TEPHILLAH
APOSTOLIC CENTRE
The Place Where Prayer Prevails

Growth Track

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, MAKE DISCIPLES
our mission, given to us by Jesus

PRESENTER'S GUIDE

EIGHT WEEKS / NINE STEPS

This course provides a unique opportunity to explore and embrace the life Jesus offers as His follower. Over the span of eight weeks and through nine specific steps, you'll develop a strong foundation to help you navigate life's challenges. Each session is designed to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus and a valued part of the team. Walking this path alone is not the goal—we invite you to join us on this journey and consider becoming a part of Tephillah Apostolic Centre!

To get the most out of this experience, it's crucial to attend all eight sessions and complete the nine steps. If you miss a session, we'll provide a video link and worksheet so you can stay on track. Each class builds upon the last, so if you miss more than two sessions, you'll need to restart the course.
This Growth Track is your opportunity to move from observing to fully participating. Now is the time to step into something bigger and claim your place! Welcome!

step ONE | JESUS

I. A RATIONAL FOUNDATION

Why Christianity? In this session we are going to establish a rational foundation, based on evidence, for faith in Jesus Christ and in God's Word, the Bible.

A. The Desires of Our HEARTS

C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity,* discusses the deep longing within every person's heart.
We all feel this yearning and often try to fill it with various things, but nothing satisfies completely.

The only answer is found in Jesus Christ!

B. Taking a Leap of FAITH

Should I believe in God?

Why should I trust Jesus and Christianity instead of Hinduism, Buddhism, or Islam?

C.S. Lewis said, "Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important."

Whether one believes there is a God or there isn't, both positions require faith.

What evidence can make the leap of faith easier? Which beliefs provide the most rational answers?

C. A faith built on evidence.

We will examine evidence that shows why Christianity offers the **most reasonable** and **compelling answers** to life's big questions.

1 Peter 3:15 reminds us, "...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

II. THE BIBLE

What is the Bible?
The Bible is God's message to humanity.

Why should I trust the Bible?

A. MANUSCRIPT evidence

While ancient texts like Livy's *Roman History* have around 20 copies, the New Testament has over 20,000 manuscripts. The writings of early church fathers include more than 36,000 references that confirm the accuracy of these texts.

Textual critic F.J.A. Hort remarked, "The text of the New Testament stands absolutely and unapproachably alone among ancient prose writings."

So, what we hold in our hands - whether it be the NIV, NLT, ESV or other scholarly translation - we can be confident that it is very accurate and that it does communicate to us, very accurately, what God intended.

B. Archaeological Evidence

Discoveries continue to affirm the Bible's historical reliability.

C. Prophetic Evidence

Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies, including 29 on the day of His crucifixion—many of which were beyond human control.

D. Unity Across Time

The Bible, written over 2,000 years by 40 authors in three languages, demonstrates an unmatched consistency in theme and message.

E. Global Impact

The Bible has influenced countless lives worldwide like no other book.

Francis Schaeffer said, "God has spoken, and He is not silent."

III. JESUS

Who is Jesus? Why does this question matter?

1. Jesus is the core of the Christian faith. Everything about Christianity rests on Him. Without Jesus, our faith collapses.
2. He reveals God's character, nature, and expectations for us.
3. Jesus is God—He is the Creator, the second person of the Trinity, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

As John Stott explained, "If Jesus is truly divine, then everything He taught must be true. His teachings clarify essential matters of life, including its purpose and what happens after death."

Francis Schaeffer also highlighted the importance of agreeing on universal truths, as this shapes how we understand all other details of life.

Understanding who Jesus is impacts every decision we make. This question is vital to all aspects of life and faith.

Why believe that Jesus is God?

A. Jesus said and did things only GOD would do.

1. **Direct Claims of Jesus**
    - Jesus openly declared He fulfilled biblical prophecy, was the Messiah, and was God.
        - *Luke 4:14–21* – "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
        - *John 6:35* – "I am the bread of life."
        - *John 8:12* – "I am the light of the world."
        - *John 11:25–26* – "I am the resurrection and the life."
        - *John 14:6* – "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
        - *John 8:58* – "Before Abraham was, I am."

2. **Indirect Claims of Jesus**
    - Jesus made claims that only God could make:
        - *Mark 2:5* – He forgave sins.
        - *John 5:21* – He gave life to whomever He willed.
        - *Matthew 5:21–22* – He taught divine truth with authority.
        - *John 5:27* – He claimed He would judge the world.

3. **The Character of Jesus**

- Jesus lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the spotless Lamb of God. His self-sacrifice and unmatched love set Him apart from all others.
- Napoleon once noted, “Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I founded empires upon force. Jesus Christ built His empire upon love.”

B. Jesus validated His claims through MIRACLES.

- Jesus performed many miracles, asking skeptics to believe in Him based on these works:
  John 10:38 – “If you don’t believe me, believe the works I do.”

C. Jesus fulfilled hundreds of PROPHECIES.

- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies, including 29 on the day of His crucifixion.
  Luke 24:27 – “Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining what the Scriptures said about Himself.”

D. Jesus rose from the dead, as He SAID He would.

1. **The Empty Tomb**
   - Despite Roman guards protecting it, Jesus’ body was gone.

2. **Grave Clothes Left Behind**
   - Jesus’ burial wrappings remained undisturbed, showing His body had transformed into a resurrected state.
   - *John 11:44* – Lazarus left the tomb bound in burial cloths, but Jesus left His empty.

3. **Eyewitness Testimonies**
   - *1 Corinthians 15:6* – Over 500 people saw Jesus after His resurrection.
   - *1 John 1:1* – “We have heard, seen, and touched Him.”

4. **Transformed Lives**
   - Jesus’ resurrection changed His followers forever.
     - His brother James, initially a skeptic, became a believer and died for his faith.
     - Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, became one of Jesus’ most devoted followers.

E. Jesus' global influence and changed lives.

- No other person has had an impact like Jesus.
  John Stott said, "We've examined the most compelling figure in history—a carpenter who became a preacher, died a criminal's death, and rose again. His claims, life, and resurrection lead us to the only conclusion: to bow before Him and say, 'My Lord and my God.'"

IV. A SOLID FOUNDATION

1 Cor. 3:11, "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Next week, we'll take the next crucial step in building a strong foundation that stands firm through life's storms.