



NEXT STEPS

By **Liz Cuenin**
Discipleship Ministry Associate

The Christian faith has long been described as a journey, a walk of faith that includes many unique milestones along the way. At Dawson, our hope is to be a faith family that encourages, aids, and comes alongside each guest and church member on their personal journey with Christ. In fact, at the very core of discipleship is an emphasis that all believers—whether a brand new follower of Jesus or a seasoned saint—are on a continual path of growth and sanctification. We all are journeying toward our next step.

Dawson's new Next Steps area, which is located in the Foyer behind the Sanctuary, was recently renovated and reimagined with the hope that everyone will feel welcome to explore his or her right next step. Whatever your questions—whether it be about your faith, church membership or baptism, finding a Life Group, or the book Pastor David referenced in the sermon—the Next Steps team is ready and able to help you find the answers you need.

Speaking of books... We invite you to take some time on Sunday mornings to peruse our Resource Center, which is located on the wall of our Next Steps area. There are a variety of carefully chosen books for sale to aid you on your faith journey.



Want to dive into learning about the communicable and incommunicable attributes of God? (Or what those words even mean!) Then you will want to pick up books from Jen Wilkin, *None Like Him* and *In His Image*. Are you interested in learning more about social justice from wise pastors and civil rights leaders—past and present? Then we encourage you to read *Let Justice Roll Down* and *One Blood* from John M. Perkins or *Oneness Embraced* by Tony Evans. If you are just looking to deepen your love and understanding of God, We have classics, like J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*, and new releases, like Dane Ortlund's *Gentle and Lowly*, to recommend to you.

Our Resource Center also includes a variety of helpful Christian counseling resources. These mini-books from the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation are free for you to take. The topics of the mini-books range from stress and grief to parenting and addiction. We hope you will take advantage of these useful resources.

So what is your next step? It may be that you have been visiting Dawson for a while, carefully observing the rhythms and heartbeat of this church and are now ready to take the next step toward becoming a member.

It may be that you have been feeling disconnected from others and are now ready to take the next step toward community, fellowship, and accountability through joining a Life Group or a Discipleship Group. Perhaps you have been a faithful group participant for many years and are now ready to step into a leadership service role with children or adults. Or it may be that you have sensed a stirring deep inside you—something that cannot be explained other than that it is the prompting of the Holy Spirit—urging you toward the open arms of Jesus and to take the next step in committing your life fully to Christ and accepting His free gift of grace and mercy.

No matter which step is your next step, we are here to walk with you as you prepare to take it.



Liz Cuenin is Liz Cuenin is Dawson's Discipleship Ministry Associate. She is an avid reader and a big fan of exploring new places. She currently leads a women's Life Group and is pursuing her Masters degree through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.