

# Finding God



... and discovering new life  
as a Christian



“And when the lost son was still a long  
way off, his father saw him and was filled  
with compassion for him,  
and ran to him . . .”

*Luke, chapter 15, verse 20*



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# The Homecoming

**Y**ou may be asking: What's this booklet all about?

Our answer: it's the best news, ever. It's true, and also potentially life-changing because it's a love story, revealing how God himself loves you as a unique human being.

This booklet is not about religion or some dusty tradition. It's about finding the Living God, and having a real relationship with him. Someone has said that there is a God-shaped hole in everyone's life - "some people use alcohol, or sex, or their children, or food, or money, or music, or heroin to try and fill a sense of emptiness."

## Meeting our greatest need

The Bible - still the most widely read book in the world - says that God himself has put a longing in our hearts for something outside of ourselves. God has offered to fill that vacuum "by putting eternity into every person's heart," (*Ecclesiastes 3:11*), giving us an awareness that there must be more to life than this transient troubled world.

To put it simply: we were created for a purpose. For this reason, Jesus came to reveal God the Father to us. Until we have a living relationship with God, there will always be something very big missing from the centre of our lives. In the end, human relationships (which can of course be wonderful), can never fully satisfy the human heart.

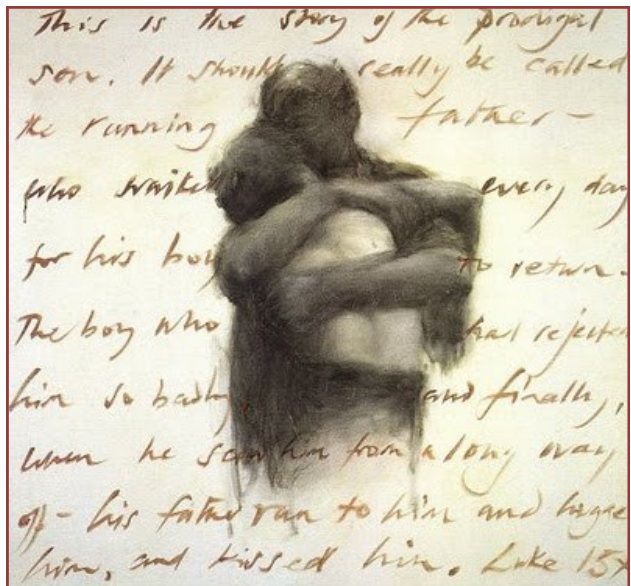
Finding peace with the Living God gives true meaning and purpose to life. We begin to discover our destiny - but one reason many people

don't know God is that they have never wholeheartedly looked for Him, often because no one has ever told them he is worth looking for. However, the Bible reveals God's love and assures us: "You will find me when you seek me with all your heart," (*Jeremiah 29:13*).

The message of the Bible is incredibly important because it is far more than a collection of ancient human ideas. The Bible is an inspired book that tells us God's great plan for mankind from beginning to end. The plan is revealed in the radical, supernatural message of Jesus Christ *who revealed that God loves each one of us personally* and wants us to have peace, happiness, freedom, acceptance, forgiveness and fresh start - in other words, a new abundant life.

One of the most moving stories that Jesus ever told was the story of the lost son – sometimes called 'the prodigal son'. The story in Luke's Gospel tells of a young man who wasted his life and, in despair, decides to return home to his father.

Meanwhile, he has no idea how much his father is longing



**The homecoming: the wayward son, once lost, receives his father's total forgiveness - a picture how our Father God waits to welcome home all his sons and daughters.**

(Many artists have tried to portray the scene from Luke's gospel, chapter 15: this modern painting is by the world class artist Charlie Mackesy, a former atheist. Larger colour prints are available via [www.faithin5.com](http://www.faithin5.com))

for the son's return. This story - a Bible parable, which means a story with a message - is really a picture of the loving Father God waiting with compassion to welcome home all his sons and daughters.

It is the story of a son who had run away to a wasted life. "When the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his short speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

"But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet, then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to have a feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! **My son is here — given up for dead and is now alive! Given up for lost and is now found!**' And they began to have a wonderful time. (*Luke 15: 21-24, in the modern-language 'Message' version of the Bible*).

This story, told by Jesus, is a true picture of the joy in the heart of God at the 'homecoming' of each one of His children.

## God's plan for *you*

**To those who sincerely trust him, God says: "I know the plans I have for you . . . they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."** (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

The unique fact about Jesus Christ is that He chose to die on a Cross for our sins – yours and mine. Jesus paid the ultimate price. This was God's merciful plan of redemption, a plan born from a heart of pure love before the world began.

On the third day after the crucifixion, Jesus rose again to life from a solid rock tomb, raised up by the supernatural power of God. Later, he was seen by hundreds of His followers, including 500 people at one time. The New Testament says he showed them "many infallible proofs" over a period of 40 days.



**The Cross and resurrection of Jesus reveals God's love for all mankind**

The resurrection of Jesus was thus the most miraculous event in history - scholars tell us that there are more 24,000 copies of early New Testament manuscripts in existence today, underscoring the reliability of the historical record.

In summary, Jesus died on the Cross to enable each of us who accept and follow Him as Lord and Saviour, to receive total forgiveness for our sins (or wrongdoings) - and thus be reconciled with God and inherit eternal life - or Life with a capital 'L', because we then share *His* Life.

Forty days after Jesus rose again to life - during which time he had been teaching His followers about the Kingdom of Heaven - He called them together on the Mount of Olives, outside Jerusalem. Then Jesus was

taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. As the disciples watched, two angels stood beside them and said he would return one day. *"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."* (Acts 1:11).

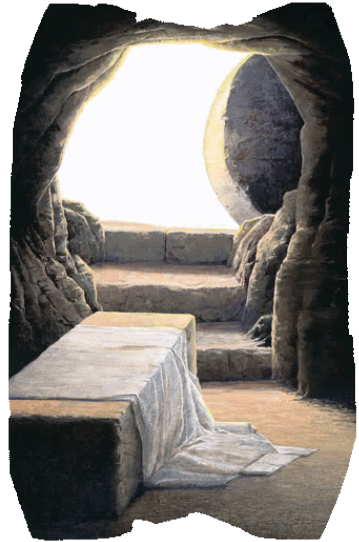
## The greatest gift

The Bible tells us "this same Jesus ... is the same today, yesterday and forever," (Hebrews 13:8). He lives for ever to offer you and I the priceless gift of personal salvation, made possible by the forgiveness of sin and releasing us from the bondage of selfish, self-centred living. This new life is the greatest miracle that anyone can experience.

But how do we receive this salvation - how do we even *begin* this journey of faith? The answer is simply by taking Jesus at his word, by trusting him to become our personal Lord and Saviour. Jesus said: "I

am the Way, the Truth and the Life,” (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ came to reveal God’s love to us. He said: “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it . . . I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” (Matthew 11:28 in the ‘Message’ version).



**The empty tomb -  
Jesus rose to life  
again on the third day**

## First steps to faith

There are just three simple steps to becoming a real Christian (as you will read on the next page). But until God the Holy Spirit shows us our need of Jesus, most of us carry on our lives without God - although Jesus died a terrible death to deal with our sin problem.

Crucifixion is one of the most cruel forms of public execution. Jesus said He came to earth to give his life as “as a ransom for many,” (Mark 10:45), because our sins and wrongdoings “cut us off from God,” (Isaiah 59:2)

Jesus therefore took your sins and mine upon himself upon the Cross. He allowed his life blood to be poured out to pay the necessary price of our forgiveness so that we could be reconciled with our Father God in heaven.

When we personally receive that forgiveness, our relationship with God is mercifully restored - and *our new life* instantly begins. By removing our guilt, Jesus sets us free to become the people God that

he intends us to be. The Bible shows us that we are thus able to experience a daily living relationship with God. Jesus calls this “being born again” – which means *we come alive spiritually* for the very first time. This is the miracle of the new birth.

It is the beginning of the greatest adventure of all – *new life* as a born-again believer in Jesus Christ.

## How our new life begins

There are three simple but profound steps to faith - as simple as ABC, which stands in this case for **A**dmit, **B**elieve, **C**ommit. Each step is really important, so please find a quiet place and read them carefully, because this is a sacred moment:

**ADMIT** that you have sinned by falling short of God’s standard. You simply admit you want to turn away from your sins and that you need a Saviour to deal with your past and assure your future. All of us have to come to God this way - “For *everyone* has sinned and come short of God’s glorious standard,” (*Romans 3:23*). You and I have all “come short of God’s standard.”

**BELIEVE** that Jesus paid the price for our salvation. As the sinless Son of God he died a cruel death on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Yours and mine - “For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,” (*Romans 6:23*).

**COMMIT** your life into his care: accept Jesus as your Saviour and your Lord by personally inviting him to be the Leader and Lord of your life. Remember the Bible promises that “to *all* who believed Him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” (*John 1:12*). “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved,” (*Acts 16:31*). Your personal decision to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord is by far the most important decision you will ever make.

Here is a simple prayer you can pray - if you can find a place to quietly pray this aloud. *Then make this your own prayer:*



**“Lord Jesus,** I believe you are the Son of God. I believe You came to earth and died on the Cross for me. Thank You for shedding Your blood for me, to pay the price for my sin.

“I am sorry for my sins and want to turn away from them. I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me. *(Pause here to mention anything on your conscience. Then continue with these words):*

“I want to trust and follow You, starting right now. I acknowledge You as my Lord and Saviour. I invite You into my life. Help me to live by the power of the Holy Spirit to guide me and to teach me.

“I believe Your promise in the Bible that I am born again. I have become a true child of God and a new creation. Help me to trust You day by day, with all my heart. Thank You, Lord Jesus. *Amen.*”

## A new person

If you have said this prayer from your heart – or one like it – you really *are* a new person! You may not *feel* very different at this moment because *feelings* come and go - but faith and trust are what God looks for. God cannot lie, and he keep his promises. So we may come to him in simple trust and *receive* a brand new life.



As the hours and days go by you will become more and more convinced that you are now “a child of God” as the Holy Spirit gives you that inner assurance. “For God’s Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we God’s children,” (*Romans 8:16*). This means you are now part of God’s

great spiritual family . You have the promise of eternal life. The penalty of your sin has been removed by Christ - and you have “already passed from death to life,” (*John 5:24*).

You no longer come under the judgement of God as a lost soul who once faced eternal separation from God’s presence.

Since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, “we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us . . . God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners . . . so now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God,” (*Romans 5:1,8,11*) .

## Four wonderful promises

Sincere congratulations if you prayed the prayer on page nine. To help you find out more about God, here are **four things** he wants you to remember always:

- **God loves you** and has a plan for your life. You can now experience peace with God. When you come to Christ, *nothing* can separate you from his love, (*Romans 8:35*). Jesus said his purpose is to give us a richly abundant and satisfying life, (*John 10:10*).
- **You are a brand new person.** “Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). God has promised: “I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart,” (*Ezekiel 36:26*).
- **You can live victoriously**, free from the bondage of old, selfish ways. “We have been made right by the blood of Christ [shed on the Cross] . . . we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God.” (*Romans 6:9,11*).

When failures happen – and we all fail from time to time – we are

assured: “If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” (*1 John 1:9*). Satanic strongholds are now defeated by His power.

● **God is with you** each moment of your life. You can really trust Him. “Be sure of this,” He said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:20*).

## Four steps for growing in faith

Here are four things God wants you to do in order to grow “in Him” :

● **Read part of the Bible each day** – because God speaks to us through the Scriptures. A good way to begin is to read a chapter or two of the **Gospel of John**, in the New Testament. As we read the Bible, our minds are filled with the amazing promises of God – so we grow in faith.

The Bible is called the ‘Word of God’ and is our daily ‘spiritual nourishment’.

“Like new-born babies, we must crave pure ‘spiritual milk’ so that we will grow into a full experience of salvation.” (*1 Peter 2:2*). Don’t worry if you do not understand everything you read the first time you read it! Rich Bible truths will become clearer as you prayerfully read the Scriptures.

● **Talk and listen to God in prayer each day** - speak sincerely with Him as you would talk to a close friend. Be completely frank and honest before him. Feelings come and go, but faith and trust will help us to “keep on keeping on.” Learn also to **wait quietly on God**, then you will hear his whisper into your heart - “be still, and know that I am God ... for those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings of eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (*Psalms 46:10 and Isaiah 40:31*).

● **Fellowship with other Christians** – find a lively church. Seek to build friendships with other believers. You will discover the



joys of fellowship, as well as experience times of praise and worship, and hear Bible teaching. Remember, we are all “a work in progress.”

Christians also meet in all kinds of fellowship groups – one of them is the Full Gospel Businessmen (FGB), who produced this booklet. FGB is not a church, but “an arm of the local church,” active in the marketplace of life. FGB groups provide fellowship and ways to reach others with the message of Jesus Christ.

There are similar groups in many UK towns and cities and in more than 100 countries. *For more details about FGB, please see information on page 14 and contact details on the back cover.*

● **Tell a friend about the decision you have made.**

Go public - share about your new-found faith in Jesus Christ. Done at the right time in the right way, it will also really strengthen you as you step out in faith. Be bold, for you can trust him to lead you.

God blesses the words of genuine personal testimony, expressed in a kind and wise way. Be ready to stand up for what you believe – and be ‘naturally supernatural’ as you rely on the Holy Spirit, day by day!



## New beginnings

*‘Look, I am making all things new!’ - Revelation 21:5*

## Great promises for you

Here are some of God’s wonderful promises for every believer:

● **Peace of heart and mind – and a new-found joy.**

Jesus himself is called “the Prince of Peace.” He promised: “I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give, so don’t be troubled or afraid.” (*John 14:27*).

Furthermore, “you love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy,” (*1 Peter 1: 8,9*).

Peace is evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts. (*Galatians 5:22*). “Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives,” (*Galatians 5:25*).

● **The fullness of the Holy Spirit.** You were born again by the power of the Holy Spirit when you accepted Christ as your Saviour. The Bible also speaks about being *baptised* or immersed in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus promised the early disciples that He would baptise them in the Holy Spirit, (*Acts 1:4-5*), we too need this experience. Jesus promised His followers: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth,” (*Acts 1:8*).

The main work of the Holy Spirit in you is to exalt Jesus Christ. When you are baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit you have more power to serve God, a greater joy and love for Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit develops Godly character, such as faith, hope and love in our lives, (*1 Corinthians 13 and Galatians 5:22,23*). We are urged to “be filled (*literally*, ‘be being filled’) with the Holy Spirit,” day by day, (*Ephesians 5:18*). God also promises spiritual gifts, (*see below*).

● **Spiritual gifts** are also given by the Holy Spirit for service and for building up the family of God, (*1 Corinthians 12*). We are told to eagerly desire these spiritual gifts (*1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and 14:1*). For the kingdom of God “is not a matter of talk, but of power,” (*see 1 Corinthians 4:20*).

There so many wonderful things that God has for you as a believing Christian – they include a new and better life, the favour of God, fellowship with other real believers and the assurance of heaven - in the famous words of the song by Jim Reeves, ‘*This world is not my home, I’m just a-passin’ through.*’ The Bible promises: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him,” (*1 Corinthians 2:9*).

Don't miss a thing God has for you. Be everything he wants you to be. And do everything he wants you to do. Meanwhile, here is our prayer for you, expressed in the words of the Bible: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of Holy Spirit be with you," (*2 Corinthians 3:14*). Always!

If you have recently accepted Jesus Christ, we would be very glad to hear from you. On the facing page is a Response Invitation Form.

## For your personal encouragement

*Here are some sources of encouragement, including websites and reading materials:*

- **Full Gospel Businessmen** UK and Ireland:

**www.fgbuk.org** The Fellowship website

features many video testimonies of others who have made decisions for Christ. Copies of the

*Voice* Christian testimony magazine are available on request from the FGB Fellowship, (*see the coupon opposite*).

- We also recommends the book, *The Happiest People on Earth*, the remarkable story of Demos Shakarian, founder of the global Full Gospel fellowship: the book is £6, available from FGB National Office: PO Box 11, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QP.

- **United Christian Broadcasters** (UCB): Christian media broadcaster on radio, TV and online; Prayerline UK: 0845 456 7729. **www.ucb.co.uk**

- Also recommended: *The Word for Today*, a free daily devotional booklet; see also the associated website: **lookingforGod.com**  
UCB also broadcasts FGB testimony programmes, also available at **www.fgbuk.org**

- **'To find God'**, an online video. See: **www.tofindgod.com**

- **The Alpha Course** - a great introduction to the Christian life. More than 11 million people worldwide have discovered the Alpha



Course. In the UK, call **0207 581 8255** to find a local church that runs the Alpha Course. Alpha is a low-pressure, fun and informative course. It's a place to relax, share your thoughts and explore the meaning of life. See also the website:

**www.uk.alpha.org**



**Alpha**

● **About the Bible:** popular versions include the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT), the New King James Version, and the online New English Translation (NET). For many good versions, see also the website: **BibleGateway.com**

● **If you would like to contact us,** we would be very pleased to hear from you. For UK readers, we will also send you several **free copies** of the pocket-sized *Voice* magazine which contain personal testimonies of others who have accepted Christ as their Saviour. Also available free is a helpful booklet called *Fulfil Your Destiny*. Simply cut and post the **Invitation Reply Form** in an envelope to FGB at the address given below:



**My response** - please tick as necessary

Today I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour

Please send me free copies of the FGB *Voice* magazine

Send me also the FGB booklet, *Fulfil Your Destiny*

Age group: 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70+

My name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

**Post to:** FGB, PO Box 11, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QP

This booklet is produced by the **Full Gospel Businessmen** in the UK and Ireland — or FGB for short. This fellowship began through the vision of a Christian businessman. Today, there are thousands of Local Chapters meeting in more than 100 countries.

FGB is in many towns and cities across the UK and we welcome newcomers to our regular events, such as informal dinner evenings, breakfast meetings or social events with a guest speaker.

Men of all backgrounds are welcome, whether working, retired or unemployed, no-one is excluded.

FGB is an 'arm of the church,' endorsed by many Christian leaders,



including the **Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu**, left, who says, "We need more men like them!"

Women are also encouraged to support the work of FGB through membership of '**Women of the Fellowship.**' We also produce the popular pocket-sized testimony



magazine called ***Voice***. For details, or to find your nearest local FGB event, contact the FGB National Office at:



Email: **[office@fgbuk.org](mailto:office@fgbuk.org)**  
Tel. 01565 632 667  
Website: **[www.fgbuk.org](http://www.fgbuk.org)**



**FGB**

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