

Our financial giving is part of our service to God. Reassess the portion of your income that you give. It doesn't all have to go to the church, but can be given to areas where he has given you a special interest or concern.

Possible Stepping Stones

(areas of service in the church you might like to try out)

- see the 'situations vacant' leaflet in entrance hall
- taking part in worship: reading, praying, children's talks etc
- become part of a team of 'visitors' to regularly visit people in our congregation
- help our children grow up in the faith by teaching in Sunday School

(will be organised if people express interest - contact Peter)

- 'Discover Your Spiritual Gifts' seminar

Books to Read

The Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren

If You Want to Walk on Water ..., John Ortberg

Thank God it's Monday, Mark Greene

Christian Life and Today's World, Various authors

Living the Kingdom Lifestyle, S.U.



stepping stones

Stepping Forward in Faith

In order to take a step forward we first have to consider where we are and which direction the step should be in.

1. Take a few moments and find somewhere quiet. Think about the following questions, and use the spiritual health questions in each section below:
 - How important is my relationship with God to me? Am I closer to God now than I used to be? Or am I more distant? Have I ever felt close to Him?
 - Am I content with my relationship with God? What would change if it was better?
 - How much am I willing to invest in this relationship?
2. Jesus explains that what God wants most is for us to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength' (Mark 12:30). Think about which area you most need to move forward in:
 - heart and soul: i.e. your devotional life
 - mind: i.e. your understanding of the faith
 - strength: i.e. in serving Him with your gifts
3. As you think about these questions ask God to show you in which direction you should step, and what that step should be.

Stepping Stones for Serving Loving the Lord with all your strength

Spiritual Health

Note: This is not a recruitment drive! While many of the areas of service listed are within the church, God calls many people to service outside the church. The most important thing is that our service comes out of our relationship to him.

Set aside time to consider the following questions:

- has God given you an interest/concern/cause that might become an area of service?
- God gives each person in the church a spiritual gift. Do you know what yours is?
- What type of service do you find most appealing or fulfilling? e.g. working with children, administration, praying for others, helping practically, explaining the faith, leading worship?
- Do my present involvements reflect this? Do I need to stop doing some things in order to do what is more suited to me?
- Take appropriate action!!!

If God has given you a special concern or interest for a particular issue (e.g. world poverty, fair trade, local community issues) get involved with it and share it with the church.

If you have an interest or desire to see something happen in the church, or to get involved with something that is happening, talk to Peter, an elder or other leader.

- look for relevant books/material e.g. booklets published by PCI on cloning, contraception, euthanasia, childlessness, the family, disability

Possible Stepping Stones

(will be organised if people express interest)

- ‘Overview of the Bible’ Seminar
- ‘Christian World View’ Seminar (answers to big questions: what is the Christian view of humanity?, the world?, the purpose of life? etc)
- Book review/discussion evenings

Books to Read

The Bible

Knowing God, J.I. Packer

What’s So Amazing About Grace, Phillip Yancey

How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth, G. Fee and D. Stuart

Basic Christianity, John Stott

Stepping Stones for Your Devotional Life:

Loving the Lord with all your heart and soul

Spiritual Health Questions

Set aside time to honestly ponder the following questions:

- How meaningful is Sunday morning worship to you?
- Do you have regular devotional time with God? How meaningful is it?
- Do you feel more acquainted with God? In what ways?
- Do you need to ask for help/support to develop your devotional life?
- Take appropriate action!!!

Stepping Stones

Commit yourself to developing your personal devotional time.

- commit yourself to spend a certain amount of time each day or week
- find new ideas/aids for prayer (e.g. a journal/prayer diary). New ideas could come from reading a book or by talking with others in the church.
- vary your method of Bible reading. Use daily Bible notes, learn how to meditate on scripture, etc.

Consider your involvement in worship with others. You might take a step of faith toward God by changing your attitude toward Sunday worship.

- Step closer to God by worshipping more regularly

- decide that when in church your main purpose is to focus on God with your brothers and sisters – to worship him and listen to him

Discover the power and joy of praying with others

- if you have a specific problem you are facing ask someone to pray with you. There are prayers for healing after the morning service on the second Sunday of every month and at the evening praise services.
- come to the prayer meeting on the first and third Sundays of the month
- find one or two others to form a prayer/fellowship group

Possible Stepping Stones

(will be organised if people express interest - contact Peter)

Creative workshop: using art and craft devotionally
 Bible reading methods workshop
 Prayer workshop
 Prayer groups

Books to Read

The Bible

Prayer, Richard Foster

Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster

Too Busy Not To Pray, Bill Hybels

Stepping Stones for Your Understanding:

Loving the Lord with all your mind

Spiritual Health Check

Set aside time to honestly ponder the following questions:

- Are your doubts and questions being answered? If yes, how?
- Do you feel you know the Bible? What help do you need?
- Do you have a grasp of the basics of the Christian faith? What help do you need?
- Do you know how your faith relates to important issues, e.g. moral issues, global issues, political issues? What help do you need?
- Take appropriate action!!!

Stepping Stones

Seek out opportunities to learn

- join one of the fellowship groups
- come to evening praise services, where there will be opportunity to discuss issues of faith in the real world

Is there a question that is on your mind at the moment? Put in a bit of effort to learn more.

- Find relevant Bible passages and meditate on them
- Talk to people to find their opinions