

CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR NEW COMMITMENT TO CHRIST.

You have just made **THE MOST IMPORTANT** decision of your entire life. Every person who asks Jesus to be their Savior has come to a point in their life where they finally admit to themselves that their lifestyle, words, thoughts, and actions can never line up with God's standard of perfection. We must all accept the fact that we cannot work our way into heaven and there is nothing we could do to pay for even one of our sins. Eternal life is not something we could ever earn. It is a gift of His love.

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."
JOHN 3:16

We are changed, we are forgiven, but we are certainly not perfect. We will always - as long as we live - have to struggle with the temptation to sin. In fact, there may be times that we will even give in to the temptation, but we can be assured that when we confess our mistakes, that Jesus has already paid the price, and those future sins can also be forgiven.

One of the first differences you will notice in your life is that you definitely have a purpose.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." **1 CORINTHIANS 10:31**

Your first priority should be to bring Glory to God - in your words, actions, reactions, and in the activities that you become involved in. Whatever we do, as Christ followers, we should seek to always reflect the purpose and personality of Jesus. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said His Purpose was to come and save the lost. This means that we must also be reaching out to those around us who do not yet know Jesus by living out the basic characteristics of His personality.

These can be remembered by using an acrostic for the word AREA:

AUTHENTIC
RELEVANT
ENJOYABLE
ACCEPTING

As a Christian, be aware if what you are doing and what you are saying is authentic. Do you recognize the relevance of Jesus and demonstrate His truth in all that you do? Are you an enjoyable person to be around, loving, friendly, kind, etc.? Do you judge others because of their actions or do you accept them as someone who needs Christ? Fulfilling our God-given purpose gives life wonderful new meaning and direction.

BAPTISM

One of our first steps is to be baptized, because Jesus set the example for us. Before He began His ministry, the first thing Jesus did was to be baptized. Baptism is a wonderful illustration of what has taken place in your heart and it is a wonderful way for you to announce to the world that you have given your life to Jesus and are ready to follow Him. Baptism does not save you or wash away your sins. It is an outward sign that you have died to your old sinful life and have been raised to walk in a new life with Jesus guiding and directing your path. Baptism at The Met is offered during various weekend services.



RELATIONSHIP

When we ask Jesus to be our Savior and to live in our hearts, we become part of His Church and His Body of Believers. It is important as a new believer to get connected to a local church that can assist you in your new relationship with God. We are so excited to have you as a part of The Met, and we want to walk alongside you in your steps to follow Christ.

Now God wants you to take your next step spiritually. That could mean getting baptized, committing to a small group, discovering how God wants to use you to serve others, or just learning more about God's plan for your life. Our Connections Team will help you learn all about those next steps and help you take your next step spiritually, as well as what you can do to develop habits to jump-start your spiritual growth.

And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching.

HEBREWS 10:25

In order to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus, we should all make it a priority every day to spend some quality time getting to know our Savior. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I Am God." By spending time with Him, we begin to learn more about His ways and the plans He has for us and that we can trust Him in everything. Spending time with Jesus can take place several different ways.



BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word. It can tell us everything we need to know about Jesus, so that our relationship with Him can continue to grow. The Met offers many opportunities for you to learn how to study God's Word and to study the Bible with other believers. For instance, we have Life Groups and we offer a variety of Bible Studies each semester.

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

PRAYER

We are to be joyful always - notice it does not say "happy". We are to pray continually. This includes a special time of daily prayer when we can praise God and ask Him about things that concern us. We are to give thanks in all circumstances. That's right - it says in ALL circumstances.

WITNESS

One of the greatest privileges we have is to tell others verbally and by our lifestyle about what Jesus has done in our lives. The very last thing Jesus said to His disciples before He ascended into heaven was that we will be His witnesses. To be a witness, means to tell someone else about our experience. We don't have to know big philosophical terms. We don't have to have a degree in theology, etc. We can just share with our families, our friends, co-workers, and anyone else God brings into our sphere of influence what Jesus has done for us and how much our lives have been affected by His presence.

When we ask Jesus to be the Lord of our life, He gives us His Holy Spirit to live within us and the Holy Spirit begins working in our hearts. His work involves all sorts of things. For instance, He is our Counselor. He will help us make decisions and will convict us when we make unwise choices. He will help us understand God's Word and discern between what is false and what is true. One of the most important things the Holy Spirit does is He begins to grow the fruit of His Spirit in our lives to replace the acts of the natural man and as this happens, we will begin to notice changes in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Others will notice these changes too. Look at the difference between the acts of the natural man and the much-desired Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:19-26.

"What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

ACTS 1:8

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

GIVING

One of the most effective ways we can demonstrate our thankfulness to God for all that He has provided for us is through giving of our time, our talents, and our money. In the Old Testament, the practice of tithing - giving a tenth of our income - was established, which is a good measure to go by so that everyone can give - not in comparison with others - but out of the income that God has blessed us with. You can learn all about giving at metchurch.com/give.



SERVING

One of the most important things we can do on a daily basis to demonstrate our love for Jesus is to serve. This service includes serving God and serving our fellow man. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus said that, “He came to earth not to be served but to serve.” So our goal should be to follow His example. As believers, God gives each one of us at least one Spiritual gift that we can utilize to serve God and others. There are many spiritual gifts such as the gift of hospitality, the gift of encouragement, or the gift of teaching. A list of many of these gifts can be found in 1 Corinthians 12 and we recommend you work with our volunteer team to help you discover yours.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”
1 PETER 4:10

UNSURE OF YOUR GIFTS?

It is easy to serve at the Met! Our Connections staff will help you identify your God-given gifts and get you connected in your place of service today. We are excited for you to experience the joy and fulfillment of serving others.



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

If you have not been in touch with our staff, email us at info@metchurch.com and we will get connected with you!