



Next Steps

Following Jesus



Welcome to Next Steps!

Becoming a Christian and choosing to follow Jesus is the best decision you will ever make. We want to help you with your next steps as you discover this new way of life.

Next Steps is designed to support you as you embark on your journey with Jesus and includes some helpful materials to get you started.

Resources

Further resources and information on how to take your Next Steps and sign up to the Next Steps event.

[Read more](#)

I Have Decided

Start your journey here by learning what it really means to follow Jesus and what that looks like in real life.

[Read more](#)

A New Creation

Find out what happens when you make a decision to follow Jesus Christ and become a Christian.

[Read more](#)

Baptism

Baptism is a key event on your journey with Jesus. Read more about why getting baptised is so important.

[Read more](#)

The Holy Spirit

Discover who the Holy Spirit is, what He does and how He will help you live a holy life when you follow Jesus.

[Read more](#)

Alpha

If you are unsure about making a decision to follow Jesus, find out more about our Alpha course.

[Read more](#)





God did it for us.

Out of sheer generosity He put us in right standing with Himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where He always wanted us to be. And He did it by means of Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23-24 (MSG)



What do I do next?



The most important thing when exploring faith and following Jesus is to talk about it. You will most likely have lots of questions and the friendly Next Steps team are ready and waiting to connect with you.

Follow this brochure page by page, then check out our Next Steps resources and book on to a Next Steps event or one to one meeting.

Explore more Next Steps resources

We have plenty of resources that enable you to complete Next Steps at your own pace, via digital media or through reading this brochure.

You can access the Next Steps resources online and signup to receive five short videos. They will explain what it means to follow Jesus. Alternatively, you can download a digital copy of the brochure to read on the move.

Attend one of our Next Steps events

Once you have read this booklet or watched the videos, we would love to invite you to attend one of our Next Steps events.


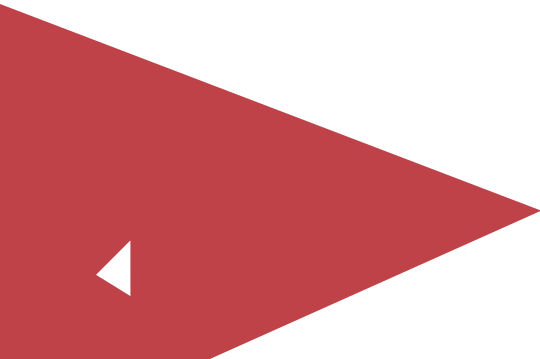
These fun, informal events take place after our regular services on Sunday. They last just under an hour and there is always cake! You will get the chance to ask any questions you may have, and the team will support you as you start your journey with Jesus.

Meet with one of the Next Steps team

Our Next Steps team are here to help you. They have all been right where you are, and would love the privilege of walking alongside you.

You can speak to our team at an event or on a one to one basis. If you prefer to speak to someone privately rather than at an event, simply request a one to one meeting and our team will get in touch with you shortly to arrange a convenient time.

To explore more Next Steps resources, register for an upcoming event, or arrange to meet with one of our team visit renewalcc.com/nextsteps, email us at nextsteps@renewalcc.com or give us a call on 0121 711 7300.



“ the BEST DECISION I made was to FOLLOW JESUS ”

In the past I never felt fulfilled even though I lived life to the full, with fabulous holidays, fast motorbikes and loud music. I thought I had all the answers and was incredibly independent. But now I see things very differently!


Since finding Jesus, I realised that I don't have all the answers. I now give everything to Him. At times I have felt vulnerable, but I know that when I open my heart and trust in Jesus, He strengthens me.

“ I have completely changed; I have been transformed into a different person. ”

I felt like I wore a Christian badge but I had never actually read the Bible. Then one day I just picked it up and started reading it. I read The Bible every night and couldn't put it down. Every single time I opened the pages, I felt like the words were really speaking to me.

I plucked up the courage to turn up at church on Christmas Day and I was blown away by the service. That was when I first really felt God's presence.

It's incredible to know that I have got a friend in Jesus; a friend who would do anything for me and is always there for me. When you get to know Jesus you can't imagine living life without Him, and it's going to keep getting better than you could imagine.

A man with short dark hair and a light beard is smiling at the camera. He is wearing a black long-sleeved sweatshirt and blue denim jeans. His hands are in his pockets. The background is a dark grey-blue gradient. There are two large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a dark blue triangle on the left and a dark grey triangle on the right. A quote is overlaid on the left triangle. In the bottom left corner, there is a small white triangle pointing left. In the bottom right corner, there is a small white triangle pointing right.

“ It’s incredible to know that I have a friend
who would do anything for me. ”

I. Have. DECIDED.

All have sinned and fall short of
the glory of God

Romans 3:23-24 (ESV)

Sin simply means not meeting
God's perfect standards.

Because of sin, we are separated
from God and face a life on earth
and an eternity without Him.

The wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

But God loves us too much to let
this happen. That is why He sent
His Son, Jesus, to pay the price
for our sin. Because of the death
of Jesus, we are saved from being
eternally separated from God.

**For this is how God loved the
world: He gave His one and
only Son, so that everyone who
believes in Him will not perish
but have eternal life.**

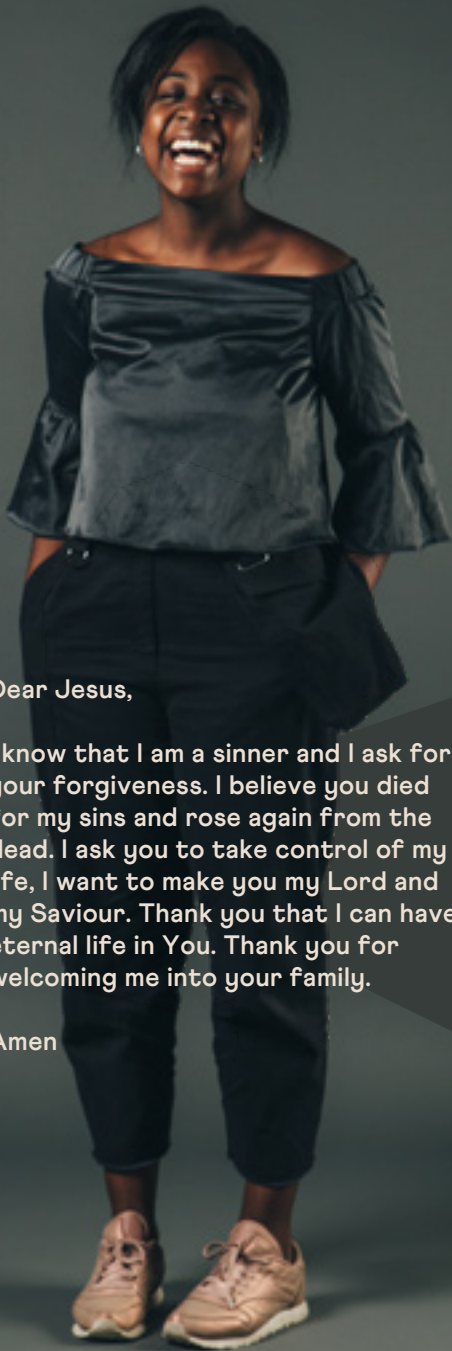
John 3:16 (NLT)

Jesus loves us, and if we believe
in Him, we will spend eternity with
Him. Our bodies may die but our
spirit will be with God forever.

Deciding to be a Christian is far
more than just believing in Jesus' life,
death and resurrection. It is a daily
decision to have a relationship with
Him. To follow Him, walk with Him,
talk with Him and listen to Him. Relationships
are a two-way thing, and deciding to
do life with Jesus will change your
life in the best possible way.

**If you have made a decision to
follow Jesus - pray this prayer:**





Dear Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose again from the dead. I ask you to take control of my life, I want to make you my Lord and my Saviour. Thank you that I can have eternal life in You. Thank you for welcoming me into your family.

Amen

The Next Step

If you've made a decision to follow Jesus keep reading through this brochure and don't forget to book onto a Next Steps event at renewalcc.com/nextsteps

If you are unsure about making a decision to follow Jesus but want to find out more, then Alpha is for you. Click [here](#) to read more about Alpha and how to register.

I LOVE JESUS



“ I learned what Jesus did for me
and how much He loves me, and I
fell in love with Him. ”



My Dad was a Missionary Pastor and I was born and raised in a Christian home. I made a decision to receive Jesus for myself when I was 6 years old whilst on a mission trip with my family.

We came to Renewal in 2010 when I was 11 years old. At the time, they were holding a big youth conference called Frontline and it was the perfect opportunity to get to know new people.

I was looking for something fresh and exciting; a family church that had something going on for young people, that would invest time in helping us grow. I had experienced a multitude of churches that had an inward focus, only concerned with how they could make themselves look great, and not focussed on glorifying God's greatness. Here at Renewal, I found a church that lifted the name of Jesus alone.

I joined the Youth group and my next step was a journey of discovery. I learned more about what Jesus did for me and how much He loves me, and I couldn't help but fall in love with Him. I discovered that life was purposeful, and that God has a perfect plan and purpose for me.

Life was designed to be lived in a way that shows others how good God is, because He first loved us. Being part of Youth had such

a huge impact on my life so I wanted to give back and serve this God that I love so much. I am now serving on the Youth team every Friday because I have a passion for young people and want them to see how great God really is. Our team provide a safe environment where people aged 11-18 can discover Jesus and find out why we love and follow Him.

Being a teenager today can be really tough. I found it especially hard relocating and starting all over again. Youth allows us to engage with young people, welcome them in to the family and build relationships. It is such a privilege to be part of a team serving God and His people!

So many of us spend our lives searching far and wide for something greater than ourselves. seeking true purpose and identity. We travel the world trying to find ourselves. But we find ourselves in Jesus Christ!

“ We travel the world trying to find ourselves. But we find ourselves in Jesus Christ! ”

He has all the answers, He knows us better than we know ourselves. Today, I want to encourage you to take the opportunity to talk to Jesus and spend time with Him. He loves you so very much.





A New Creation

When someone becomes a Christian something amazing happens. The Bible puts it like this:

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NLT)

Your new life has just begun. Becoming a Christian doesn't mean you now have to fit a weekly church service into your busy life, it means you are a brand new person.

Following Jesus is about letting Him transform us into brand new people. Not refurbished or improved, but completely recreated through Jesus.

In fact, when we become followers of Jesus our old selves don't exist anymore. The Bible says this:

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

The Next Step

To continue your new life in Jesus, make sure you come and see us at a Next Steps event. Get registered at renewalcc.com/nextsteps

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Starting Again

Before we met Jesus, we were lost; barely surviving on a day to day basis, numbing ourselves with alcohol. Living from one day to the next, we were not good guides or role models for our children, and as devastating as it was, we knew that we had to split up.


“ Before we met Jesus, we were lost; barely surviving on a day to day basis, and numbing ourselves with alcohol. ”

It was a very difficult time and I knew that I needed something, or someone, to help me through. I felt strongly that learning more about faith and God was the right thing for me, and I decided to attend an Alpha course at the church.

It was during this course that the Alpha Leader told me how much God loves me. She showed me

“ It was a very difficult time, and I knew that I needed something, or someone to help me through. ”





“ From that day forwards, our
lives have completely changed,
we’ve been made new. ”

Psalms 56:8 where it says that God loves me so much that He even records each and every tear I cry. This verse spoke right to my heart.

**You keep track of all my sorrows.
You have collected all my tears in
your bottle. You have recorded
each one in your book.**

Psalms 56:8 (NLT)

During this time, I began to feel increasingly aware that my relationship with Seth wasn't right. I knew that as a couple we weren't honouring God or each other and I knew that Jesus had a better plan for my life.

Seth and I had no contact for six weeks, then one day I woke with a strong urge to call him. I got in touch, and that same day Seth came to church for the first time.

From that day forward, our lives have completely changed, we've been made new. There are always going to be challenges in life that you need to deal with but having God's love gives you the resilience to get through it.

Seth and I became 'born again' and baptised, and it was one of the greatest days of our lives. We are now so much more secure, as a couple and as individuals, than we have ever been because of God's love. God has changed us and united us in a way that we could never have imagined.

Baptism

Another thing that will really help you as you follow Jesus is choosing to be baptised.

The Bible says this:

Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

Repent simply means to change your mind or to turn away from.

When you decide to follow Jesus, you are changing your mindset, turning away from your old life and turning towards Jesus!

Baptism is an important first step in following Jesus – it is a public declaration that Jesus is now living in you.

When someone goes under the water in Baptism they are saying that they are dying to their old life, just like Jesus died to take away the sins of our old life. When they come back out of the water they are saying that they are now living in Jesus' resurrection power and living for Him. If you've made

the decision to follow Jesus, then getting baptised is the next vital step for you to take.

Going under the water is a burial of your old life; coming up out of it is a resurrection - God raising you from the dead as He did Christ.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptised. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT).

The Next Step

To find out more about baptism, get registered for a Next Steps event at renewalcc.com/nextsteps

If you are unsure about making a decision to follow Jesus but want to find out more, then Alpha is for you. Click [here](#) to read more about Alpha and how to register.





I'm alive!

I was raised in a Christian family, but I first gave my life to Jesus when I was 10 years old. It was important that I made my own decision to follow Jesus and not just follow the faith of my family.

“ I wanted to make my own decision to follow Jesus. ”

In 2004, my family and I moved from London to Birmingham and we were looking for a church. A family friend recommended Renewal, so we came to check it out. From the first visit, we felt completely welcomed and

so at home. We began to build relationships within the church and soon felt like part of the family.

My next step in following Jesus was exploring baptism. In Matthew 28:19 it says that disciples of Jesus should be baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism is important to me, because it is my way of showing obedience to the Word of God. Jesus was very clear when He spoke about the need to be baptised, and I wanted to follow His instruction. The going under the waters and rising up again is hugely significant as it represents

us dying to our old selves and becoming alive in Jesus. If it was good enough for Jesus then, it is good enough for me now!

By surrendering my life to Jesus, I am saved through His death and resurrection. I would encourage anyone who is thinking about baptism to pick up a Bible and read the words of Jesus in the Gospels.

Jesus is trying to get through to us all the time. He speaks right into our hearts and directs us through the Word of God. Be still, open up your heart, listen and let Him speak to you.





“ Baptism is important to me,
because it is my way of showing
obedience to the Word of God. ”



The Holy Spirit & Holiness

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

John 14:26 (NLT)



The Holy Spirit is an essential part of having a relationship with Jesus and learning to live a holy life. When we invite Jesus into our lives, He sends the Holy Spirit to live within us. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus guides and leads us through the rest of our lives.

The Bible says that when you turn to God and commit to being baptised, Jesus forgives your sins. He then sends His Spirit, the Holy Spirit to live inside you.

The Holy Spirit is not a 'what' but a 'who'. He is a person and is part of the trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and is equally God. The Bible talks about the fact that the Holy Spirit produces outward characteristics in our lives;

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit is both a gift and a person. He is there to help you as you walk with Jesus. When He lives inside us, He gives us spiritual gifts so that we can help the church grow. Also, when the Holy Spirit lives in us, He leads us to become more and more like

Jesus. This is called being holy.

As we follow Jesus, this affects how we are with people; what we say, what we watch, how our relationships work, how we act and how we think.

But now you've found out you don't have to listen to sin to tell you what to do and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put together life right now, with more and more life on the way!

Romans 6:22 (MSG)

Living a life that is holy is impossible without Jesus. He knew that we couldn't succeed, which is why He came to earth, why He died to save us, and why He sent His Holy Spirit to live in us. We need His grace when we get it wrong and the Holy Spirit's guidance to help us get it right.

Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NLT)

The Next Step

To find out more about the Holy Spirit, join us at a Next Steps event. Get registered at renewalcc.com/nextsteps

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MY CONNECTION

It has been a journey for me to understand who the Holy Spirit is. He is many things; I would say that He is truth, He is my guide. He is the one who gives me truth along my journey and when I try and understand things in my own way, He articulates it in His way.

The Holy Spirit is everything, He is my connection to God and Jesus. He gives me a relationship with them. Without Him, I would have a religious worship of God as a figure head, not an intimate relationship with God the Father.

At first, the Holy Spirit was very much an entity that I wouldn't entertain and I would put him on the backburner because I could visualise Jesus and God. It felt easier to communicate with them because I could visualise them in a human way. But along my journey I have come to understand that the Holy Spirit isn't someone who is eerie or ghostlike; He is

my connection to God and Jesus. They all function together, as one, and to me they are all one person. I need the Holy Spirit as the voice of Jesus and God in order to have a deep relationship with them.

“ The Holy Spirit communicates to me in many ways. ”

I talk to the Holy Spirit daily, asking Him to speak to me, to explain something to me, to help me better understand a certain situation from His perspective.

The Holy Spirit communicates to me in many ways; sometimes in a non-verbal way, sometimes in a dream when I am asleep, through other people or through His word.

When He speaks with truth and clarity I know it is Him because I haven't got the capacity to think that way myself.

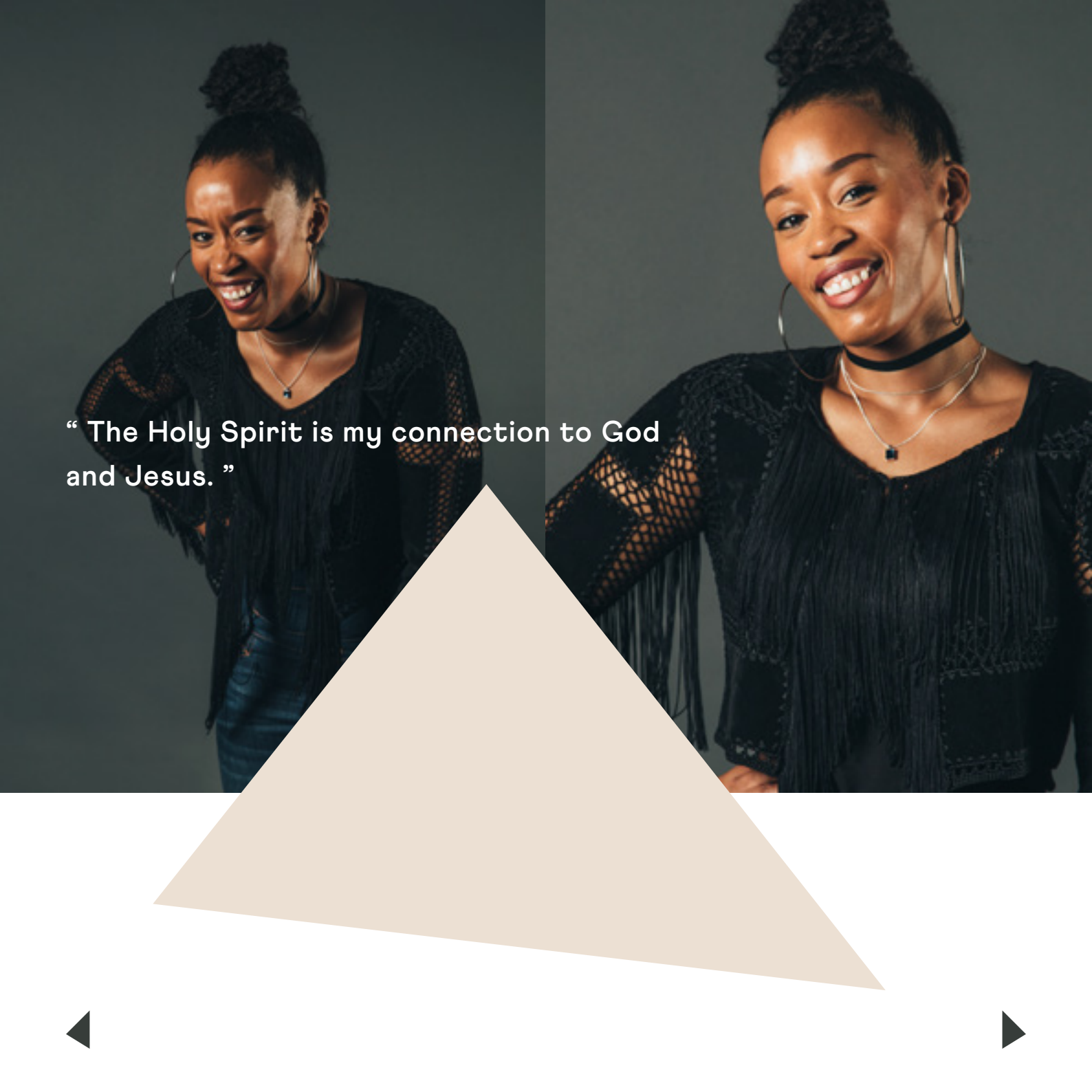
Having a relationship with the Holy Spirit doesn't mean that I am ever going to be perfect. I am human and I will make mistakes. But now I am following Jesus, I strive to be more holy like Him, and I know that the Holy Spirit will always help me.

In my every day life outside of church, at home or at work, others see me as having characteristics of Christ, who is holy. This doesn't mean I am better than anyone else, but I am working towards a life and lifestyle that is very different to the way of the world.

“ Striving to be holy like Jesus doesn't mean I am better than anyone else. ”

If you want to know Jesus Christ and have a relationship with Him, the Holy Spirit will reveal himself to you. You just have to ask.






“The Holy Spirit is my connection to God
and Jesus.”



A whole & holy life

“ Jesus has made me whole, and He is the foundation on which I build my life. ”



I have been a Christian since October 2014. I attended a Tuesday night service at Renewal and gave my life to Jesus. I was 19 years old and a professional footballer at the time. On the surface I had the perfect life; I had done well at school, had a beautiful girlfriend and a promising career ahead of me. However, on the inside I was struggling with fear and anxiety. A friend saw that I was struggling and invited me to church. I figured I hadn't got anything to lose. I was searching but I didn't know what I was looking for, or how to find the answer to my issues. I just knew that I needed something.

“ I came to church in need of something, without knowing what that something was. ”

When I heard of the name of Jesus and how He can carry my burden I couldn't believe it. This Jesus could remove the darkness in my life and I didn't have to feel this way anymore. I gave my life to Jesus there and then and could do nothing but pursue Him and begin a relationship with Him. The more I get to know Jesus, the more I want to be like Him and lead a more holy life.

“ Living a holy life doesn't mean getting it right all the time, but God helps me get it right more often. ”

My journey hasn't been easy, and over the years I have learned many hard lessons and made many mistakes. Living a holy life doesn't mean getting it right all the time, but God is working on me and helping me to get it right more often. He has shown me that I am loved wholly, completely and unconditionally, and He is teaching me how to truly love myself and love others.

Jesus has made me whole and He is the foundation on which I build my life. My relationship with my partner Saoirse could not be healthier now that Jesus is at the head of our relationship. With Jesus at the centre, I can experience His fullness and joy every single day of my life. Jesus has shown me how much I need Him and how empty my life would be without Him.

Jesus' love has deeply changed my life. Because of His love, His grace and His promises I want to get closer to Him, to get to know Him and to be more holy like Him. I want to spend the rest of my life telling people about His scandalous love and our deep need for Him.

To anyone thinking about making a decision to follow Jesus I would tell you I am so excited for you! It really is the best decision we can ever make. God loves you. He is crazy about you. He adores you regardless of your past, just as you are right now and there is nothing you can ever do to make Him love you more.



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that ask life's big questions and explore the basics of the Christian faith.

If you are unsure about making a decision to follow Jesus, but want to find out more, then Alpha is perfect for you!

The course is held once a week for 12 weeks. We start each week with a meal, followed by a talk, before discussing the topic of the evening. The talks are designed to encourage debate and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, honest and informal environment. There is no pressure, no question you cannot ask and the meal is on us!

Get registered for our next course at renewalcc.com/alpha or call us on **0121 711 7300**.



**You've finished the
brochure but your journey
is just beginning!**

Our team are looking forward to
meeting you at one of our Next
Steps events, for a chat or at an
Alpha course.

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From one. To many.

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Charity No. 1117019. Registered in England & Wales No. 5996380.

