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CONTENTS:

WELCOME!	4
FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU	8
FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW	12
A PERFECT FATHER’S LOVE	16
FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT	20
THREE IN ONE – WHO ME?	24
ONE OF THE FAMILY	27
PRAYER: WHAT IS THAT?	30
CHANGED PRIORITIES AHEAD!	33
THE NEXT STEP	36
APPENDIX A - is God real?	38
APPENDIX B - word helps	41
APPENDIX C - God’s promises for you	46

WELCOME!

If you have this booklet and do not yet know Jesus personally then please turn to p.38 and read through *Appendix A – is God real?* Do this before going any further.

It is only when we know Jesus and have His Holy Spirit living inside us that we start to understand what it is to journey through life with Him. Now you have discovered Jesus and asked Him into your life this booklet is one tool that will help you as you set off on your journey of adventure; because life with Jesus is an ‘adventure’ of sorts.

DISCUSS:

- » How did you first become aware of the reality of Jesus or God?
- » What was it that drew you to Him?
- » What was going on in your life at the time?

You will need a Bible as you go through this booklet. God uses His Word to speak directly to us. I know that may sound somewhat strange but you will soon see what I mean. There are a lot of modern translations available but to start with I would recommend the New International Version. You may also find it useful to have a notebook and pen to take notes and write down your thoughts as you go along.



The Bible is God’s word written down. It is an incredible life changing book full of truth which is still completely relevant for 21st Century life! I recommend that whenever I give the reference

to a Bible passage that you look it up simply because it is good to train yourself to read the Bible! The easiest way to look things up in a Bible is to go the Contents Page at the front. You will find the Bible is split into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the account of God at work in our world before Jesus came to live amongst us; the New Testament covers the beginning of a new era when God entered into our world through Jesus' birth, death and resurrection.

“*‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work’ 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

DISCUSS:

- » Do you have a Bible yet?
- » If so what translation is it?

If you turn to p.41 *Appendix B – word helps*, you will find simple explanations of some of the words used in the booklet. If you want to dig a bit deeper it might also be useful to have a dictionary handy. We are going to start by looking at some words Jesus said to His disciples before He returned to heaven. Note carefully what Jesus promised (in bold type)!

“*‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**’* Matthew 28:19-20

It is important to start building your relationship with Jesus right away. So spend a few moments right now quietly thinking about the promise you have just read; intentionally be aware of Jesus' presence with you.

DISCUSS:

- » How is it possible to become more aware of Jesus' presence with us?

Different personalities connect with God and relate to Him in differing ways: some prefer noise and modern music whereas others find Him in peace and formality of organised liturgy. Sometimes we do this privately at home alone and other times we do this in a group with other believers. We definitely grow in our relationship with God when we meet with other believers on a regular basis.

DISCUSS:

- » Why do you think this is?
- » Do you have an existing church preference or connection?
- » Would you like to be introduced to a church or fellowship group?

As you read the Bible, you will come to realise it is like a mirror that Jesus uses to show you yourself and to reveal Himself to you. This will not only be exciting and challenging but also very rewarding.

— Talk to Jesus now in a way that feels comfortable to you. Ask Him to help you to draw nearer to Him. Do not worry that you may not feel or see Him; faith does not follow feelings; just believe that He is with you.

Expect revelation. If you are not sure what that means, then turn to p.41 *Appendix B – word helps*, where you will find it in the list. If you feel a bit awkward talking to Jesus in this way then perhaps read the following prayer out loud:

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for everything You have done for me. I really want to get to know You better, so please will You help me? Please give me understanding Lord. Thank You. Amen

Now you have talked to Jesus you may want to read this booklet in one go or take it a chapter at a time; either way – enjoy the journey.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

You have had an encounter with Jesus and your eyes have been opened to understand that there is much more to life than you ever thought or imagined! This booklet is here to help you; it may even take everything that you thought you knew about yourself and about God and literally flip it on its head. Your life may never be the same again.

Think about this: God has a very special plan and purpose for your life. I can say this because He has said it in the Bible.

Turn to the contents page in your Bible and look up the Book of Jeremiah. Once you have found it read chapter 29 and verses 11 to 12.

When, as a new Christian, I first read those verses I was absolutely blown away that Almighty God, the Creator of the universe, should care about me and have made plans for me! Perhaps you may be thinking: ‘...those words were for people back in history, they don’t apply to me’. Yes, that is true at one level but as you go on through this booklet you will discover that God’s Word is eternal and also applies to us in the here and now as well .

DISCUSS:

- » What do you think about this?
- » How does it make you feel about yourself?

God is a loving Father who never stops talking to us; He wants our relationship with Him to be two-sided not one-sided. Therefore it is necessary for us to deliberately set time aside to listen to what He has to say every day. Do not worry if you do not hear anything at this stage; it can take time for us to recognise His voice and become aware of when He is speaking to us. Even if you do not think you are hearing Him, thank Him in faith for being with you.

DISCUSS:

- » Did you hear anything at all?
- » Was it an encouraging word or negative?

A word of caution: if any of the impressions or words you hear are accusing or condemnatory then they are NOT from God. Deliberately choose not to accept them. God is love and you will discover that His love for you is greater than you could ever imagine.

DISCUSS:

- » How are you going to build-in time to your day to communicate with God?
- » What will work best for you?
- » Are you a morning or evening person?

It is good to get in the habit of listening to God after reading a Bible verse or passage. One of the people in the Bible called Paul wrote this:

“*For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. and pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*” Ephesians 3:14-19

