



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Nau mai, hāere mai ki te whānau

We are so excited that you've made a decision to follow Jesus! The Bible says that heaven rejoices when one person decides to turn from their old life and live for God. We are rejoicing with all of heaven that you have made this decision!

The next step in your journey of faith is getting to know God and learning to live each day with Him. Here are some practical tips we've put together to help you to start growing in your faith. We want to help you flourish and experience all that God has for you!

READ THE BIBLE

- The Bible is God's Word to us - in its pages are stories, wisdom, and direction for how to live our lives. When we accept its authority, soak in its truths, and apply it to our lives we will grow in our relationship with Jesus.
- You will find some interesting background info on the Bible by following the "Christian Stuff" link at the end of this email.
- If you don't have a copy of the Bible at home there are plenty of great digital Bible apps - YouVersion is a good one you can download on your phone or you can access it [here](#) to read on your computer - they also have some great New Believers content [here](#). If the Bible is new to you, a great place to start is the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and then the rest of the New Testament.
- We are currently reading Bible in One Year as a church family which you can access [here](#) if you'd like to join us! Don't stress if it's too much or you can't keep up, just join us where you can - it's nice to know we are reading the same parts together as a family!
- There is a great resource called The Bible Project with lots of fun and interesting videos about how to read and understand the bible. Click [here](#) to check it out!

PRAY

- Prayer is simply talking and listening to God! We can share anything with God in prayer; it helps us deepen our relationship with Him.
- You can pray anytime and anywhere. If prayer is new to you, you might like to pick a regular time each day as you grow in the habit of prayer. The key is being open to communicating with God - talking as well as listening in your heart to what you think God might be saying.
- If you don't know where to start, here are some ideas:
 - o Tell God what you're thankful for
 - o Thank God for who He is
 - o Tell God how you're feeling
 - o Ask God to help you in areas where you need His wisdom
 - o Pray for others around you
 - o Ask God to forgive you for your sins
 - o Ask for protection
 - o Ask God for guidance as you try and live out His purposes

JOIN A CHURCH COMMUNITY

- The Church is a group of believers that meet regularly to worship together, hear from God's Word, and encourage one another. Becoming part of a church family is an important way to grow in your faith.
- We recommend finding a church close to you - if that's our church we would love to have you! We are one Church in six campus locations spread throughout Canterbury, New Zealand. As well as Sunday services, the best way to get connected to our church family is to join a Lifegroup where people gather in people's homes throughout the week. For more details on Lifegroups and our church you can head to our website grace.org.nz

WORSHIP

- A big part of the Christian faith is singing to God in worship and spending time in His presence. We do this during Sunday services but it is also something that is great to do in your own time. Here are the names of some great Christian music you can look up on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music etc. Hillsong Worship, Bethel Music, Elevation worship. We even have our very own Grace Vineyard Music that you can look up. [Here's our Spotify link](#). Enjoy!

We also recommend getting Water Baptised (something Jesus commanded new believers to do as a sign of their faith in Him), and to attend an Alpha Course. These are things we talk more about in the discipleship journey our church runs called GROW. GROW runs on Sundays throughout the year and once our services start up again this is something we would encourage you to attend as the next step to learn about growing in your faith! Click [here](#) for an overview of GROW. If you end up at another church we encourage you to talk to them about Water Baptism and whether they run an Alpha course you can attend.

One last resource you may find helpful is this link to ["Christian Stuff"](#) which gives you six short topics to help you explore the Bible, Creation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church and other Christian beliefs.

Please let us know if we can support you in any other way. We are praying for you as you start out in this exciting adventure of getting to know God. It really is a joy to know and live for Jesus, but it is a journey, so be kind to yourself as you start putting some of these things in place to grow in faith. Please [get in touch](#) if we can support you in any other way.

*Blessings,
The team at Grace Vineyard Church*

