

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a Next Steps resource we call *First Steps*. This guide is for those who have been walking through life and have come to a realization: you don't like the path you're on. Maybe you're wondering where to turn, what direction to take, or what comes next. And maybe you've realized that the best next step... is a first step.

This booklet is designed for people who are spiritually curious. Perhaps you're exploring different beliefs, asking questions about faith, or simply trying to understand what "church" is all about. Or maybe you've already made the decision to follow Jesus and are preparing to be baptized.

We believe baptism is not the end of your journey—it's the beginning.

Choosing to follow Jesus is rooted in the commitment we express during baptism: allowing Him to become both Savior and Lord of our lives.

As **Savior**, Jesus offers us something we cannot achieve on our own—a transformative power that brings forgiveness and new life. Though sin leads to judgment, separation, and death, His saving grace gives us life, love, and the promise of eternity with Him.

As **Lord**, we surrender control of our lives. We no longer live according to our own shifting desires or the influence of culture. Instead, we choose to follow the truth revealed through Scripture, trusting Jesus to lead us in a way that brings lasting hope, peace, love, and joy.