



NOW WHAT?

A JOURNAL FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD



LIFE CHURCH

WELCOME
HOME

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are so thrilled you made the decision to follow Jesus! Today marks the beginning of an **ever-growing, authentic, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ**, and we want to help you get started.

You may have questions you've always wanted to ask. You may be looking for some direction on what's next. You may simply be looking for some inspiration to keep moving forward. Wherever you are, **we have designed this journal to encourage and resource you as you follow Jesus.**

We believe the **best is yet to come for you!** We believe God loves you uniquely, and that Life Church can be your church home.

To get connected, follow us on social media @thisislifechurch for daily encouragement and download. On the app, you can complete our SOAP Bible reading plan, submit prayer requests and pray for the needs of our church.

This is a monumental moment in your life, so before we go any further, take some time and jot down these details about the day you decided to follow Jesus:

NAME

WHERE YOU WERE

DATE

WHO IS
JESUS?

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is widely accepted as a historical teacher and leader who lived roughly 2,000 years ago in what is modern-day Israel. What's more, almost every major religion believes Jesus was a prophet and godly man.

However, the early church, the collective message of the Bible, and even Jesus Himself claimed He was infinitely more than a prophet, a good teacher, or a godly man.

SO, WHO DID JESUS CLAIM TO BE?

Let's look at Jesus' words in John 10:30: "The Father and I are one."

Also, in John 14:16, Jesus says, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus was letting us know that only through Him are we able to have a right relationship with God.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Why is it important that Jesus is God and not just a good teacher?

The Apostle Paul, who wrote a number of letters to the first churches, describes Jesus as, “...our great God and Savior” (Titus 2:13). The Apostle Peter one of Jesus’ closest and most trusted followers also says, “...our God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1).

Even the prophets and writers of the Old Testament describe the coming of Jesus. “For to us a child born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

Ultimately, it means believing Jesus to only be a good teacher or a good person is not an option. Jesus clearly claimed to be God, and He authenticated that claim by His life, death and most importantly, His resurrection from the grave.

Why is the question over Jesus’ true identity so important? Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God? The most important reason is that if Jesus is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

Only God could pay such an infinite penalty (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthian 5:21). Only God could offer us eternal life. In other words, Jesus’ divinity is why He is the only way of salvation.

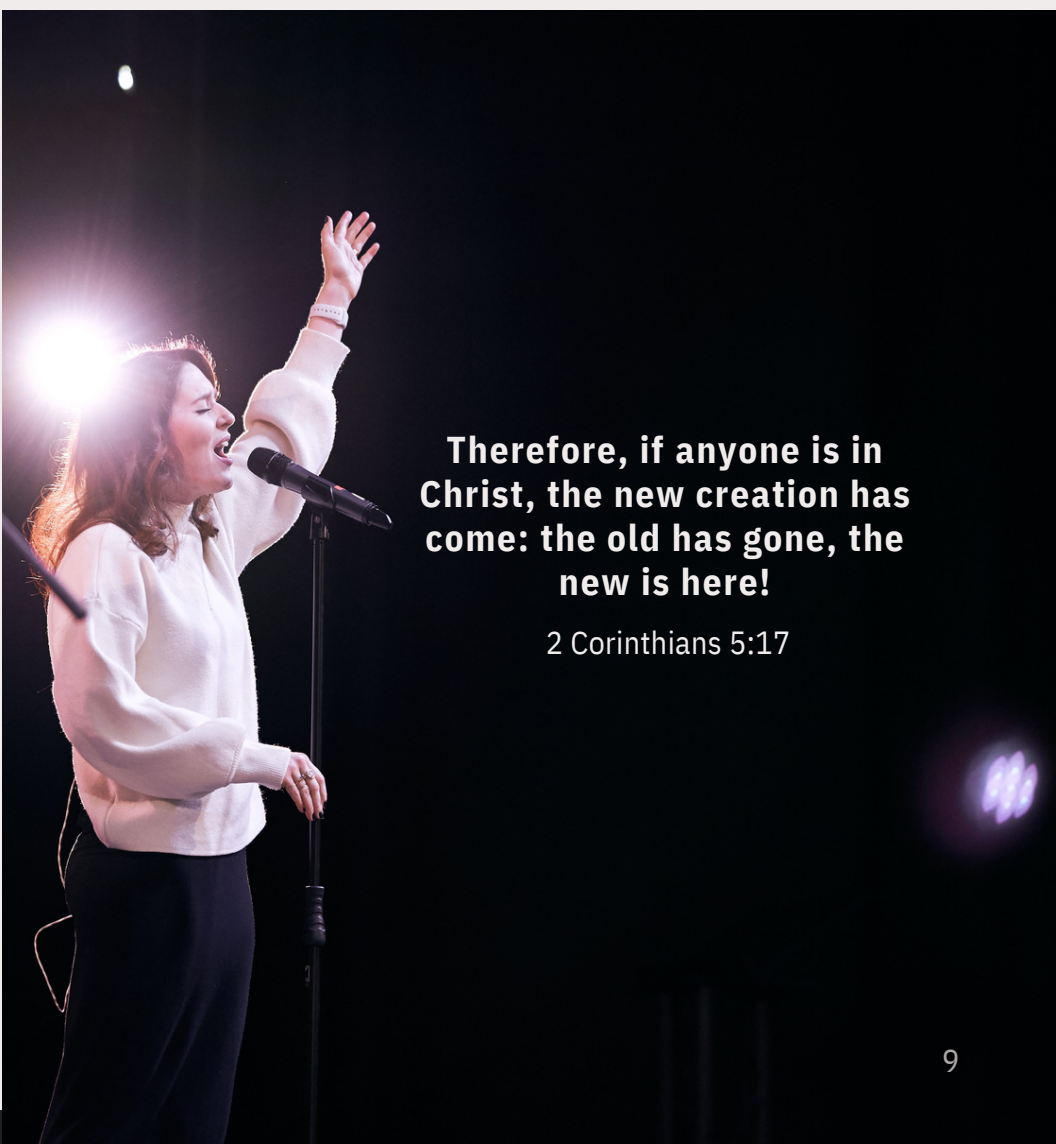
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QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

After committing your life to Christ, who is Jesus to you now?

LIVE IT OUT

1. Tell someone about your decision to follow Jesus.
2. Mark the day of your commitment on your calendar so you can celebrate this special day for years to come.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white sweater and dark pants, is singing into a microphone on a stage. Her right hand is raised in the air. The background is dark with stage lights.

**Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, the new creation has
come: the old has gone, the
new is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

TALKING
WITH
GOD

The thought of talking with God can be intimidating. You may be wondering:

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY TALK WITH GOD?

DOES HE EVEN KNOW WHO I AM?

WHAT DO I SAY TO HIM?

HOW DO I KNOW HE HEARS ME?

These are common questions, but rest assured, God wants us to talk with Him and have a personal relationship with Him. That's what Jesus made possible for us through His life, death and resurrection.

So how do we do that? How do we have a relationship with God that's authentic and life-changing?

Like any relationship, it simply begins by communicating with one another.

For generations, people have wondered how to talk to God. Jesus' disciples even asked Him to teach them how to talk with God. In answering, Jesus gave an outline for prayer in Luke 11:1- 4, which you may know as the Lord's prayer.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Since you can ask God anything, what do you want to ask Him?

When we talk with friends or family members, there's give-and-take as the conversation proceeds. That's basically what God wants us to do when we pray - when we talk to Him. We can talk with God while kneeling down or standing up. We can talk with Him while driving or going for a walk. We can talk with Him in our mind or out loud. In other words, where or how we talk to God is not as important as actually spending time with Him!

Unsurprisingly, our first conversations with any new person (even God!) may at times feel awkward; you may not know exactly what to say next.

HAVE NO FEAR

God knows we are learning to talk with Him. He will listen to our words and our thoughts, no matter how unsure we are in expressing the needs of others and ourselves. We need to learn to talk to God the way we would talk to a loving, caring Father, for this is who He is.

You may find it helpful to set aside a regular time of the day to pray. Just remember, even if you forget or miss a day, you can start right up again. You can talk with God at any time!

While God wants to hear what we have to say, He also wants us to listen to Him. So take some time and be still before God, and allow His Holy Spirit to encourage you with a comforting thought or prompt.

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

What excites you most about the opportunity to talk with God every day?

LIVE IT OUT

1. Commit to talking with God every day for the next week.
2. Make a short list of prayer requests you are believing God for and write them down below.
3. Ask someone you are close to if they have a need you can pray for.

MY PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Don't worry about anything;
instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and
thank Him for all He has done.**

Philippians 4:6

FINDING A HOME

We believe life is better connected. We believe we were created to be in community to have a place we can call home.

So how would you define home? Is it a group of people? A specific place? A collection of memories? A certain feeling? Home is difficult to thoroughly define, but ultimately, it's the place where you can be who you really are.

Unsurprisingly, finding a home is easier said than done.

What's more, in an age of social media, we are daily offered counterfeits of a true home. Sure, we may know some Christian friends online, but we never really open ourselves up to a broader community if our faith is exclusively virtual.

The payoff of finding a home is too great to not give it our best shot. A true home, like the kind we read about in Acts 2 goes deeper than anything you might have experienced before.

In fact, Acts 2:44 paints an inspiring picture of what home is meant to be like:

“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.”

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

When you think of the word “home,” what comes to mind?

LIVE IT OUT

1. Commit to staying engaged in the local church by regularly attending weekend services.
2. Join a Small Group - a group designed to help you find community and purpose at Life Church.
3. Read Acts 2:42-47 and write down what else inspires you about the spirit of the early church.

AS YOU READ ACTS 2:42-47, WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25

READING
THE BIBLE

Following Jesus is the life you've always wanted! God has you on an everyday adventure full of excitement, purpose, and joy; but keep in mind, the storms of life will come. There will be moments when you feel tired or overwhelmed.

So how do you keep your motivation going? How do you stay hungry and inspired to follow Jesus every day?

It begins by simply allowing God to inspire you daily through His words as they have been recorded in the Bible.

Some people see the Bible as an outdated book of ancient fairy tales. Those with this perspective ignore the Bible and in doing so, they miss the powerful truth that God is on the move in our world to show us His amazing love.

We believe the Bible is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit. The Bible offers us the words of God through a library of books dealing with every topic under the sun: loss and provision, hope and worry, empire and money, miracles and faithfulness.

What's more, the Bible has a singular hero, and His name is Jesus. The Old Testament predicts His coming. The New Testament describes His coming and His work to bring salvation to our sinful world.

It is a book that will inspire you to the core as you read about the victories and setbacks of those who have gone before us in living a life of faith, hope and love.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Reading the Bible can be intimidating, especially if it's your first go-around or if it's been a while. The most challenging part is simply getting started, so we have developed a daily reading plan designed to help you engage with the Bible. It's called SOAP.

SOAP is an acronym that stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer.

SCRIPTURE

We pick the chapters of the Bible for you. Normally, there are two chapters per day, and we cover almost all of the Bible each year.

OBSERVATION

What stands out to you as you read? Paraphrase and write down in your own words your observations, takeaways and prompts from the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply what you have read. Remember, prayer is always a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say to you through the Holy Spirit.

Through SOAP, you will learn more about who God is, His love for you, and His heart for the world. By reading the Bible daily, you will discover next steps, keep on the right path, and be inspired as you follow Jesus.

We encourage you to do your best to engage with the Bible every day through SOAP.

To help you get started, the latter half of this journal is designed as a 30-day SOAP Challenge with one chapter of the Bible to read each day.

LIVE IT OUT

1. Commit to completing the 30-day SOAP Challenge found in this journal.
2. Find a Bible translation for you. We recommend the NIV, NLT, ESV or the Message, all of which you can find free online or on the YouVersion Bible app.

**Always be joyful. Never stop praying.
Be thankful in all circumstances, for
this is God's will for you who belong
to Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

A photograph showing a man in a grey t-shirt from behind, being embraced from behind by another man. A woman's hand is resting on the man's shoulder. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other people. The text "THE BEST IS YET TO COME" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**THE BEST
IS YET
TO COME**

What you have started is a real, lifelong journey that will take you places you never dreamt of going. Living for God, following Jesus, and being led by the Holy Spirit is the life you've always wanted, and we are so thrilled to help you get started.

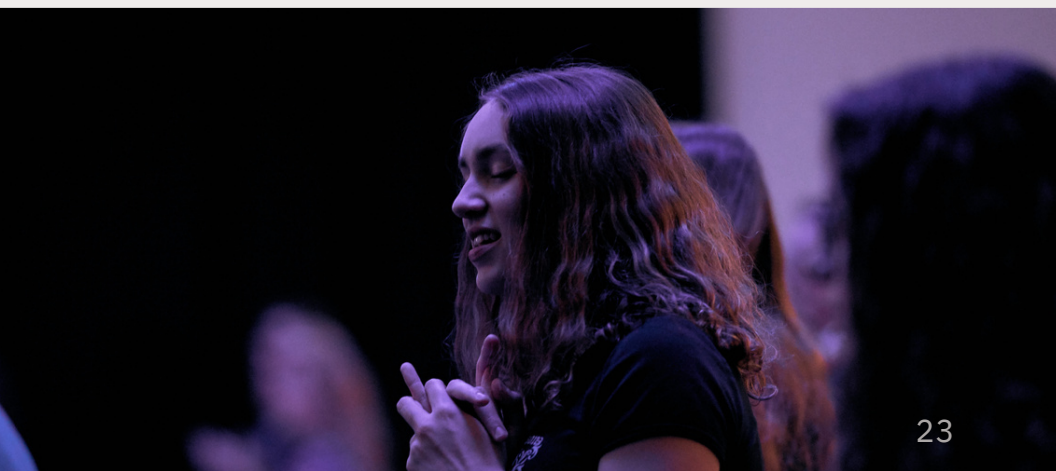
Your sins are forgiven. Your future is bright. Your life has everlasting purpose and hope.

As you continue in your commitment to follow Jesus, feel free to revisit some of the next steps in this journal. Make it a point to stay connected to a local church. Give it your all to talk with God every day and grow in your relationship with Him by engaging with the Bible.

Your journey is only just beginning, and we want you to know we believe the best is yet to come for you.

More than anything, keep the momentum of your faith going, and take part in the 30-day SOAP Challenge that begins on the next page. We have selected 30 of the most powerful, inspiring, and foundational chapters in the Bible so that you can see the powerful work of God in our world and in your life.

Enjoy the journey ahead and know that we are here for you every step of the way!





30-DAY SOAP CHALLENGE

DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.
21 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful, but not all things build up."²¹ Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.²² "Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience."²³ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."²⁴ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, "eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience."²⁵ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of your conscience.²⁶ I do not mean "your conscience," but his. For "why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience?"²⁷ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that, for which I give thanks to God?²⁸ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.²⁹ Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,³⁰ just as "I try to please everyone in everything I do." not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.³¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

HEAD COVERINGS

¹Now I commend you "because you remember me in everything according to the traditions" even as I delivered them to you.² But I want you to know that the traditions I have handed on to you are not of human origin but are the traditions of God.³ If you have any questions about this, write to me and I will answer you.⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

[Soap]

scripture
↳ to all to the glory of God

observation
↳ to imitate Christ

application
↳

ultimate goal is the

demonstrate the significance of taking part in a distinctively religious meal, just as it would be impossible to take part in a meal without recognizing the Lord's Supper and claim that it has no religious significance, so it is impossible for the Corinthians to insist that they can participate in temple feasts without being involved in idolatry. The point is that the Corinthians, like the Christians of today, are not to be misled by the fact that the Lord's Supper and wine exclusively for Christians. Theological note: 10:20 participation through idols are not pagan rituals is the real issue. The work and Christians should do with that.

(v. 24), rather than for the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience."²³ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."²⁴ If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, "eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience."²⁵ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of your conscience."²⁶ I do not mean "your conscience," but his. For "why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience?"²⁷ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that, for which I give thanks to God?²⁸ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.²⁹ Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,³⁰ just as "I try to please everyone in everything I do." not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.³¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.



DAY 1

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 1

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 2

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 3

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 3

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 4

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 4
SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 5

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 5
SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 6

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 6

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 7

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 7

SCRIPTURE

MARK 10

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 8

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 10

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 9

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 14

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 10

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 15

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 11

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 17

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 12

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 21

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 13

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 22

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 14

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 53

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 15

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 23

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 16

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 24

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 17

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 23

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 18

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 103

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 19

SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 8

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 20

SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 5

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 21

SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 6

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 22

SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 8

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 23

SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 12

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 24

SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 13

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 25
SCRIPTURE

GALATIANS 5

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 26

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 27

SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 11

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 28

SCRIPTURE

JAMES 3

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 29

SCRIPTURE

1 PETER 4

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER



DAY 30

SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 1

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you as you read?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read by asking how this all might apply to your life.

PRAYER

Congratulations on completing the 30-day SOAP Challenge! *We are so proud of you, but more than that, you should be proud of yourself.* Growing in your relationship with Jesus is our goal for you no matter where life takes you.

Our recommended next step for you is to *join a Small Group.* Small Groups are communities of Christians that will help build godly relationships into your life as well as continue to encourage and challenge you in your walk with Jesus.

You can search and sign up for a Small Group by scanning the QR code below. We believe that in your life as well as in our church, the best is truly yet to come!





LIFE CHURCH