

Congratulations! You've taken the first step in your journey with Christ. You may be asking "Now what?" The truth is that there is so much to come. A relationship with Jesus is truly a lifelong adventure. Some things to look forward to are:

Knowing that you are saved—Romans 10:9 (ESV) says "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Have you done that? Do you believe it in your heart? If yes, then no matter what, you know that you are saved! 1 John 5:11-12 (ESV) says that, "...God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son does not have life." Ultimately, it comes down to knowing Jesus.

Knowing that God hears you and answers when you pray—When you pray, you are talking to God. You may not hear Him talking back out loud, but He is there, and He does answer. Philippians 4:6 (MES) tells us, "Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns." God wants to answer, but first we have to ask! Psalm 37:4 says "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Knowing that you are forgiven—1 John 1:9 (MES) says, "...if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive us of all wrongdoing." God knows we are sinners. But, when you have a relationship with Jesus, the fact that you are a sinner is replaced by the fact that you are forgiven.

Knowing that ultimately, the Sin that separates us from God has been defeated—Sin is ugly stuff. It is so ugly that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for it! Because of that, we have victory over sin. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (MES) explains it this way:

"No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it."

This means that in every situation God gives you the ability to overcome sin because of Jesus. It also means that ultimately, we as Christians get to share in the eternal victory over Sin in Heaven.

Knowing that God has great things in store for you—God promises in Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV), "For I know the plans I have for you...plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." He has plans for each one of His children. They are plans far greater than we could ever imagine alone. He doesn't immediately reveal these plans, but through a relationship with Jesus, God works out these plans in the lives of Christians. Proverbs 3:5-6 (MES) says, "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track." You may not always understand what God is doing, but know that He is always there and always working in your life.

Here are some things you can do as you get started and as you continue on this journey with Jesus:

Get a bible—Ask your youth leader to get you one with wording that makes sense to you

Read it—The Bible is a big book, but don't get overwhelmed. Some good places to start are:

- Luke and Acts—The story of Jesus and the first Christians
- Romans—a letter to new Christians about living in a non-Christian world
- Genesis and Exodus—the beginning of it all, as well as some stories about real people who had amazing faith walking with God

Talk about it—Talk to your youth leader or another Christian adult. Ask questions about things you don't understand, talk about what you are learning and how it is making a difference in your life. Also, talk to God about it—this is prayer!

Share it—This journey isn't meant to be walked alone. God made us to be in relationships and walk with others. Find a church. If you came to YD with a church group, start there. If you didn't come with a church, talk to your guide and group leader—they will help you find one.