

preparing just for starters



HOW TO PREPARE AND
USE JUST FOR STARTERS

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Preparing Just for Starters

Second edition

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CONTENTS

1	Getting started	5
2	Course outline	6
3	About personal follow-up	8
4	About <i>Just for Starters</i>	9
5.1	Preparing study 1: Saved by God	11
5.2	Preparing study 2: Trusting in God	21
5.3	Preparing study 3: Living God's way	31
5.4	Preparing study 4: Listening to God	41
5.5	Preparing study 5: Talking to God	51
5.6	Preparing study 6: Meeting with God's family	61
5.7	Preparing study 7: Meeting the world	71
	Appendix A: Questionnaire	81
	Appendix B: Recommended books	82

1 Getting started

The aim of this course is to prepare you to use the *Just for Starters* Bible studies. It is designed as a self-paced course, and so everything you need is contained in this workbook and the online talks that accompany it. As such, you will need to set your own schedule for completing the course. The course outline on pages 6-7 will help you plan when you do each section.

The first step is to listen to the talk 'Welcome to *Preparing Just for Starters*', which you can access online at matthiasmedia.com/pjfsaudio (talk 1.1). The full text of all the talks can also be found in PDF format on the same web page. You will find an outline for this talk below.

a. What is *Just for Starters*?

Aims:

- to teach what the Bible says about seven foundational areas of Christian belief and lifestyle
- to train the new Christian to read the Bible carefully, with a view to proper understanding and application.

b. The aim of this course.

Our aim is not:

Our aim is:

2 Course outline

ACTIVITY	Page	Approx. time req.	My plan (when)
Getting started	5	4 min	
About personal follow-up	8	2 min	
About <i>Just for Starters</i>	9	13 min	
Preparing study 1 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	11	45 min 20 min 5 min 25 min	
Preparing study 2 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	21	45 min 23 min 5 min 25 min	
Preparing study 3 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	31	45 min 17 min 5 min 25 min	
Preparing study 4 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	41	45 min 15 min 5 min 25 min	

ACTIVITY	Page	Approx. time req.	My plan (when)
Preparing study 5 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	5I	45 min 9 min 5 min 25 min	
Preparing study 6 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	6I	45 min 15 min 5 min 25 min	
Preparing study 7 Work through yourself Listen to talk Main points/goals Prepare discussion copy	7I	45 min 17 min 5 min 25 min	

Audio resources

You can access these talks online at matthiasmedia.com/pjfsaudio.

- Talk 1.1 Welcome to *Preparing Just for Starters*
- Talk 1.2 About personal follow-up
- Talk 1.3 About *Just for Starters*
- Talk 2.1 Preparing study 1
- Talk 2.2 Preparing study 2
- Talk 2.3 Preparing study 3
- Talk 2.4 Preparing study 4
- Talk 2.5 Preparing study 5
- Talk 2.6 Preparing study 6
- Talk 2.7 Preparing study 7

3 About personal follow-up

 **Talk 1.2 | matthiasmedia.com/pjfsaudio**

a. Personal follow-up is all about bringing people to maturity in Christ...

b. 1 Thessalonians chapters 1 to 3—sum this up...

f. Steps for preparing each study during this course...

Step 1: Pray

Step 2: Work through the study yourself. You might also want to do some extra preparation by looking up the cross-references listed next to the studies.

Step 3: Listen to the talk for the study, making notes on the blank pages.

Step 4: What are the *main points* you want to communicate through this study?

Step 5: What other things (or additional goals) do you want to achieve during this meeting?

Step 6: Prepare your discussion copy of the *Just for Starters* study, making sure you have:

- answers to all questions
- cross-references where necessary
- main points to communicate
- any other goals for the meeting
- discussion questions, notes and comments that might help you communicate the key truths
- the important questions highlighted.

5.1 Preparing study 1: Saved by God

Step 1: Pray

Step 2: Work through study 1 yourself. You might also want to do some extra preparation by looking up the cross-references listed next to the studies.

Step 3: Listen to the talk for this study.



Talk 2.1 | matthiasmedia.com/pjfsaudio

1 Saved by God

ROMANS 5:8-9

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (NIV)

Stop and think

Read the verses again. What do they mean?

Are there any words you're not sure about?*

Find the verses in your Bible

Read Romans 5:6-11 so that you can see the section we are studying in its context.

Try to write out Romans 5:8-9 in your own words

* justified—to be declared right with God, to be found not guilty

* save—to rescue, deliver from danger, help

* wrath—anger

NOTE: The numbered questions can be answered directly from the passage. The ‘Think it through’ questions help you to think further about what it means.

John 3:16
1 John 4:9-10

1. What did God show us?

1 Pet 2:24, 3:18
2 Cor 5:21
1 John 4:10

2. What did Christ do for us?

Rom 5:10
Eph 2:4-5
Col 1:21-22

3. When did Christ die for us?



think it through

1 John 3:4
Rom 3:9-18
1 John 1:5-10

What does it mean to be a “sinner”?

Eph 5:21-33
Deut 7:6-11
Psalm 107

How would you describe God’s love?

1 Pet 2:24, 3:18
Rom 3:21-26
Mark 10:45
2 Cor 5:14-15, 21

What does the phrase “Christ died for us” mean?

Eph 2:8-9
Gal 2:19-21
Rom 4:1-15

What did you do to deserve Jesus’ death for you?

Rom 3:23-26,
4:5-8, 5:1-2, 8:1
Col 1:21-22

4. Jesus' sacrificial death ("his blood") means that we are **now**...

Rom 5:10
John 3:16
Heb 9:27-28
1 Thess 5:9-10

5. Since we are **now** right with God, what does our future hold?

John 3:16-18
2 Thess 1:8-10
1 Thess 1:10

6. What will happen to us concerning God's wrath?

Heb 6:18-20
Phil 1:6
John 10:27-30
Rom 8:28-39
1 Pet 1:18-21

7. How can we be sure that we shall be saved?



think it through

Acts 17:30-31

Are you right with God?

Acts 4:12
John 14:6
1 Cor 1:26-31
Heb 9:23-10:25

On what basis can you be right with God?

Heb 9:23-10:25,
6:16-20
Rom 8:28-39,
5:10-11

On what basis can you be saved from God's anger?

How can you be sure that you will be saved?

Other parts of the Bible to look at:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

NOTE: As in Romans 5, God’s love is shown in giving his Son, so that those who once were perishing might have eternal life.

Also see:

1 Peter 2:22-25, 3:18

Romans 3:21-26



think it through

How do you know that God loves you?

When you stand before God, why would God accept you?

What have you learned about God’s offer of salvation?

How will you respond to God’s offer?

Memorize: Romans 5:8-9

Step 4: What are the *main points* you want to communicate through this study?

Step 5: What other things (or additional goals) do you want to achieve during this meeting?

Step 6: Prepare your discussion copy of *Just for Starters* study 1, making sure you have:

- **answers to all questions**
- **cross-references where necessary**
- **main points to communicate**
- **any other goals for the meeting**
- **discussion questions, notes and comments that might help you communicate the key truths**
- **the important questions highlighted.**