

Foundations Truth #1: How to Start a Pursuit of God

Jesus himself taught that life and faith boil down to two simple tasks: loving God and loving people ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)). But how does a relationship with God even start? The Bible teaches that it's not about how good you are or how hard you try to please him. Here's the first foundational truth for any person's pursuit of God: **We start by trusting Jesus.**

Our problem is sin.

According to the Bible, people are not "right with God" by nature. The world is broken, along with everyone in it. [A simple definition of sin](#) is this: "trusting and acting on your own opinions or feelings instead of trusting and acting on God's truth." That's what Adam and Eve did in [Genesis 3](#). And that's what we all still do today. And sin has its consequences:

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death*

Our solution is Jesus.

The good news is that God wasn't OK with leaving us in our broken condition. He sent [Jesus as the solution](#) to our sin problem. Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died on cross. And he did it all to solve our sin problem and put us in a position to be saved.

Galatians 1:4 *Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.*

Our response is faith.

But the work of Christ on the cross does nothing for us until we respond. The Bible teaches that each individual must make a personal decision to trust Jesus for salvation. The [faith moment](#) requires two things: [the right information about Jesus](#) (and us) and the right attitude toward God (called [repentance](#)). It doesn't take a lifetime of good works; happens in a moment.

Romans 10:9-10 *If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

Romans 3:22 *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.*

When you're ready for your faith moment, you can respond in [faith](#) with [a simple prayer](#). Do it with a friend, mentor, or small group – and then continue to pursue God together.

Discussion Questions

1. **Set Up:** Watch the video together (see above) or invite someone to [summarize the talking points](#).
2. What did you grow up believing about religion (Jesus, heaven, etc)?
3. Read [Romans 3:23](#). Do you agree that everyone chooses their own path? Give an example from your own life.
4. Read [Romans 6:23](#). Make a list of the ways [sin can bring “death”](#) into our lives.
5. Why does it offend some people today to think that Jesús did 100% of the work to save us?
6. Read [Romans 3:22](#). Talk about [what it means to be made “right with God”](#). Is it hard to believe that anyone can be made right with God by trusting in Jesus? Explain.
7. Have you had your “faith moment”? If so, when was it? If not, are you ready to trust in Jesus today? Talk about [getting to the faith moment](#).
8. **Takeaway:** Write a [personal action step](#) based on this conversation.

Resources on this Topic

Getting to Your Faith Moment

Are you ready to start a relationship with God by trusting Jesus? This conversation will help you get to your defining moment of faith.

How Your Attitude Affects Your Pursuit of God

Learn about an attitude of “repentance” – a churchy word describing the attitude we must have to start a relationship with God.

Who is the “Son of Man”?

The title “Son of Man” seems to point to Jesus’ identification with humanity. But the historical background of the phrase suggests that it denotes Jesus’ identity as Messiah and more.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Jesus challenged the thinking of the religious establishment. In doing this, Jesus showed that God cares more about people than the rules.

Biblical Themes: An Animated Explanation of ‘The Messiah’

The biblical theme of “Messiah” is all over the Bible – from the very first book to the very last book. The “Messiah” is the biblical concept of “savior” – and his name is Jesus.