

And I am sure of this, that he who began
a good work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

THE JOURNEY

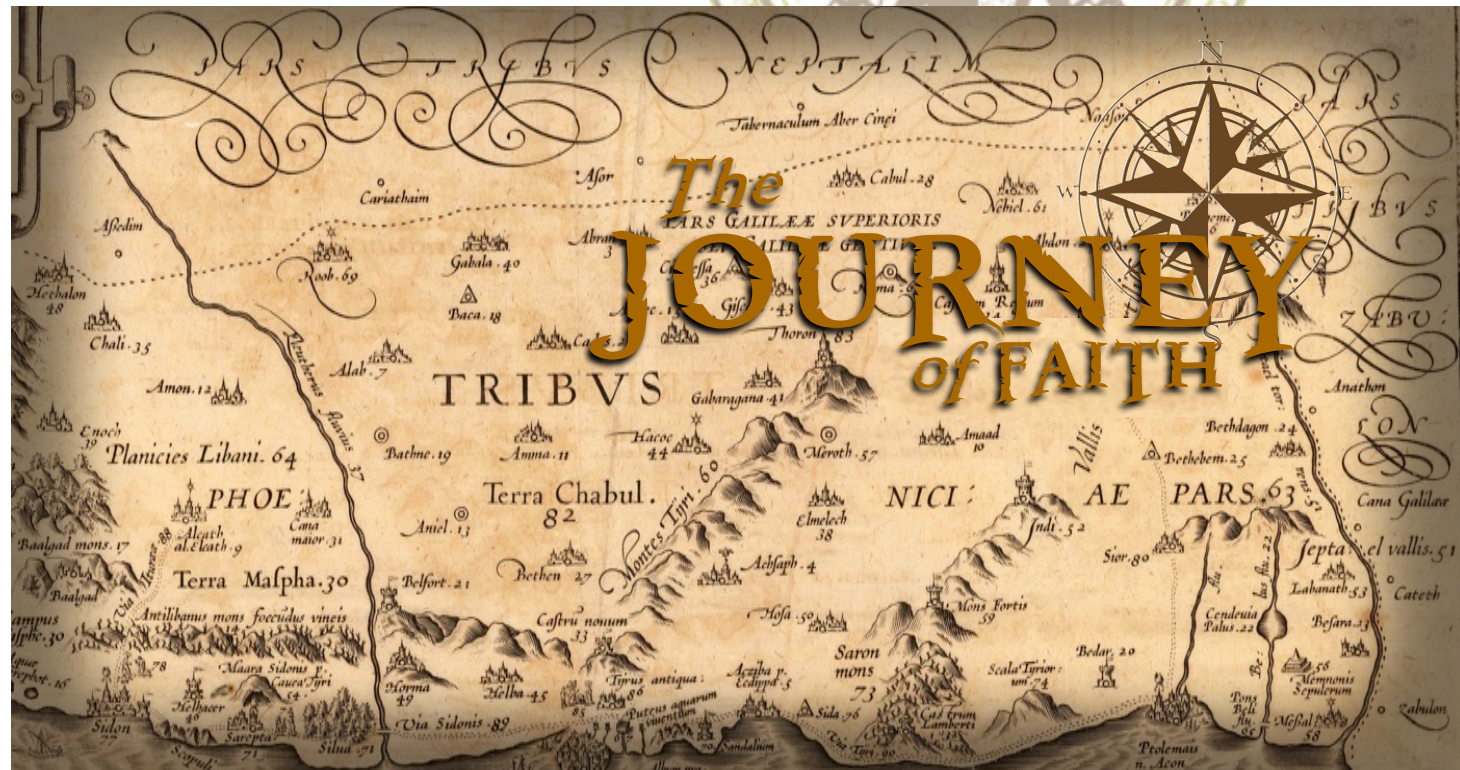
Our hope is to help you lay out the road map for your journey of faith. To do that you have to start by knowing where you are. Next you have to skip ahead to the end so you can figure out where you want to be. Then are finally ready to go back to the beginning and plan the steps it is going to take to get from start to finish!

Once you have surrendered your life to God and been saved ... what now? Start by:

- Read your **Bible** and **Praying**
- Get involved in a **Small Group**
- Go to the **Biblical Foundations Class** and discover more of who God is
- Become a committed **Member** of the church
- Find **Someone** to help you grow in Christ
- Find a place to get involved and **Serve**
- Begin to **Share** your faith with others

So look up toward the finish line ... GO!

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:2**

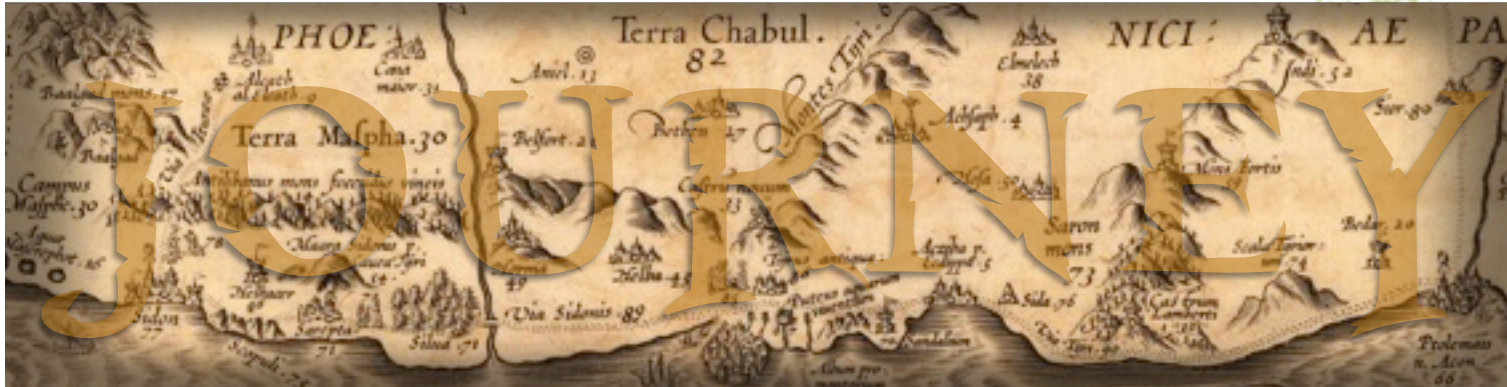
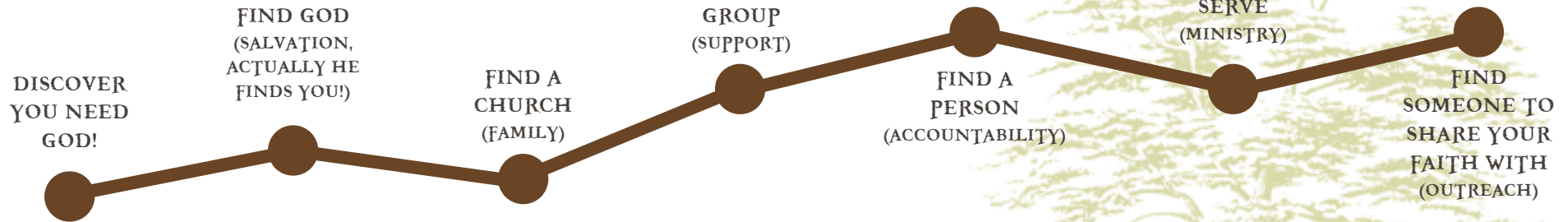


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WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

WHAT TO EXPECT ALONG THE JOURNEY:



“WHEN JESUS CHRIST SAID, REPENT, HE CALLED FOR THE ENTIRE LIFE OF BELIEVERS TO BE ONE OF REPENTANCE”
MARTIN LUTHER

I. Start by acknowledging where you are starting from!

- Where ever you are with God, be honest with God and yourself.
- Ask God to reveal even more of Himself to you through His word!
- Every Christian should have a moment of decision where you chose to surrender your life to God, and you say with your mouth what your heart believes: that Jesus is God, His death on the cross paid for your sins and His resurrection means you get to have new life, eternal life as well!
- If you have never prayed something like that ... **YOU CAN DO IT NOW!** (it doesn't have to be a *perfect* prayer, it has to *your* prayer, from a sincere heart)

II. Next you need to figure out where you want to go!

- Our goal is not to be a better person or just control our behaviors.
- **OUR GOAL IS GOD HIMSELF!**

- Yes, we want to spend eternity with Him in heaven ...
- But we also want His will to be done on earth (and in *MY LIFE*) as it is in heaven!
- So we want to know God more, and see Him more for who He really is.
- And ultimately we want our lives to reflect more of God's character than ours, as He daily changes us from the inside out.

III. Now you are ready to start walking towards your goal following the instructions on how to get there!

- Jesus has given us the instruction manual to follow in the Bible!
- *You are not going to understand the whole Bible overnight!*
- *Read some every day and ask God to help you understand.*
- Stay hooked up with a local church family and local Christians who can help you grow and learn!
- *Don't try to do it on your own!*

- Get involved with a small group where you can build relationships and ask questions.
- *Don't let shyness or insecurity keep you from connecting to God's people!*
- Within the smaller group, find one or two people who you can be accountable to. (where you can share your deepest, darkest secrets and they will still love you!)
- You will mess up! So live a life of repentance!
- *As soon as the Holy Spirit shows you sin, confess it and repent quickly ...*
- *Expect change in your life - as God changes your old heart you will want to change your old habits.*
- Talk to God!
- *Prayer can be as simple as just telling God how your feeling, asking questions, or even telling Him your frustrations.*

- *Nothing is too big or too small to talk to God about!*
- Find a place to get involved and serve.
- *What has God gifted you to do? What do you like doing? What do you notice needs done? (Here's a hint ... that is probably a good place to start!)*
- *Don't wait until you are perfect to start serving ... you will have a long wait! ;)*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what gifts He has given you and where to best use them.*
- Share your faith along your journey!
- *Don't wait for the story to be finished before you start telling it. Start now!*
- *Talk about God and what He is doing in your life with friends and family.*
- *Maybe you don't have all the answers but you can share what you do have with the people God's put around you*
- *Now you become their connection to the church and their journey begins!*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105