

# FAITH TRACKS: Day 1

## Basic Guides to Spiritual Growth • Introduction (Sunday)

### WHERE DO I BEGIN?

CONGRATULATIONS! Welcome to God’s family! The most important decision we make in this life is where we’ll spend eternity. You have just started that new life! God has forgiven you because Jesus Christ gave His life to pay the penalty for your sins. He’s changing you and making you a new person.

This course is designed to help you through the first week of your new life. This new life is not just “religion,” it is a relationship with God! Each lesson will only take 10 to 15 minutes of your time to complete and the best time to start is right now. Take the next few moments and complete the following exercise.

Remember, God loves you and the people of Columbia Life Center are here to help you in your new walk of faith. We’re as close as phone call!

God bless you on your new life in Christ!

#### 1. HOW DO I FIND THINGS IN THE BIBLE?

One of the most important things to remember is that the Bible is God’s Word. It is the road map, or instruction manual for your new life in Christ. It is the most important book you will ever own.

The Bible is one book; however it’s also like a library that contains 66 books, in two sections called the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is primarily the story of God’s people before Jesus was born, and the New Testament is primarily about God’s people after Jesus was born. But unlike a story book, or a novel the Bible also contains God’s plan for your life.

Since the Bible is such a large collection of writings it can seem a little overwhelming when you first start to use it and one of the most important things to learn is how to look up scriptures, or verses.

#### 2 STEPS FOR FINDING SCRIPTURES:

**Step 1: Use the Table of Contents.** Like every other book your Bible will have a Table of Contents in the front. It will list the books in the Bible along with the

page number where that book begins. So let’s give it a try on the next page... Listed below are four books in the Bible. Using the Table of Contents write down which page each book starts on:

Exodus: \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah: \_\_\_\_\_

John: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step two: Finding the chapter and verse.** After you find the book of the Bible you will notice that each book is divided into chapters that are numbered in sequence. You will also notice that each chapter is divided into sections called verses. They will have a small number beside them. This system was invented years ago by a Presbyterian minister who wanted to make it easier to look up scriptures.

The when we write down, or say the book, chapter, and verse we want to read it’s called a scripture reference and it will look like this: John 3:16. You will notice that the book is always listed first followed by a space, then the chapter, followed by a colon, finally the verse or verses are listed. Let’s give it a try. Listed below some scripture references. Look them using the information you just learned and write the verse on the spaces provided. *(Remember, start by looking up the page number for the book in the table of contents.)*

Genesis 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremiah 29:11 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! You’ve now mastered the most important skill you will need to grow in your new life in Christ.!