You have taken an amazing step today... By saying 'yes' to Jesus and His love means you've received a brand-new life!

Jesus describes our new life this way:

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10 NIV.

This full life Jesus speaks of is found in the idea of 'grace', which means undeserved favour. It's mind-blowing to think that God, the one who created the heavens and the earth, wants to have relationship with us. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favour - Jesus paid the price for our freedom.

When your heart was stirred and you decided to say 'yes' to Jesus, you received **NEW LIFE**. You are now a Christian, a follower of Jesus. This is the biggest decision you will ever make and will impact every part of your life for the rest of your life!

Today also marks becoming a part of His family, the church. To help you to understand more about your **NEW LIFE** in Jesus, we've put together this booklet. We'd love to make a time to chat with you over a coffee about what's in this booklet and answer any questions you have.

And please, if you have **ANY** questions about your spiritual life, we'd love to hear from you. There's always a place for you here at HopeUC, a place for your family and friends, and if there's anything we can do to help or serve you in any way, please contact us on **02 4393 3764** or email info@hopeuc.com

With much love,

Ps Mark and Darlene

and your HopeUC family.



New HOPE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a HOPE and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, making us in His likeness, the pinnacle of His creation. Mankind chose to disobey God, or to sin, which brought a separation from our relationship with God. All of us have in fact rebelled against God by choosing to follow our own hearts and live our own way.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23 NIV

The consequence of sin is death, spiritually and physically. It results in eternal separation from God. We are unable to save ourselves.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 6:23 NIV

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son Jesus (See John 3:16) to take the punishment we deserve. By dying on the cross, we were made right with God once and for all time. We do not deserve it, it is a gift of God's grace.

"He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right" 1 Peter 2:24 NLT

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" Romans 5:8 NIV





Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. He is our Saviour and our only hope for eternal life. That's why we say 'HOPE IS A PERSON AND HIS NAME IS JESUS'

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Romans 10.9-10 NIV

This gift of grace is received by believing, by faith. When we say yes to Jesus, we are asking Him to be our personal Lord and Saviour. In that moment we receive forgiveness, a new heart and a new life as God's children. God comes to live in us by His Spirit.

"To all who believed and accepted Him he gave the right to become children of God" John 1.12 NLT



New CREATION

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

Your true identity is found in **THE ONE WHO CREATED YOU**. Understanding what God says about who you are is central to your life. Throughout the Bible God makes it clear who we are, whose we are, and what He thinks of us. As His children we are precious, purposed, and filled with potential. Take some time to read and think about these things God says about you in His Word, the Bible:

YOU ARE CREATED BY GOD

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalms 139:13-14 NIV

You are not an afterthought or an accident. God designed you on purpose, and for a purpose. When God sees you, He doesn't see a person who has no reason for being, but He sees someone intentionally created in His image. Our identity is found in Him.



02

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

*“Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 1:3-6 MSG*

You are the object of God's love. When you received forgiveness through Jesus, you became a child of God and gained access to all the rights and privileges as a child of the King. You are loved, accepted and valued, not because of what you've done, but because your Heavenly Father chose to adopt you into his family.

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

The scripture says that you become a new creation when Jesus is invited into your life. God wipes the slate of past mistakes clean. No longer does God see you as a sinner, but as His child. We are not defined by our past but are in right standing with God because of Christ's sacrifice. Now He's declared you righteous.

~ **YOU ARE NOT DEFINED BY YOUR PAST** ~



02

NEW *new* LIFE

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2 NIV

As a new Christian you have begun the journey of following Jesus. This starts a process of transformation from within that continues throughout our lives. Our thoughts, attitudes, and actions are transformed to match the person He has made us to be. In Acts 2.37-41, some people's hearts were touched by the message of Jesus' death and resurrection, so they asked Peter what they should do. He identified four things as a response to God's love:

REPENT

Repentance means to turn around or to change your mind. It's like you have been heading in one direction and have intentionally decided to turn and walk in another. We move from living for ourselves to living for God.

BE BAPTISED

Baptism is an outward display of the inward decision to follow Jesus. It's a public declaration that you have received new life. When you go under the water it symbolizes that your old life has gone and when you come back up it symbolizes that you have a new life in Jesus. Many people express that this is a powerful moment in their life where they feel cleansed. Jesus himself was also baptised.



RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit for all believers when he ascended into Heaven. The Holy Spirit fills us with power to live dynamic lives. The Spirit helps us pray, understand God's Word, witness, serve and live a godly life. There are gifts of the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit in our lives includes love, joy and peace. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a gift to be received for every Christian.

YOU ARE PART OF THE CHURCH

When we receive Jesus we become part of God's family - the Church. We don't just 'go' to Church - we are the Church! We worship together, grow together and serve the local community together.

~ WE RESPOND TO THE LOVE OF GOD;
WE DON'T EARN IT ~



new RELATIONSHIP

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2 NIV*

One of the wonderful things about being a Christian is growing in your relationship with God. As you spend time with God in worship, prayer and reading the Bible, you will be filled with ever increasing wonder at the magnitude of His love for you and the depths of His grace. That’s why at HopeUC some of our values are ‘The Word is our Foundation’, ‘Worship is our honour’ and ‘His Presence is our passion’.

WORSHIP

All of us were created for worship. The Bible says *“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.” Romans 12:1 MSG*

Everything we do can be an act of worship to God, transforming our work, our friendships, our churches, our families. It’s about living in His presence, aware that God is always by our side and at work in our lives.

One of the ways we can worship God is through music and song. Singing praise to God is powerful, something we can do on our own, or when we come together.

PRAYER

Prayer is one of the most crucial aspects of a vibrant relationship with God. It is simply talking and listening to God. There is no correct way to pray – just be authentic. You can pray on your own or with others and at any time of the day and for any length of time. Jesus gave an example of how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13.



Here are some things you can do when you pray:

- Be still** Be intentional to stop and focus on God, aware He is with you.
- Listen** Ask God to speak to you.
- Praise** Express your love for God.
- Give Thanks** Take time to thank God for things in your life.
- Repent** Bring to God any sins.
- Ask** Bring your requests to God.
- Surrender** Commit afresh your life, loved ones and day to Him.

THE WORD

The Bible is God's Word to us! God speaks to us primarily through His Word. Developing a pattern of reading the Bible will help you to grow in understanding God's love for you, how He sees you and the abundant life He has promised you. We have included a Bible study plan for you at the end of this booklet to get you started.

~ **A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS ABOUT BEING
WITH GOD BEFORE DOING FOR GOD** ~



new FAMILY

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

When you stepped into this new life and decided to follow Jesus, you began a new journey, but you are not travelling alone! In fact, you are now walking with billions of people around the world like you - living your life in new and exciting ways as God directs your path. You have become a part of the family of God.

We are a part of this global family, but God also intends for us to be in a local community of believers, a local church. One of the wonderful things about Church family is the richness of community - people of all ages and walks of life together loving God and one another, and inspiring one another to grow in their relationship with God. It is a community of faith.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday we gather together as church family to worship God. These services are powerful times together in God's presence and refreshing times of friendship and encouragement. The children have a separate program that is designed specifically for their age group.

Before and after the services is a great opportunity to grab a coffee and connect with new and old friends. During the service we sing songs of praise and worship, share communion, give and listen to the Word preached.

This weekly gathering is a place where we can discover God's plan for our lives, learn how to live out His priorities, and also encourage one another.

We also provide a program for teenagers on Friday nights.



LIFE GROUPS

Our life groups meet regularly in places all around our region. These small groups are a great place for friendship and connection at a deeper level, sharing food, life and having fun. Life Groups provide a place for you to grow in the Word, pray and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

Life Groups look for ways that they can bring support to the lives of those around them. Whether it's in their family, their local community, their school or their workplace, there are always opportunities for us to bring the Hope of Jesus in practical ways - this is what we call our GO!

Our groups are as varied as we are. Whatever the age, interest, or location there will be a group that is just right for you. We are here to help you get connected.



ELEM
1ST-5

05

NEW *new* PURPOSE

*"Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'
At once they left their nets and followed him." Matthew 4.19-20 NIV*

The moment you followed Jesus, everything changed! You have become a disciple of Jesus, and as you grow in your faith you will come to understand the purpose God has for you! God wants to use you to reach others!! Being part of a life-giving church empowers your purpose.

SERVE

Jesus himself said that he did not come to be served, but to serve others. As a new Christ follower, one of the most powerful steps you can take is to serve others in response to God's love. When you volunteer your time and talent you discover the key to unlocking a life of influence and change, and your own life is enriched.

There are many ways to serve on a Sunday or mid-week church team, or you may prefer to serve in one of our Hope Local community programs. Our pastors and leaders are here to help you discover and understand your gifts, and how to use them in a way that honours God and serves Him.

GIVE

There is no greater investment we can make than contributing to the only thing Jesus ever promised to build, the local church. With God's favour, and the faithful support of so many people, the church is making an incredible impact, both locally and globally, by offering the hope and purpose that are only found in Jesus Christ.



Together, we equip families and leaders, empower the next generation, and support those who are less fortunate. In short, when you give back to God financially through the local church, you are helping us extend the reach and build God's church.

GO

God wants to use you to reach others in the same way that He has reached you! One of the best things you can do for your faith experience is sharing your story with others. God has already placed people in your life – family, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances – who are just one invitation away from experiencing all that God has for them. Begin to pray for opportunities to share your story with others and you'll be amazed how God will use you to bring life and hope and positive change to the world, one person at a time.

~ **OUR VISION: FOLLOW JESUS.
YOUR TOMORROW WILL BE
GREATER THAN TODAY** ~



New **PURPOSE**

06

NEW PURPOSE

Bible Study **PLAN**

To help you start to read the Bible we've included an introductory 12 Day Reading Plan. Look up each of the scriptures and read the notes. Then ask yourself the following questions:

- What can I learn from this scripture about God and people?
- Is there something I can apply in my life or pray for?

DAY 1: THE BIRTH OF JESUS (Luke 2: 1 – 21)

Jesus' miraculous birth was a fulfilment of prophecy and a reminder that God loved us enough to come to us so we can have a relationship with him.

DAY 2: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (Matthew 3:13 – 17)

Jesus was baptised to mark the beginning of his ministry. When we are baptised, it represents the beginning of a relationship with God. It's our first step of obedience and a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ that made our relationship with God possible.

DAY 3: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS (Luke 4:1 – 13)

Jesus faced the same temptations we face, but stood up against them by focusing on the truth of Scripture and relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit within him. A relationship with God gives us access to the same resources.

DAY 4: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (Mark 4: 1 – 20)

When God speaks to our heart it's like a seed planted in soil. The condition of our heart determines how much growth will happen.

DAY 5: JESUS PRAYS (LUKE 11: 1 – 13)

Prayer is one of the primary ways we communicate with God. It helps us to align our plans and perspective with His. Don't be afraid to share your concerns because He cares for you.

DAY 6: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (John 4: 1 – 30)

When Jesus encountered the woman at the well, her thirst was satisfied, her life was changed, and she immediately began to invite others to come to meet Jesus. Be willing to share your story and invite others to experience what you have experienced.

DAY 7: HOLY SPIRIT (John 14: 16 – 27)

When we receive Christ, and our relationship with him begins, the Holy Spirit comes to be a counsellor and teacher.

DAY 8: THE ULTIMATE SERVANT (Matthew 20: 20 – 28)

If we want to follow Christ's example, then we need to serve as he served. Find a place to serve within the church or community and watch how God uses your gifts to impact the lives of others. Each day ask your Heavenly Father to fill you with his Holy Spirit once again so you will have His wisdom, guidance and power at your disposal.

DAY 9: THE LAST SUPPER (Matthew 26: 17 – 35)

Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples. Even He, the perfect leader, had people who turned against Him. Don't be discouraged if some people don't understand your relationship with Christ.

DAY 10: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS (Luke 23:1 – 49)

Jesus' death was the ultimate expression of His love. His sacrifice provided forgiveness for our sin and paved the way for us to have a relationship with Him.

DAY 11: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (Luke 24:1 – 49)

Jesus' resurrection was final evidence that He was truly the Saviour of the World. The power of God that raised Him from the dead is the same power that is at work in you.

DAY 12: THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:16 – 20)

Jesus' last recorded words to His disciples were a challenge to go throughout the world and share their stories. This small group of people changed the world with their boldness and commitment to telling others about Christ.



SCAN ME,
start this
plan on
YouVersion!



WE SPEAK GREAT BLESSING OVER
YOUR LIFE TODAY AND ALWAYS AS
YOU FOLLOW *Jesus*.

**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU
COMPLETELY WITH JOY AND PEACE
BECAUSE YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST
IN HIM. THEN YOU WILL OVERFLOW
WITH CONFIDENT HOPE THROUGH
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN**

ROMANS 15.13

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follow
Jesus.

your tomorrow
> today

CONTACT DETAILS:



@hopeuc

HOPE UNLIMITED CHURCH

HOPEUC.COM/AU

info@hopeuc.com

(02) 4393 3764