

I Gave My Heart to Jesus. What's Next?

Congratulations on giving your heart to Jesus! That's the first step in a life long relationship with Him.

The next step is to learn how to grow in your new relationship with God.

Here at epic we call that living the 5 G life.

God > grow > gather > give > go

God

Everything starts with God. He is the giver and sustainer of all life!

To grow a relationship with Him, we must spend time talking and listening to Him on a daily basis. This is what the Bible calls prayer.

For some suggestions on how to grow in prayer, listen to the podcast "God - talking and listening" under our resources tab on our website www.theepicchurch.com.

> grow

The next thing that's important is to learn how to apply what we are reading in the Bible. That involves learning how to read the Bible on a daily basis and how to apply what we are reading.

For help on learning how to read the Bible, read the articles "Bible Basics 101" and "Ways to Study the Bible" on our resources tab on our website. You can also listen to the podcast "Grow - learning from God" to hear more about growing your relationship with God.

> gather

Gathering involves learning how to live in biblical community with other Christ-followers. It involves learning to do life together and caring for each other as Christ cares for us. For us at epic, we gather in what we call "small groups." People meet at different locations on different days all with the same purpose of growing closer to God and closer to each other.

The entry point for our small groups is a group called "Starting Point." Check on our website for the next Starting Point Introduction.

You can also listen to the podcast "Gather - to live in community" to learn more about gathering in community with other Christ-followers.

> give

God wants us to become givers because He is a giver! He wants us to give of our time, talents and resources to advance His kingdom throughout the world. God has given you special talents and specific resources in order to help point more and more people toward Jesus.

You can give of your time and talents through finding a place to serve at epic. God has placed within you specific things that you do well. Things you probably don't even think much about. Things that actually help other people see God at work in your life and around the world. We have many places at epic that you can get connected in serving. To explore some of those options, check out our "Involved" tab on our website.

We believe that Jesus is the hope of the world and He has selected local churches to carry that message to the world. You will never regret being involved in what God is doing through a local church.

God also asks us to give back a portion of our resources to Him through a local church. Giving financially helps remind us that all that we have comes from God and it helps churches fulfill their mission of taking Jesus to the world. You can give financially as you feel led through our giving boxes on Sunday or you can give online through our "Online Giving" tab.

Listen to the podcast "Give - to advance the kingdom" to learn more about becoming a giver.

> go

Matthew 28 captures what is known as The Great Commission. The assignment Jesus gives to all of His followers.

Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20).

The whole world needs to hear about the love that Jesus offers them so God asks that we go and tell others about Jesus with our life and words. Every day we are given opportunities to point people towards Jesus by the things we say and the way we live. As the Christian cliché says, "Your life may be the only Bible that someone else ever reads."

Listen to the podcast "Go - in life and words" for more info on telling people about Jesus.

It doesn't happen over night, but living the 5 G live day by day can help us grow a stronger relationship with the Creator of the Universe Who loves us deeply!