

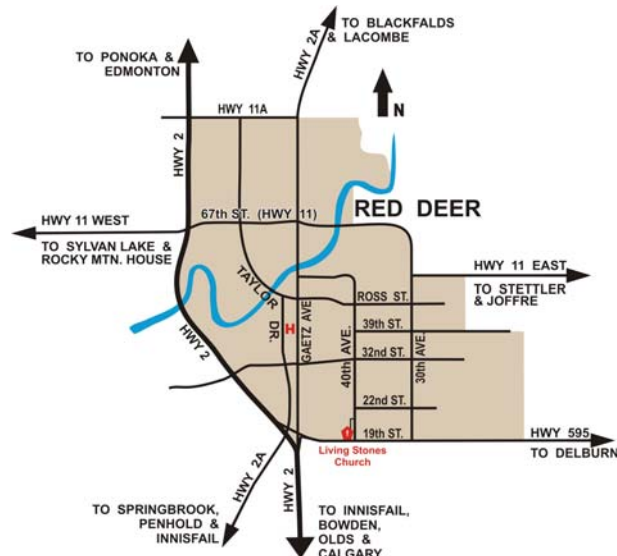
We Are So Excited!

Congratulations! You have just made the best and most important decision of your life! Did you know that at the moment you asked for Jesus' forgiveness from your sins and committed to let Him take control of your life, there was great rejoicing in Heaven—BECAUSE OF YOU! (see Luke 15:10) Furthermore, Jesus says that your name is written in the Book of Life which will never be blotted out (Revelation 3:5) and that He is in Heaven now preparing a place for you (John 14:1-3). We are excited to celebrate with you and help you grow in this new life as a Child of God!

What Just Happened?

Originally God had created man in His image (Genesis 1:26-27) and created us to have a relationship with Him. However, we chose not to obey Him, but turned and did our own thing—ushering sin into our lives (Genesis 3). The consequences of sin is death (Romans 3:23) which is separation from God, both now in our earthly lives and forever in eternity. Since God is both loving and just, He paid the penalty Himself through dying on the cross (Romans 5:8). He did not stay dead though, instead He rose from the dead and conquered sin and death forever, making a way for us to have a relationship with God once again (Colossians 2:13-15). By asking for forgiveness and accepting the gift that Jesus gave, you have given up control of your life to live a life for the One who is all-powerful! You are a new creation and He has created you for a purpose that can only be accomplished through Him (2. Corinthians 5:17; Jeremiah 29:11). God has an amazing plan for your life!

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Living Stones CHURCH

Passion for God,
Compassion for People.



Day One—Who Is God?

Many people have a false understand of who God is which affects the way that they respond to Him. As Christians, we have given control of our lives to God, but if we don't have a correct understanding of Him, we may blame Him instead of trust Him at different times. Look up the following passages and write down what the Scriptures say about Who God is:

All Powerful-Genesis 1, **All-Knowing**-Psalm 139:1-4, **Loving**-John 15:13; 1 John 4:16; Romans 5:8, **Just**-Job 34:12; Psalm 9:8; 36:6, Isaiah 30:18, **Holy**-Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16, Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8, **Good**-Psalm 34:8; 100:5; 119:68; Mark 10:18, **Merciful**-Deuteronomy 4:31; Jeremiah 3:12, 1 Peter 1:3, **Patient**-2 Peter 3:9, **Faithful**-1 Peter 1:9; Psalm 33:4; 145:13; 146:6; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 10:13.

Day Two—God's Work In You

When you asked for forgiveness from your sins and committed your life to God, you were completely cleansed from all your sin (1 Peter 1:9). We are in a battle with a spiritual adversary, the devil. We are also affected by the values of our culture that denies God his rightful place in our lives. Finally, we struggle with our past sinful behavioral patterns. Yet, God's word challenges us to present ourselves to God and to renew our minds through His word (Romans 12:1-2). God desires to help us conquer sin in our lives in order to live an abundant life (John 10:10). Only when we get to Heaven will we be completely rid of sin and be perfect. It is completely the work of God which makes us holy, but we are also called to do our part. Check out these verses and pray for God to change you, and for His help to do your part.

Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 2:13; Philippians 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Galatians 5:1; Philippians 3:12-14; Romans 12:1-3

Day Three—Praying

Praying is just talking to God. God is always with us and therefore we can always talk to Him, but we also need to listen for His voice (Psalm 46:10). Start communing with God today by spending five minutes in prayer through praising Him, thanking Him, confessing to Him, and bringing requests before Him. The following verses speak about prayer.

Psalms 3:5; Philippians 4:6-7; Luke 11:1-4

Day Four—The Bible

Many people doubt the Bible. However, if we know God and know that He is Truth, we must take the Bible as Truth because it is God's Word to us. Begin by reading the Gospel of John. In this Gospel you will learn who Jesus is. You can also spend some time thinking about these Scriptures to see what God says about His Bible.

1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 5:18

Day Five—Reading Your Bible

God originally created us to have an intimate relationship with Him. Like any other friendship, you must put in time and effort. The same is true with God. Even Jesus got up early to be with the Father (Mark 1:35). In order to grow in our relationship to God and live the life He desires for us, we need to spend time reading God's Word. Also this is one of the main ways that God speaks to His people. When reading your Bible it's good to have a journal in which you can write down what you learned and how it can be applied to your life. Once you have read through the Gospel of John, start a daily habit of Bible reading. We have a Bible reading guide available at the Information Center to help you with this daily reading if you would like.

Day Six—Spiritual Warfare

Being a Christian does not mean that your life will become really easy. The reality is that there is an enemy who desires to kill, destroy and steal (John 10:10). He does not want you to live the abundant life God has for you, so he will try anything to mess you up and discourage you. However, do not be afraid because Jesus has already defeated Satan. Do not give up, but come before the Lord to ask for help when you are struggling. This is why Paul says in Ephesians 6:10 "Be strong in the Lord..." Dwell on these passages and be confident in God!

Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4; 1 Timothy 1:17

Day Seven—Getting Involved

God has created us to live in community—we need one another and you are a vital part of His great plan. No one can walk the Christian life alone, therefore, we need to surround ourselves with people who will build us up and where we can grow in our relationship with God. To help us grow we need to become involved in the church. Spend some time thinking about how you are important in the Church by reflecting on the following verses.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-16

We at Living Stones Church value each person's uniqueness and desire to help you to understand who you are and what your role is in the Church so that you can become all that God intends for you to be. We have committed to offer courses and guidance to help facilitate this and hope you will communicate with us via the Communication Card or call the church office once you are ready to explore the many spiritual growth options we offer. God bless you.