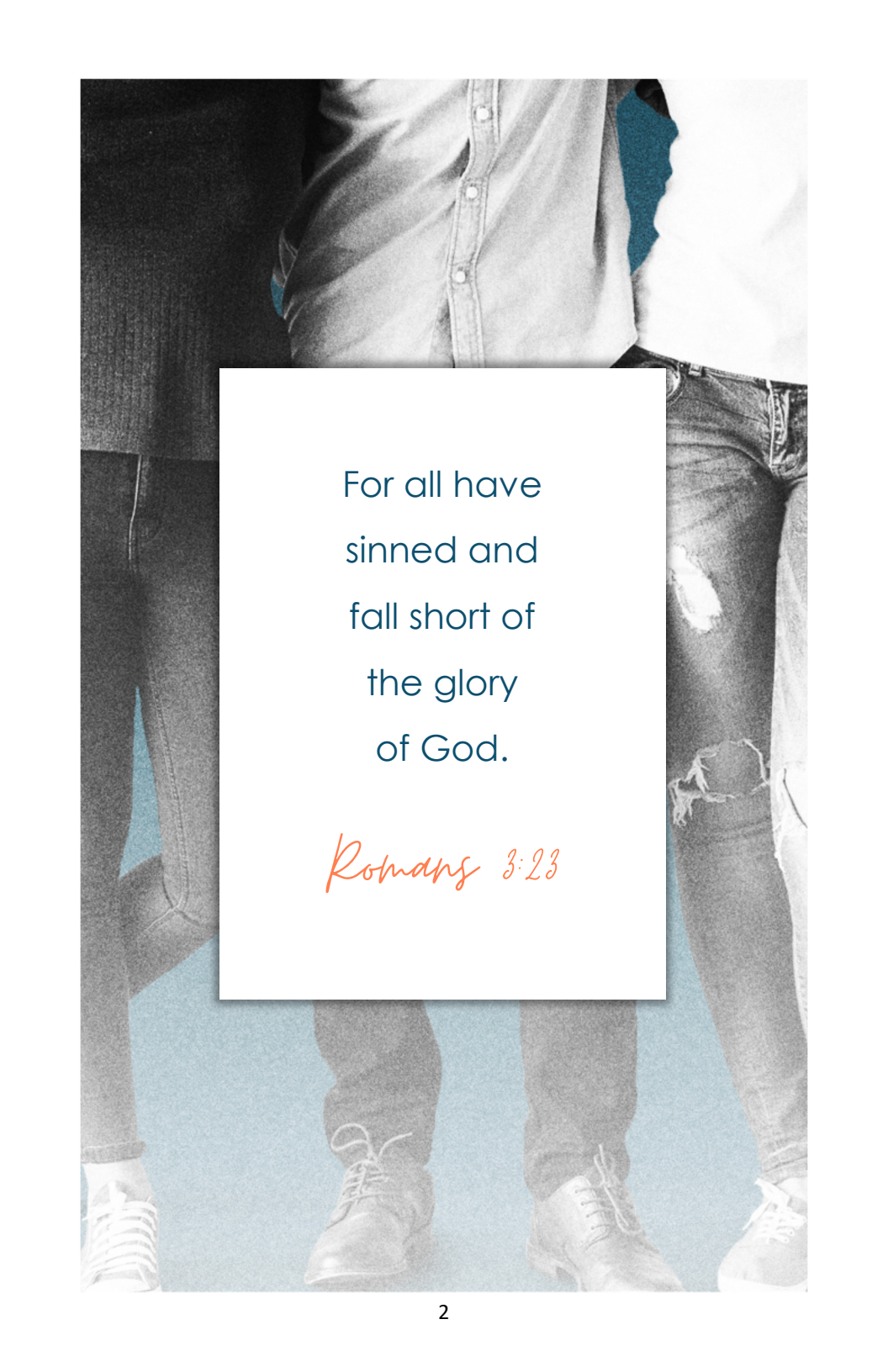




A RELATIONSHIP WITH *Jesus*



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



For all have
sinned and
fall short of
the glory
of God.

Romans 3:23

A BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

Our relationship with God is broken. We have sinned against Him.

ALL OF US. We have done things that are wrong in His sight. The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” ([Romans 3:23](#)). We all fall short of God's holiness and perfection.

The result of sin is that we are relationally and spiritually separated from God. We also need to understand that “the wages of sin is death” ([Romans 6:23](#)). “Wages” are payment for what we do. So, the payment or result of our sin is “death”—this is speaking of spiritual death, which is paid upon our physical death. What this means is that in our sinful condition we are physically alive, but spiritually dead. And if we physically die, while spiritually dead, the result will be eternal separation from God in the place the Bible calls hell. And spending eternity separated from God was not what you were created for.

But wait...there's good news!

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The good news is that God loves you in spite of your sins, and He sent His Son Jesus Christ as your substitute. He paid the “wages” for your sin by His death on the cross. “God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” ([Romans 5:8](#)). He didn't wait for you to clean up your act or somehow overcome your sin (**impossible**); rather, He sacrificed Himself for you while you were still separated from Him. He chose to take the punishment that you deserved. He took your place!

Jesus died in your place so you could have a right relationship with God and be with Him forever. But it didn't end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives! “Christ died for our sins. ... He was buried. ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures” ([1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#)). Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” ([John 14:6](#)). By confessing your sin to God and accepting Jesus' payment for your sin on the cross, you can be born again. This means that not only will you be physically alive, but spiritually alive as well, through Christ!

CHOOSING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

God gives everyone the choice to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and pursue a relationship with Him. He has taken the steps by sending His Son Jesus as a sacrifice, but He gives you free will to choose a life apart from Him or a life with Him. You also can't earn salvation or repair the relationship with God on your own, no amount of good you do will erase your debt of sin. The only payment for sin is through the shedding of blood. But because Jesus shed His blood for you, you can be saved by God's grace when you have faith in Him. Jesus teaches that to have a right relationship with God through Him, you are to:

ADMIT

you're a sinner & ask for forgiveness

(Romans 3:23, Matthew 3:2,
Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38; 3:19)

BELIEVE

that Christ died on the cross & rose again for you

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4, John 3:16, John 6:40)

CONFESS

that Jesus is Lord & commit your life to following Him

(John 10:9)

COMMITTING TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God knows you and loves you. He knows the attitude of your heart towards Him. If you want to make the choice in following Him and just don't know where to start, you can pray the following prayer:

Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.

I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."

I'VE MADE THE COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW JESUS WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Connect with a Christian friend** that you trust and tell them about the decision you made.
- **Start reading the Bible**, preferably with your Christian friend. If you don't own a Bible, then please let us know as we'd love to give you one.
- **Start attending a church**, preferably with your Christian friend. Churches come in all shapes and sizes and flavors. Find one that believes in, and teaches from the Bible.
- **Start having conversations with God.** We call this prayer and it is essential to growing in your relationship with God, just like talking is essential to any relationship.
 - Don't be shy in your conversations with God. Let Him know your hopes, fears, insecurities, questions, etc. Don't worry about saying the "right" things. He's God and He's big enough to handle anything you throw at Him.
- **Arrange a time to meet** with the pastor of the church you attend to talk further about other steps.
- **Enjoy your new life in Christ** and learn to listen to the still, small voice of God that you might not have ever heard before. This is the Holy Spirit, who is the helper of all believers, to guide and direct them in living their lives to the glory of God.

