

MODULE 1 — WELCOME TO THE JOURNEY

THE SPARK

Every Journey Begins with a Single Step

Module Overview

Welcome to THE SPARK!

Every great journey begins with a single step, and today you've taken yours.

Whether you're exploring Christianity for the first time, returning to your faith after many years, or looking to build a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ, you belong here. THE SPARK was created to help you establish a strong biblical foundation for a lifetime of following Christ.

This isn't about becoming religious.

It's about beginning a relationship.

Over the next several weeks, you'll discover who God is, why Jesus came, how to pray, how to understand the Bible, and how to build habits that will help your faith continue to grow.

Remember, spiritual growth is a journey—not a race.

God meets each of us exactly where we are and lovingly leads us one step at a time.

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 1:6

Learning Objectives

By the end of Module 1 you will:

- Understand the purpose of THE SPARK.
- Know what discipleship means.

- Begin developing daily spiritual habits.
 - Connect with a local church and Christian community.
 - Establish realistic spiritual goals.
 - Prepare your heart for the rest of the curriculum.
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Lesson 1 — Welcome to THE SPARK

Theme

Every journey of faith begins with an invitation from God.

Key Scriptures

John 1:35–39

Matthew 4:18–22

Philippians 1:6

Jeremiah 29:13

Big Idea

God has invited you into a lifelong relationship—not simply to learn information about Him, but to know Him personally.

Introduction

Have you ever started something completely new?

Maybe it was your first day at school, beginning a new job, moving to a different city, or learning a new skill.

The first step is often exciting...

...and a little intimidating.

Faith can feel the same way.

You may have questions.

You may have doubts.

You may wonder whether you're doing things correctly.

That's perfectly normal.

Jesus never asked people to have everything figured out before following Him.

His invitation was remarkably simple:

"Follow Me."

Everything else came afterward.

THE SPARK exists to help you take those first faithful steps.

What Is THE SPARK?

A spark is small.

Yet every great fire begins with one.

Throughout Scripture, God often begins with small beginnings.

A mustard seed.

A shepherd boy.

Twelve ordinary disciples.

Five loaves and two fish.

Never underestimate what God can do through small acts of faith.

This curriculum is designed to help ignite a lifelong relationship with Jesus that continues to grow throughout your life.

What Is a Disciple?

The word disciple simply means:

A learner who chooses to follow Jesus and become more like Him.

Being a disciple isn't about knowing everything.

It's about continually growing.

Jesus invited ordinary people to follow Him.

Fishermen.

Tax collectors.

Women.

Children.

People with questions.

People with failures.

People just like us.

Following Jesus means learning from Him every day and allowing Him to transform every part of our lives.

What You Can Expect

Throughout THE SPARK you'll learn how to:

- Pray with confidence.
- Read and understand Scripture.
- Build consistent spiritual habits.
- Experience God's grace.
- Connect with Christian community.
- Grow in faith every day.

Each lesson includes:

- Scripture
- Practical teaching
- Reflection questions
- Prayer
- Weekly challenges
- Additional resources

The goal isn't simply completing lessons.

The goal is becoming more like Christ.

Setting Your Expectations

God doesn't expect perfection.

He desires faithfulness.

Some weeks you'll feel spiritually strong.

Other weeks may feel difficult.

Keep going.

Growth rarely happens overnight.

Like a tree growing roots beneath the soil, much of what God is doing in your life may be invisible at first.

Trust the process.

Trust God.

Finding Community

Christianity was never intended to be lived alone.

Throughout the New Testament, believers gathered together to worship, learn, encourage one another, and serve together.

As you begin this journey, we encourage you to:

- Attend a Bible-believing church.
- Join a small group.
- Find a mature Christian mentor.
- Ask questions.
- Pray with others.

Healthy community accelerates spiritual growth.

Your First Spiritual Goals

Take a few moments to write down three goals you'd like to accomplish during THE SPARK.

Examples:

- Pray every day.
- Read the Bible consistently.
- Attend church weekly.
- Understand my faith better.
- Build Christian friendships.
- Learn how to hear God's voice.

These goals aren't about earning God's love.

They're about responding to it.

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking through these questions.

1. Why did you begin THE SPARK?
 2. What do you hope God will do in your life?
 3. What excites you most about this journey?
 4. What fears or questions are you bringing with you?
 5. What would spiritual growth look like one year from now?
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Weekly Challenge

This week:

- ✓ Pray for five minutes each day.
 - ✓ Read John chapter 1.
 - ✓ Attend church or watch a biblical worship service.
 - ✓ Introduce yourself to another believer.
 - ✓ Write one sentence each evening describing where you saw God at work that day.
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Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing me to this new beginning. Thank You for loving me before I ever knew You and for inviting me into a relationship through Jesus Christ.

As I begin this journey, give me a teachable heart. Help me understand Your Word, grow in my faith, and become the person You created me to be. Lead me one step at a time, surround me with people who will encourage me, and help me trust You even when I have questions.

May this be the beginning of a lifelong walk with You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Come, follow me," Jesus said...

— Matthew 4:19

Going Deeper

Read

- John 1
- Mark 1
- Psalm 1

Watch

- *The Bible Project* — "What Is the Gospel?"
- *The Bible Project* — "Reading the Bible"

Listen

- THE28th.LIFE Podcast (Welcome Series)
 - Sermon: "Following Jesus One Step at a Time"
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Your Next Step

Congratulations—you've taken the first step.

Remember, this journey isn't about checking boxes or achieving perfection. It's about walking with Jesus, one day at a time.

In the next lesson, we'll explore **Understanding God's Love** and discover how God's love has been pursuing you long before you ever began seeking Him.

Welcome to THE SPARK.

Let's take the next step together.

Notes for The28th.Life

I recommend adding a consistent sidebar or footer to every lesson with:

- **Key Takeaway** (one sentence summarizing the lesson)
- **This Week's Practice** (one actionable habit)
- **Next Lesson Preview** (to encourage continued progress)

- **Resource Links** (Bible reading plan, prayer journal, podcasts, discussion guide)

This consistent structure will make the curriculum easy to navigate and reinforce learning as participants move through each module.