

GOSPEL PATHWAY 2025

FAQ

1. What is the Gospel Pathway ?

The Pathway is a proposal by Hope EFC to nurture Bible reading, Bible literacy and gospel awareness among friends and members of the church. It also aims to set Christians on a pathway to gospel-centered transformation, so as to cultivate a way of seeing and living out God's story in a Biblically faithful manner. As a voluntary programme, the Pathway seeks to strengthen the unity of God's people in Hope EFC by promoting a shared vision for spiritual maturity and corporate witness.

2. What are the 5 tiers from Crowd to Leaders about?

The 5 tiers - Crowd, Friends, Members, Apprentices, Leaders - are a general classification of people in our congregation describing their connectedness in the church. We do not have to tell you which tier you belong.

However, we do want to identify the people in our congregation and offer appropriate or relevant material to put everyone on the same page regarding the vision of the church. This includes introducing everyone to material about a gospel-centered faith.

3. What if I have been a Christian for many years and have been through Bible Study groups etc, but I have just joined the church? Where do I start?

You may skip the Christianity Explored series and pick up books that introduce you to Gospel Centrality or the 9 Marks series on Church and church leadership. Our recommendation however is for you to be a part of a Trihort where you partner 2 other believers

where you could help those who are younger in faith to grow. In which case, going through the Christianity Explored series together with yourself as leader/facilitator would be a great encouragement.

4. Is the Pathway compulsory for everyone in the church?

No, it is not compulsory. Participation is voluntary.

5. Can I select a Pathway book to read even if I do not want to sign up for the whole curriculum?

Yes, you can. Please seek the advice of the Pathway leader or your DG leader.

6. Should I participate if I do not read the Bible regularly?

The point of the Pathway is to nurture a Bible reading habit throughout the church. If you do not read the Bible regularly and do not already have a daily Bible reading plan, you can begin by making use of any number of free apps and online Bible Study tools, such as the ones that we have recommended.

7. What is involved in the Pathway?

Initially a curriculum of 16 books is offered to introduce a participant to the Christian faith, the Gospel, overview of the Bible, and principles of church and leadership. The curriculum comprises a series of books and Bible Study workbooks that are recommended to be completed in a proposed order appropriate to any of the five tiers.

8. Is there a timeframe to complete a book or the full Pathway?

There is no timeframe. Since we are encouraging the formation of Trihorts to help you read together in groups of three, each Trihort may want to decide their own group's timeframe as a sign of commitment.

9.If I sign up, do I have to read all the books on the list ?

You are not required to read all of the books if you participate in the Pathway, but we would advise that you try. However if you are a member of Hope EFC or wish to be a member, or if you are called to leadership, several books would be especially recommended. These few books spell out the fundamentals of following the Lord, the centrality of the Gospel, the doctrine and mission of the church.

10.What is a Trihort, and why is it a feature of the Pathway?

A Trihort is a group of 3 persons who have pledged to meet for 2 hours once a month. The objective of the Trihort is to encourage members of the congregation to walk intentionally alongside with others for a specific period of time to bond and build one another up in Christ. Trihorts make use of the recommended Pathway curriculum as a means to read, reflect and respond to God's Word together for mutual edification.

11.Am I required to belong to a Trihort to participate in the Pathway?

No, you may also subscribe to the Pathway as a personal commitment. However, the church leadership strongly advises being a part of a Trihort as a means towards mutual accountability and to "build one another up" (1 Thess 5:11). It is our view that small groups such as a Trihort can incentivize or motivate the reading of God's Word or complete the Pathway.

12.Does the Pathway Admin match people up in a Trihort, or are we expected to find our own partners?

Either way is fine. You need to register with the Admin by filling an online form and we will keep you informed as soon as we find suitable people for a Trihort.

13. Is there a cost if I want to participate?

There is no cost to start on the Pathway. However, if you are using any of the Christianity Explored workbooks, you will be required to pay for them. Some books in the Leadership series are on loan and may be borrowed for a period of time. If you wish to obtain a personal copy, let us know so we can assist you.

14. Which book should I begin with?

Our recommendation is to follow the proposed books through the 5 tiers.

If you are new to the church and/or a new believer, start with Book 1, where the language is intermediate level English. Or Book 4 (in the Christianity Explored series) and move on up. How long you take to finish a book or move on to the next book is up to you or a mutually agreed schedule determined by your Trihort.

Book 4 takes you through the Christian's future hope while Book 7 explores discipleship and the life that Jesus calls us to. Even if you have been a Christian for some years, going back to the basics will be a good refresher, besides equipping you with a tool to help you share the Gospel with an unbelieving friend.

Book 2 (Gospel: For the Glory of God) is a booklet that introduces you to Gospel centrality in faith and ministry. This is in line with Hope EFC's vision of Gospel renewal and its priority in all of our Christian life, personal and corporate.

15. Does this mean that I am allowed to read any book without adhering to the Pathway curriculum or following the proposed sequence?

Yes. However we do strongly urge that the pathway curriculum be followed as much as possible. Bear in mind that while anyone is free to read a book on his or her own, the Pathway is meant to be a shared journey as a Trihort or as members of a Discipleship Group.

16. What happens if a person completes all of the Pathway curriculum? Will more books be added to the reading list?

Congratulations if you manage to complete the full Pathway! The Pathway is simply a modest attempt to incalculable Bible reading and to encourage life long learning. In time and by the grace of God, you should be able to develop your own strategy for learning and growing in the knowledge of God.

Nevertheless, we also hope to add more books as we go along. We may explore adding videos and podcast to our curriculum as and when we come across some good ones.

More importantly, we pray that participation in the Pathway will motivate you to sign up for more comprehensive Bible study or theological programmes.

Keen to explore formal training in Theology and Biblical Studies?

You may want to check out BSF or Bible Study Fellowship (bsfinternational.org). This is not a Seminary programme but a structured Bible Study tailored for the layperson.

Other accredited hybrid online/onsite theological programmes may interest you if you prefer a formal academic pursuit. Check out the following:

- Equip (new.equip.org.my)
- Tyrannus (tyrannus.online)
- Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (stm.edu.my)
- Malaysia Bible Seminary (mbs.org.my)
- Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary (mbts.org.my)
- St Paul's Theological College (sptc.my)

Finally, if you prefer self-learning, ThirdMill Institute (thirdmillinstitute.org) offers FREE world-class certified Biblical and Theological training for anyone online.