



NEXT

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH STARTS HERE

Week 1 – Thinking Like an Investor

Monday

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey”

Matthew 25:14–15

Meditate: The master entrusts resources to each servant according to their ability before leaving on a journey. The focus of the parable begins with stewardship, not success. Everything we have, including our time, gifts, influence, opportunities, and resources, has been entrusted to us by God for His purposes. The first step toward Kingdom fruitfulness is recognizing that we are managers of God’s blessings, not owners of them.

The challenge today: It is easy to focus on what we lack instead of appreciating what God has already placed in our hands. Comparison can keep us from faithfully stewarding the opportunities He has given us.

Live it: Take inventory today. Write down three resources, gifts, or opportunities God has entrusted to you and thank Him for each one.

Pray: Father, thank You for every gift You have entrusted to me. Open my eyes to see the opportunities You have already provided and help me steward them faithfully for Your Kingdom. Amen.

Tuesday

"The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."

Matthew 25:16–18

Meditation: Two servants immediately went to work investing what they had been given. They understood that what was entrusted to them was meant to produce fruit. In the same way, God calls His people and His church to look for opportunities to advance the Gospel, help people belong, equip believers, and support His Kingdom work. Faithful stewardship requires action.

The challenge today: Fear of failure often keeps us from taking steps of faith. We may hesitate to act because we are uncertain about the outcome or worried about making mistakes.

Live it: Take one intentional step today toward investing in someone else's spiritual life through encouragement, prayer, or a meaningful conversation.

Pray: Lord, keep me from burying what You have given me. Give me courage to invest my life in ways that honor You and advance Your Kingdom. Amen.

Wednesday

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Matthew 25:19–21

Meditate: When the master returned, he looked for fruit. The faithful servants were commended not because they had identical results, but because they had been faithful with what they received. God is pleased by faithfulness. He desires that our lives produce spiritual fruit that impacts others and advances His mission in the world.

The challenge today: Our culture measures success by recognition, influence, or visible results. God's standard is often much different. He values faithfulness in both large and small responsibilities.

Live it: Reflect on one area where God has called you to be faithful. Commit to taking that responsibility seriously today, regardless of whether anyone notices.

Pray: Faithful Father, help me seek Your approval more than the applause of people. Teach me to serve with diligence and integrity in every assignment You give me. Amen.

Thursday

"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'"

Matthew 25:24–27

Meditate: The third servant allowed fear to dictate his decisions. Rather than risk failure, he chose inactivity. Fear often disguises itself as caution, but it can prevent us from participating in God's work. Kingdom growth requires trusting God's character and stepping forward in obedience even when the outcome is uncertain.

The challenge today: Many opportunities for ministry, generosity, and witness remain untouched because fear convinces us to stay comfortable and avoid risk.

Live it: Identify one fear that has been limiting your willingness to serve, give, lead, or share your faith. Surrender that fear to God in prayer today.

Pray: Lord, forgive me for allowing fear to control my choices. Strengthen my faith and help me trust You enough to take courageous steps of obedience. Amen.

Friday

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25:28–30

Meditate: The parable ends with a powerful reminder that God expects His people to faithfully use what He has entrusted to them. The church exists not simply to preserve what it has received but to invest it for Kingdom impact. As we prepare for worship this weekend, we remember that God has called us to think beyond ourselves and seek fruit that reaches our community, equips believers, and advances the Gospel.

The challenge today: It is easy to become focused on personal preferences rather than God’s larger mission. Kingdom-minded believers learn to think corporately, listen thoughtfully, and engage prayerfully.

Live it: Pray for your church today. Ask God to help The MET faithfully invest its people, resources, and opportunities for lasting Kingdom impact. Prepare your heart to gather with God’s people this weekend.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for entrusting us with Your mission. Help our church bear fruit for Your glory and give me a willing heart to play my part in what You are doing. Prepare me for worship and fellowship this weekend. Amen.

Week 2

The Met Journey

Monday

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18

Meditate: Jesus begins the Great Commission by declaring that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. Disciple-making is not built on our ability, creativity, or resources. It is built on the authority of the risen Christ. Every step of the journey begins with recognizing who Jesus is and submitting our lives to His leadership.

The challenge today: We often try to manage our spiritual growth through our own strength. When we rely on ourselves, discipleship becomes exhausting rather than life-giving.

Live it: Spend a few moments today surrendering an area of your life to Christ's authority. Ask Him to lead you in your next step of obedience.

Pray: King Jesus, all authority belongs to You. Help me trust Your leadership and willingly submit every area of my life to Your care. Guide me as I follow You today. Amen.

Tuesday

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations"

Matthew 28:19a

Meditate: Jesus did not command His followers merely to make converts; He commanded them to make disciples. A disciple is a learner, follower, and apprentice of Jesus who continually grows in relationship with Him. Disciple-making requires intentional relationships where people help one another know and follow Christ.

The challenge today: Our culture celebrates independence, but spiritual growth rarely happens in isolation. God often uses other believers to shape and strengthen our faith.

Live it: Reach out to one person today who has influenced your spiritual journey. Thank them for the role they have played in your growth.

Pray: Father, thank You for the people You have used to help me follow Jesus. Teach me to grow as a disciple and to invest in others as well. Amen.

Wednesday

“baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Matthew 28:19b

Meditation: Jesus instructed His followers to baptize new believers. Baptism is a public declaration that we belong to Christ and have become part of His family. The Christian life was never intended to be lived alone. New believers are welcomed into a community where they can grow, serve, and experience God’s transforming work together.

The challenge today: Many people want the benefits of faith without the commitment of community. Yet God designed believers to belong to His Church.

Live it: Pray for someone you know who is considering Jesus or taking steps toward faith. Ask God to draw them into a relationship with Christ and His people.

Pray: Lord, thank You for making me part of Your family. Help me value the gift of Christian community and encourage others to find their place within Your Church. Amen.

Thursday

"and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"

Matthew 28:20a

Meditation: Jesus said disciples are taught to obey everything He commanded. Spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we know but by how faithfully we obey. Learning and experience work together as God shapes us into people who increasingly reflect the character of Christ.

The challenge today: Knowledge is easier than obedience. We often enjoy learning biblical truth while avoiding the uncomfortable changes God wants to produce in our lives.

Live it: Identify one truth God has recently shown you through Scripture. Take one practical step today to live it out.

Pray: Father, help me move beyond simply knowing Your Word. Give me a willing heart that obeys and trusts You in every area of life. Amen.

Friday

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20b

Meditate: Jesus concludes the Great Commission with an incredible promise: "I am with you always." We do not walk the journey of discipleship alone. Christ is present with His people as they grow, serve, and help others follow Him. Every next step is taken in His strength and presence.

The challenge today: When growth feels slow or difficult, we can become discouraged and wonder if God is at work. His promise reminds us that He is present even when progress seems small.

Live it: Prepare your heart for worship this weekend by reflecting on three ways God has helped you grow this year. Thank Him for His faithfulness and ask Him to show you your next step.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for Your promise to always be with me. Continue Your work in my life and show me the next step You want me to take as Your disciple. Prepare my heart to worship with Your people this weekend. Amen.

Week 3 – Connecting People to God and His Church

Monday

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 2:42

Meditate: The first believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Their faith was not a casual commitment but a shared way of life centered on Christ. Healthy spiritual growth happens when believers intentionally connect to both God and His people.

The challenge today: Many people treat church as an event to attend rather than a family to belong to. When commitment is shallow, relationships remain superficial and growth becomes limited.

Live it: Take one step today to strengthen a relationship within your church family. Send an encouraging message, make a phone call, or invite someone to coffee.

Pray: Father, thank You for placing me in Your family. Help me value relationships with other believers and grow deeper in my commitment to Your Church. Amen.

Tuesday

"Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles."

Acts 2:43

Meditate: The early church lived with a sense of awe as God worked among them. Their community was energized by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. When people are connected to God and one another, they begin to see His activity in ways that strengthen faith and inspire worship.

The challenge today: Familiarity can dull our sense of wonder. We become so accustomed to church activities that we forget God is actively changing lives around us.

Live it: Spend time today reflecting on ways God has worked in your life or in the lives of others through the church community.

Pray: Lord, renew my sense of awe and gratitude for what You are doing among Your people. Help me see Your hand at work and respond with faith and worship. Amen.

Wednesday

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."

Acts 2:44–45

Meditate: The believers cared for one another so deeply that they willingly shared their resources to meet needs. Their unity was demonstrated through generosity and practical love. Genuine belonging grows when people move beyond attending together and begin caring for one another sacrificially.

The challenge today: It is easy to keep our lives private and disconnected. Yet meaningful Christian community requires vulnerability, generosity, and a willingness to carry one another's burdens.

Live it: Look for a practical need you can help meet today. Offer encouragement, provide assistance, or simply be present for someone who needs support.

Pray: Generous God, thank You for caring for me through the love of others. Help me reflect Your generosity and become a source of encouragement within my church family. Amen.

Thursday

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,"

Acts 2:46

Meditation: The early believers shared life together with glad and sincere hearts. Their fellowship extended beyond worship gatherings into everyday relationships. They enjoyed one another because they were united by a common faith and mission. True belonging develops through consistent, authentic connection.

The challenge today: Busyness often crowds out meaningful relationships. We can fill our schedules while neglecting the very connections that God uses to shape and strengthen us.

Live it: Make time today to connect intentionally with another believer. Share a meal, have a conversation, or spend time praying together.

Pray: Father, help me prioritize relationships that strengthen my faith. Teach me to invest in others and to build authentic Christian community wherever You place me. Amen.

Friday

"praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

Meditate: As the church worshiped, served, and cared for one another, the Lord added to their number daily. Their healthy community became a powerful witness to the world around them. People were drawn not only to the message they proclaimed but also to the transformed lives they observed. The pattern remains the same today: people believe, are baptized, belong, become, and then help bless others.

The challenge today: Churches can become inward-focused and forget that healthy community should always make room for new people. Belonging is not just for us; it is an invitation we extend to others.

Live it: As you prepare for worship this weekend, pray for someone who may be searching for community and hope. Ask God to use your church to help them find both.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Church. Help us create a culture where people are welcomed, loved, and connected to You. Prepare my heart for worship and use our church to draw others into Your family. Amen.

Week 4 – Winning Our Backyard

Monday

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

Luke 15:1–7

Meditate: Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one that is lost. This parable reveals the heart of God. He does not wait passively for lost people to find their way home; He seeks them with intentional love. As followers of Jesus, we are called to share the same heart for those who are far from Him.

The challenge today: We naturally focus on the people already around us and often overlook those who are disconnected from God. Without intentionality, we can become comfortable and inward-focused.

Live it: Identify one person in your life who is far from God. Begin praying specifically for them today and ask God to give you opportunities to connect with them.

Pray: Father, thank You for seeking me when I was lost. Give me Your heart for people who need You and help me see opportunities to reach them with Your love. Amen.

Tuesday

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:8-10

Meditate: The woman in Jesus' parable searches diligently for her lost coin until she finds it. She does not give up when the search becomes difficult. The Gospel mission requires persistence and urgency because people matter deeply to God. His people are called to keep seeking, praying, and engaging even when results are not immediate.

The challenge today: Discouragement can make us stop pursuing people who seem uninterested in spiritual conversations. We may lose hope when change does not happen quickly.

Live it: Reach out to someone you have not connected with in a while. A simple text, call, or conversation may be the beginning of something God wants to do.

Pray: Lord, help me remain faithful in seeking and serving others. Give me perseverance when I am tempted to give up and remind me that You are always at work. Amen.

Wednesday

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Luke 15:17-20

Meditate: The prodigal son comes to his senses and begins the journey home. Jesus shows that God's desire is not simply that lost people be found, but that they experience repentance and restoration. The Gospel invites people into a transformed relationship with the Father.

The challenge today: Our culture often avoids conversations about repentance because they can feel uncomfortable. Yet true life change begins when people turn toward God.

Live it: Spend time praying for people you know who need God's transforming grace. Ask Him to soften hearts and draw them to Himself.

Pray: Merciful Father, thank You for welcoming sinners home. Work in the hearts of those who are far from You and help me faithfully point people toward Your grace. Amen.

Thursday

"So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:20-24

Meditate: When the son returns, the father runs to him, embraces him, and celebrates his homecoming. God's response to genuine repentance is one of grace and joy. The church should reflect this same spirit by welcoming people warmly and helping them find a place to belong.

The challenge today: Sometimes we can become more focused on people's past mistakes than on what God is doing in their lives now. This attitude can create barriers to belonging.

Live it: Look for an opportunity today to encourage someone who may feel overlooked, disconnected, or uncertain about their place in the church.

Pray: Father, thank You for Your welcoming love. Help me create space for others to experience acceptance, grace, and encouragement through my words and actions. Amen.

Friday

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Luke 15:31–32

Meditate: The father calls his family to celebrate because the lost son has been found. Throughout Luke 15, heaven rejoices when people come to God. Churches that remain passionate about evangelism reflect the priorities of God's heart. Reaching people requires commitment, sacrifice, preparation, and engagement, but the reward is seeing lives changed by Christ.

The challenge today: Three obstacles often stand in the way of evangelism: comfort, fear, and apathy. Left unchecked, these attitudes can weaken our passion for reaching people with the Gospel.

Live it: As you prepare for worship this weekend, ask God to help you overcome comfort, fear, and apathy. Pray for opportunities to share Christ and to welcome people into His family.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for seeking and saving the lost. Give me courage to join You in that mission. Prepare my heart for worship this weekend and use our church to reach many people with the hope of the Gospel. Amen.

Week 5 – Developing a Sending Runway

Monday

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 2:1

Meditate: Paul begins by telling Timothy to "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Before Timothy could lead others, he needed to draw strength from Christ himself. Leadership development begins with spiritual formation. God does not simply call people to do ministry; He calls them to walk closely with Him and minister from His strength.

The challenge today: Many believers try to serve God from their own energy and experience. Over time, this leads to discouragement and exhaustion rather than fruitful ministry.

Live it: Spend extra time with God today through prayer and Scripture. Ask Him to strengthen you spiritually before you focus on serving others.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for the grace You provide each day. Strengthen me through Your presence and help me serve from Your power rather than my own. Amen.

Tuesday

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

2 Timothy 2:2

Meditate: Paul describes a chain of spiritual multiplication: what Timothy received, he was to entrust to faithful people who could teach others also. God's plan has always been for the Gospel to move from one generation to the next through intentional investment. Every believer has the opportunity to influence someone else for Christ.

The challenge today: We often underestimate the impact our encouragement, example, and wisdom can have on another person's spiritual journey.

Live it: Identify one person you can intentionally encourage, mentor, or pray for this week. Take the first step in strengthening that relationship today.

Pray: Father, show me who You have placed in my life to encourage and influence. Help me faithfully invest in others so that Your truth continues to spread from generation to generation. Amen.

Wednesday

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11–13

Meditate: God gives leaders to the church not simply to do ministry but to equip His people for ministry. Healthy churches develop believers, helping them discover and use their gifts for God's purposes. Spiritual leaders are identified, trained, and encouraged so that the whole body grows stronger.

The challenge today: It is easy to assume leadership development is only for pastors or ministry professionals. In reality, every believer has gifts that can be developed for Kingdom service.

Live it: Reflect on the abilities, experiences, and opportunities God has given you. Ask Him how He might use them to serve and influence others.

Pray: Lord, thank You for uniquely shaping me for Your purposes. Help me develop the gifts You have given me and use them to build up Your Church. Amen.

Thursday

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

Acts 13:2–3

Meditate: The church at Antioch worshiped, prayed, and listened to the Holy Spirit. When God called Barnabas and Saul to a new assignment, the church responded by sending them out. Healthy churches celebrate not only gathering people but also launching them into God's mission. Kingdom influence expands when believers are willing to go wherever Christ leads.

The challenge today: We naturally focus on what happens within the church, but God's mission extends far beyond the walls of any building. He often calls His people to serve in places that require sacrifice and faith.

Live it: Pray today for missionaries, church planters, pastors, and ministry leaders. Ask God to strengthen them and use them to advance the Gospel.

Pray: Father, thank You for those who have answered Your call to serve. Encourage and sustain them, and make me willing to go wherever You lead. Amen.

Friday

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:37–38

Meditate: Jesus looked at the crowds and declared that the harvest was plentiful but the workers were few. His instruction was simple: pray for workers. As we look toward God's NEXT chapter, we must believe that He desires to raise up future pastors, missionaries, ministry leaders, and faithful servants from among us. The strength of a church is measured not only by how many people it gathers, but by how many people it sends.

The challenge today: It is easy to assume someone else will answer God's call to serve. Yet every believer has a role to play in supporting, encouraging, developing, or becoming the next generation of Kingdom leaders.

Live it: Prepare your heart for worship this weekend by praying for future leaders God may raise up through The MET. Ask Him how you can contribute to a legacy that extends far beyond your own life.

Pray: Lord of the harvest, raise up workers for Your Kingdom. Develop leaders, missionaries, pastors, and servants who will faithfully carry the Gospel to future generations. Use my life to encourage and invest in others for Your glory. Prepare my heart to worship with Your people this weekend. Amen.

