

## Having a Living Relationship with God

1. Recognize your need for forgiveness. Roman 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Your sin separates you from God. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
2. Recognize that God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for you. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Galatians 2:20 “I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
3. Repent of your sin. This means to admit to God you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sins, and with His help, turn away from your sins. Luke 13:3 “...but unless you repent, you too will perish.” 1 Peter 3:18a “For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...” Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
4. Receive Jesus Christ/believe in Him as your Savior. This means that you accept God’s offer of love, mercy and forgiveness. This means that you trust Jesus Christ as your only Savior. This means that you are free from struggling and trying to save yourself by your good works. Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” John 1:12 “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”
5. Confess Christ. This means that you will not be ashamed to let others know that you

are a Christian and have a relationship with God. When you receive Christ, you should let someone else know about it. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Matthew 10:32 “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in Heaven.” Romans 10:9 “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

6. Share this prayer with God in your own words: *Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I need You. I ask You to forgive me and set me free from sin and death. I believe that Jesus died to provide forgiveness for my sins, to restore my relationship with You, and to fill me with His joy. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ to come into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this time on, help me to live in a living, obedient relationship with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*
7. Abide in Christ. This means that you actively live out your faith. This means that you grow in: your walk with Christ, knowledge of Him, and love for the Word of God. John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”
8. If you have begun a relationship with God by trusting Christ as your Savior, please let a trusted Christian friend, family member, pastor, teacher, or youth leader know. They would consider it a privilege to be of help to you in your new life with Christ.