A person's silhouette is shown from behind, walking on a modern, brightly lit walkway. The ceiling is a complex grid of lights, creating a strong perspective effect. The overall atmosphere is futuristic and high-tech.

**NEXT
STEPS
KNOWING
JESUS**

WELCOME

- 03 | Welcome
- 04 | Walking with Jesus
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WELCOME TO NEXT STEPS

Next Steps was created to support you as you explore the Christian faith and find out more about Jesus; who He is and what it means to be His follower.

Walking with Jesus

Who is Jesus? And what difference does his life mean for me? Start your journey here by learning what it really means to follow Jesus.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood or even completely overlooked. Discover who the Holy Spirit is, what He does and how He helps those who follow Jesus.

A New Creation

What will be different when I become a Christian? Will I change? Find out what happens when you make a decision to follow Jesus Christ and become a Christian.

Baptism

Baptism is a significant event as you journey with Jesus. Here you will find out more about why getting baptised is important.

The Next Steps

Now you understand all about what it is to be a Christian, what's the next step you should be taking?

WALKING WITH JESUS

Following Jesus is a very personal, individual decision. Each and every person has the opportunity, through faith, to decide to follow Jesus for themselves.

Being a follower of Jesus Christ was never intended to be for a select or exclusive group. God intended for everyone, from every nation, to accept His Son as their personal saviour.

Jesus showed His love for humankind by paying the ultimate sacrifice. Jesus gave His life for us and in return, He asks that we follow Him.

When we follow Jesus, we have faith in Him and who He is, and we accept the eternal life He extends to us. It is that simple. Once we do this, we are agreeing to surrender ourselves to Jesus, to allow Him to direct our lives and to place our relationship with Him above our own will and desires. Following Jesus is a life-changing commitment to be taken seriously.

Has your life been faced with challenges? Have you felt like you are walking in darkness with no hope for the future? If your answer is 'yes' to these questions, you have the opportunity to surrender everything to Him. He can lead you into a better, hope filled life.

Much like ice, and steam are water, Christians believe that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equal and part of the same being – working in harmony with each other. The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit is present within us.

The Holy Spirit is a beautiful and powerful part of who God is. We need Him in our life to help us to become who God created us to be.

The Holy Spirit shows us that there is sin in our lives. He comes to show us that we need to confess this sin and receive the gift of Salvation. As we turn from our sin (the Bible calls this repentance), the Holy Spirit is able to help us see a new and better way of living our lives and making choices for our good.

Jesus said before He ascended to heaven that the Holy Spirit would come and dwell within us. We think of Him as God with us, helping and empowering us to live a life that radiates the goodness of God.

As a follower of Jesus, when you are feeling powerless, overwhelmed or like you're failing at life, you can have confidence that you're not alone. You can start each day knowing the Holy Spirit is there to help you. He is the power that sustains, energises, and keeps you on the right path.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sin simply means not meeting God's perfect standards. An important part of becoming a Christian is turning away from sin and turning to God.

The technical term for this is 'repentance'. Because of sin, we are separated from God and face a life on earth and an eternity without Him. The Bible tells us that the wages or consequence of sin is death. (Romans 6:23 NLT)

Repentance begins when we realise that we have sinned – that many things we've thought, said and done have been hurtful, wrong and unhealthy. When we become aware at how unhappy these things make God we can ask for His forgiveness, and His help. God promises that He will forgive our sins.

Even though our attempts to stop sinning will be imperfect, God's forgiveness is total and complete. Our sins are forgiven and forgotten.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9

Jesus loves us, and if we believe in Him, we will spend eternity with Him. Deciding to be a Christian is far more than just believing in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is a daily decision to have a relationship with Him. To follow Him, talk with Him and listen to Him. Relationships are a two-way thing, and deciding to do life with Jesus will change your life in the best possible way.

BAPTISM

Baptism is the first step of discipleship as a Christian. It is an outward act that shows to the world what has been happening on the inside of the person – that Jesus now lives in them.

The Bible says this: "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 ESV

Repent simply means to change your mind or to turn away from. When you decide to follow Jesus, you are changing your mindset, turning away from your old life and turning towards Jesus!

When someone goes under the water in Baptism, they are saying that they are dying to their old life, just like Jesus died to take away the sins of our old life. When they come back out of the water, they are saying that they are now living in Jesus' resurrection power.

Going under the water is a burial of your old life; coming up out of it is a resurrection – God raising you from the dead as He did Christ.

I'VE MADE A DECISION

If what you have read here has made you want to begin your relationship with Jesus and follow Him then we encourage you to take your Next Step and pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.
I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead.
I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour.

Amen

A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown from a high-angle, over-the-shoulder perspective. She is wearing a white, textured knit sweater and blue jeans. She is sitting outdoors, holding an open book in her hands. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with greenery and a stone wall. The text 'THE NEXT STEPS' is written vertically in white, outlined letters on the left side of the image. The text 'YOUR NEW LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN' is written vertically in white, outlined letters on the right side of the image.

THE NEXT STEPS

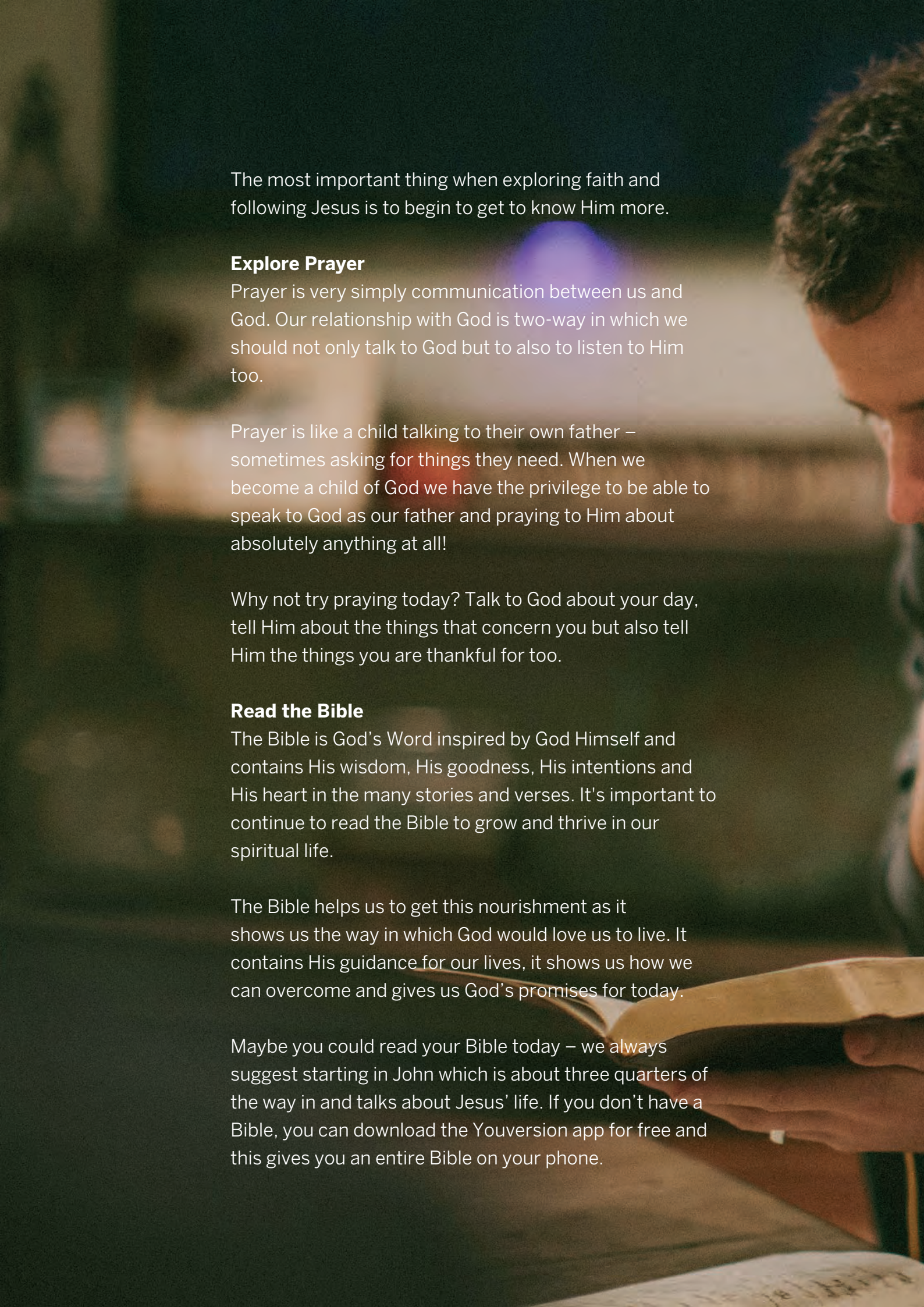
YOUR NEW LIFE HAS JUST BEGUN

When someone becomes a Christian something amazing happens – we become a brand-new person who has a new life in Jesus!

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ.

Becoming a Christian isn't about religion, but it does mean living a transformed and holy life with Jesus right at the centre of all that we do and all that we are.

Following Jesus is about letting Him transform us into brand new people. From the inside out!



The most important thing when exploring faith and following Jesus is to begin to get to know Him more.

Explore Prayer

Prayer is very simply communication between us and God. Our relationship with God is two-way in which we should not only talk to God but to also to listen to Him too.

Prayer is like a child talking to their own father – sometimes asking for things they need. When we become a child of God we have the privilege to be able to speak to God as our father and praying to Him about absolutely anything at all!

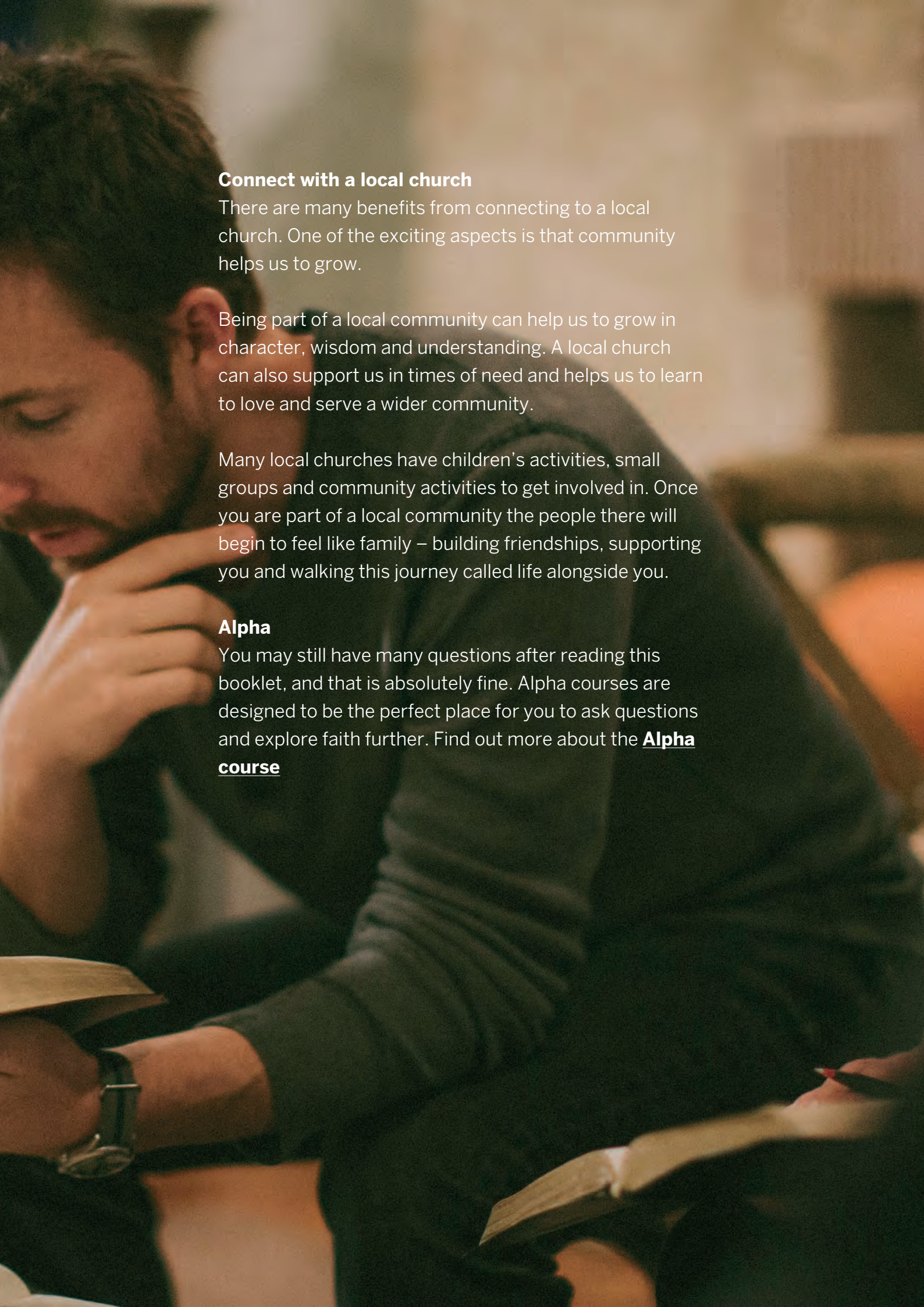
Why not try praying today? Talk to God about your day, tell Him about the things that concern you but also tell Him the things you are thankful for too.

Read the Bible

The Bible is God's Word inspired by God Himself and contains His wisdom, His goodness, His intentions and His heart in the many stories and verses. It's important to continue to read the Bible to grow and thrive in our spiritual life.

The Bible helps us to get this nourishment as it shows us the way in which God would love us to live. It contains His guidance for our lives, it shows us how we can overcome and gives us God's promises for today.

Maybe you could read your Bible today – we always suggest starting in John which is about three quarters of the way in and talks about Jesus' life. If you don't have a Bible, you can download the Youversion app for free and this gives you an entire Bible on your phone.

A man with a beard and dark hair is shown in profile, looking down at an open book he is holding. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved sweater. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior with warm lighting. The overall mood is contemplative and focused.

Connect with a local church

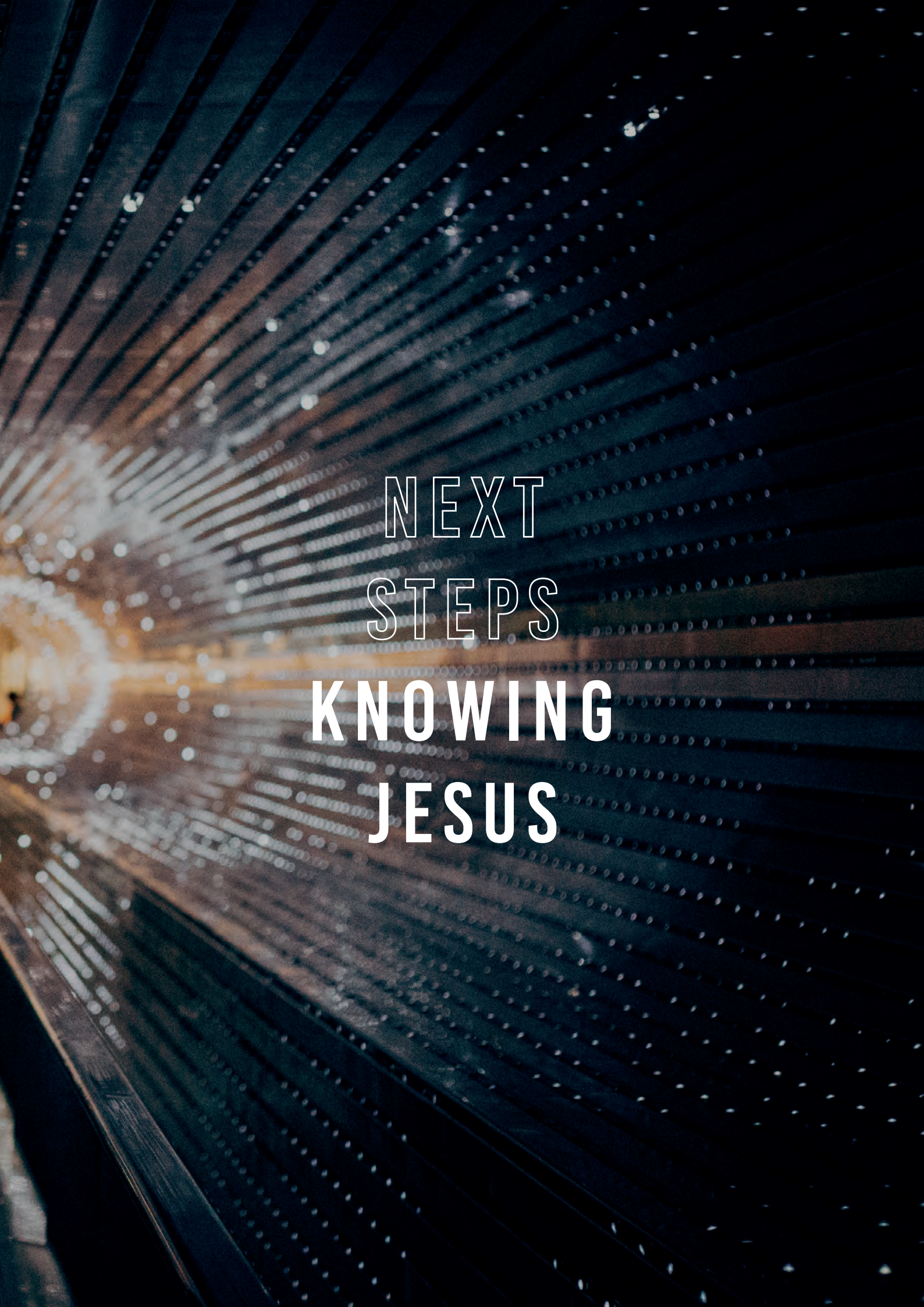
There are many benefits from connecting to a local church. One of the exciting aspects is that community helps us to grow.

Being part of a local community can help us to grow in character, wisdom and understanding. A local church can also support us in times of need and helps us to learn to love and serve a wider community.

Many local churches have children's activities, small groups and community activities to get involved in. Once you are part of a local community the people there will begin to feel like family – building friendships, supporting you and walking this journey called life alongside you.

Alpha

You may still have many questions after reading this booklet, and that is absolutely fine. Alpha courses are designed to be the perfect place for you to ask questions and explore faith further. Find out more about the **[Alpha course](#)**



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