

NEW LIFE

A 16-Week Devotional for New Believers

DOMINION LIFE CHURCH · LAKE CHARLES, LA

This devotional was written for you — whether you gave your life to Jesus yesterday or a while ago and are just now finding your footing. Sixteen weeks, one short reading each week, one verse, one small step. There's no pace to keep up with except your own.

WEEK 01

You Are Loved

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

REFLECTION

Before you ever did anything right or wrong, God loved you enough to send Jesus. That's not a reward for good behavior — it's the reason you can stop performing for God's approval and simply receive it. Whatever brought you to this moment, know this: you are not a project God is fixing. You are a son or daughter He is welcoming home.

THIS WEEK

Thank God for loving you first. Ask Him to help that truth sink from your head into your heart this week.

WEEK 02

You're a New Creation

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

REFLECTION

Your past does not get the final word anymore. That doesn't mean everything about your life changes overnight — but your identity has. You are not who you used to be, even if old habits or thoughts try to convince you otherwise. Every day you get to practice believing what's already true: you are new.

THIS WEEK

Write down one old label you're ready to let go of, and one new truth from Scripture to replace it.

WEEK 03

You Can Be Sure

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."

1 John 5:13

REFLECTION

Salvation isn't a feeling you have to chase — it's a fact you can stand on. If you've trusted Jesus, you don't have to wonder or wait for a special sign. God wrote this verse so you could know, not just hope. Doubt will come sometimes; when it does, come back to what God actually said, not just how you feel that day.

THIS WEEK

Say out loud: "I know I have eternal life because of Jesus." Let that settle in.

WEEK 04

Talking to God

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6-7

REFLECTION

Prayer is simply talking to God — no special words required. Tell Him what's actually going on: your worries, your gratitude, your questions. He's not grading your grammar; He wants your honesty. The peace this verse promises doesn't always come from getting the answer you wanted — it comes from bringing it to Him at all.

THIS WEEK

Set a timer for five minutes today and just talk to God like you would a trusted friend.

WEEK 05

Hearing God's Voice

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Psalm 119:105

REFLECTION

The Bible can feel intimidating at first — don't worry about understanding everything right away. Start with the Gospel of John. Read a little bit, ask God to help you understand it, and let it shape how you see your day. God's Word won't show you the whole road at once, but it will always show you the next step.

THIS WEEK

Read John chapter 1 this week. Underline one verse that stands out to you.

WEEK 06

Meet the Holy Spirit

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.”

Acts 1:8

REFLECTION

You're not walking this out alone or under your own strength. The same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives in you — helping you understand Scripture, convicting you gently, comforting you, and empowering you to live differently. At Dominion Life, we believe the Spirit is still actively at work today, not just in Bible times.

THIS WEEK

Ask the Holy Spirit to make Himself more real to you this week, and pay attention to how He answers.

WEEK 07

Grace, Not Guilt

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1

REFLECTION

You will mess up. Everyone does. The difference now is what you do with it — guilt wants you to hide and shrink; grace invites you to come closer to God, not further away. Condemnation says "you're a failure." Conviction says "let's fix this together." Learn to tell the difference.

THIS WEEK

The next time you feel shame after a mistake, pray this verse back to God word for word.

WEEK 08

A Clean Start

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

REFLECTION

Confession isn't about earning forgiveness — it's about agreeing with God and receiving what Jesus already paid for. You don't need to carry things alone or pretend you have it all together. Bring it into the light, receive the forgiveness that's already yours, and walk forward clean.

THIS WEEK

Take a few quiet minutes to bring anything weighing on you honestly to God.

WEEK 09

Water Baptism

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that... we too may live a new life."

Romans 6:4

REFLECTION

Baptism doesn't save you — Jesus already did that. But it's your public "yes," following His example and declaring your new life for everyone to see. It's a milestone worth celebrating, not a hoop to jump through. If you haven't yet, reach out to Dominion Life about taking this step.

THIS WEEK

Contact the church this week to ask about getting baptized.

WEEK 10

Find Your Family

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24-25

REFLECTION

Faith was never meant to be a solo project. You need people who will pray for you, remind you of the truth on hard days, and celebrate with you on good ones. Showing up on Sundays and joining a group like LifeTeam isn't extra credit — it's how you were designed to grow.

THIS WEEK

If you haven't already, join a LifeTeam group this Sunday and introduce yourself to one new person.

WEEK 11

Facing Temptation

“God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear... he will also provide a way out.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

REFLECTION

Old patterns don't always disappear overnight, and that's normal — not a sign you're failing. God promises a way out every single time, even when it's hard to see in the moment. Part of that way out is simply telling someone you trust what you're struggling with, instead of carrying it alone.

THIS WEEK

Identify one person you can be honest with when you're tempted, and tell them this week.

WEEK 12

Trusting God's Plan

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

REFLECTION

You may not see the whole picture yet, and that's okay. God's plans for you aren't random — they're purposeful, even when the road looks unclear. Trusting Him doesn't mean you stop making decisions; it means you make them with confidence that He's already ahead of you.

THIS WEEK

Write down one area of life you're tempted to worry about, and hand it to God in prayer.

WEEK 13

Healing & Wholeness

"By his wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

REFLECTION

Jesus didn't only come for your soul — He cares about every part of you: your body, your mind, your relationships. Healing doesn't always look the same for everyone or happen on our timeline, but it is always God's heart. Bring your whole self to Him, not just the parts that feel presentable.

THIS WEEK

Ask God specifically for healing or wholeness in one area of your life, and ask the church to pray with you if you need it.

WEEK 14

Sharing Your Story

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.”

Mark 5:19

REFLECTION

You don't need a theology degree to tell people what happened to you. Your story — plain and honest — is one of the most powerful things you have. Someone in your life needs to hear that change is possible, and you might be the only one who can show them.

THIS WEEK

Tell one person this week what's different in your life since you met Jesus.

WEEK 15

Serving Others

“Serve one another humbly in love.”

Galatians 5:13

REFLECTION

Faith that only looks inward eventually grows stagnant. Serving — whether on a team at church or simply helping a neighbor — is one of the fastest ways to grow, make real friendships, and discover gifts you didn't know you had. You don't need to wait until you “know enough” to start.

THIS WEEK

Sign up to serve on a team at Dominion Life, even in a small way, this month.

WEEK 16

Living Sent

“Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:19-20

REFLECTION

Sixteen weeks in, you're no longer brand new — and that means someone else is about to be. The same journey you just walked, someone near you needs a guide for. You don't have to have it all figured out to help someone else take their first step. That's exactly how this keeps going.

THIS WEEK

Think of one person you could invite to church or walk alongside in their own next step — and take the first move.