





Therefore *go and make disciples*  
of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the**  
**Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**  
and teaching them to **obey** everything  
I have commanded you. And surely  
*I am with you always,*  
to the very end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Greetings CityLight Family,

In Matthew 5, Jesus says "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden...In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Our mission as a church has always been to help people move from where they are to where God wants them to be. Time and again we have seen God's faithfulness to use us for that purpose, to be a beacon of light that shines from our corner of this city reaching people with the hope of the gospel. There is no doubt at this time in our story that God is on the move and we want to be ready for those He will bring our way next.

Over the past year, our leadership has been prayerfully seeking God's direction for the next season of CityLight believing that God is calling us as a church deeper in holiness, wider in influence and impact and higher in selflessness and sacrifice. We have committed to walk boldly into God's plans for us, with the knowledge that obedience will require sacrifice and will come with triumph for the kingdom of heaven. As a result, we are inviting our church family to join us as we launch a vision initiative called **The One Movement**. This movement focuses on two priorities: investing personally in people who don't yet know Jesus, and preparing our campus to serve the people God brings our way.

I'm asking that you begin now, praying specifically for how God will call you to be a part of this moment. Pray for the one person He will put on your heart. We have God-sized goals and we want to see the lost being found and our community being reached. CityLight family, this is our time and our place. I believe we will one day look back and thank God for what He did because we said yes—together.

With faith and gratitude,  
Pastor Josh Wicker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Wicker".



## WHAT IS THE ONE MOVEMENT?

The One Movement is a faith-filled call for every person at CityLight Church to join God in what He is already doing in our time to reach a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rooted in the Great Commission, it invites each believer to take personal responsibility for one person—building a genuine, loving relationship through which the hope of Christ can be shared. At the same time, it calls the church to sacrificial generosity, investing together in Kingdom work that strengthens local ministry, expands facilities, supports recovery, and prepares for future growth.

The movement is driven by the belief that this land is holy ground and that CityLight is to be a central sending hub to raise up and send pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and church planters to the world. Over the next two years, The One Movement seeks to fuel church planting, global missions, and local outreach so that more people can encounter the love of Jesus and experience life transformation. Ultimately, The One Movement is about obedience, courage, and faith—giving our lives, relationships, and resources so that one more person might know Jesus, for the glory of God and the advance of His Kingdom.

**As a church, we are asking you to consider making two specific commitments to The One Movement:**



1. We're asking everyone to make a relational investment by building a friendship with one local person who has not encountered the life-changing love of Jesus. We call this your "One." Ultimately, we should all have more than one person we are doing this with, but we should all have at least one person we are helping take steps toward Jesus.
2. We're asking everyone to consider making a financial sacrifice as we focus on four projects at CityLight: church planting and mission, worship and technology updates [in-person + online], outdoor community space, and prioritizing our next generation by updating the gym and bathrooms in our kids building. We believe focusing on these things creates the best opportunity for CityLight to reach people with the message of Jesus.

**Here's how far your commitment could go!**

This is about equal sacrifice, not equal amounts.  
Together, we can make an eternal impact in our community.

Monthly	Annually	2-Year Total
\$100	\$1,200	\$2,400
\$200	\$2,400	\$4,800
\$300	\$3,600	\$7,200
\$400	\$4,800	\$9,600
\$500	\$6,000	\$12,000
\$750	\$9,000	\$18,000
\$1,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
\$1,250	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$1,500	\$18,000	\$36,000



## WORSHIP & TECHNOLOGY

## ONE MOVEMENT PROJECTS



Our worship center is often the first place people encounter Jesus—both in the room and online. To steward that moment with intentionality, we are investing in updated audio, lighting, video, sound treatment and stage environments. These improvements allow us to clearly communicate the gospel, reduce distractions, and serve people well. As God continues to grow our church and expand our online reach, these upgrades help ensure we are never limited in sharing the good news with clarity, creativity, and excellence.

## OUTDOOR GATHERING SPACE & CAMPUS RENOVATIONS



To better serve our congregation and community, we are entering a renovation phase centered on the stewardship of our current campus and facilities. Outside the main building, we will create an outdoor gathering space to better build community and serve our neighbors.

Beyond aesthetics, this phase addresses vital infrastructure, replacing aging HVAC systems, ensuring our entire campus is a safe, welcoming, and a functional environment for everyone who walks through the doors.

## GYM RENOVATIONS, NEXT GEN & KIDS SPACES

*Investing in the next generation and strengthening multi-use ministry spaces*



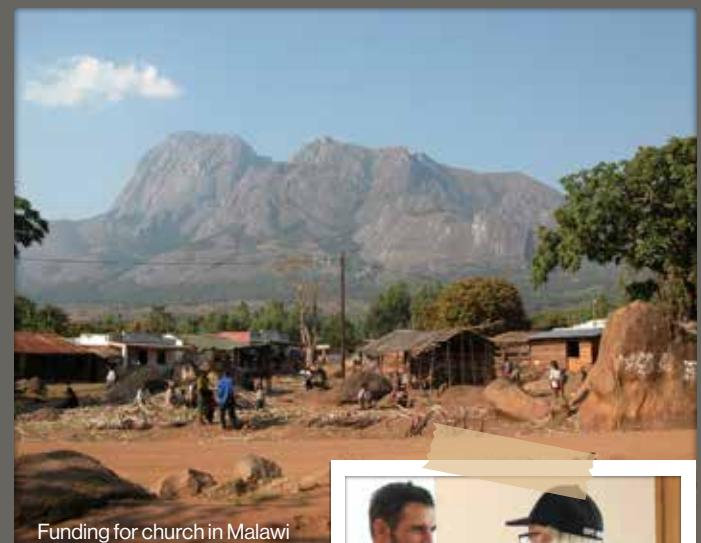
We believe the future of the Church is found in the next generation. Our Next Gen building—used by every age group for recreation, outreach, and ministry—will be refreshed with new gym flooring, paint, and a portable stage, along with updated kids' bathrooms and children's ministry environments. These improvements create safe, welcoming spaces where families feel valued and people of all ages can grow, connect, and encounter Jesus.

## CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS

***Moving from addition to multiplication—for Gainesville and beyond***

God is calling CityLight to be a multiplying church. We are committed to planting 10 churches in the next 10 years, sending pastors, missionaries, and evangelists, and funding Kingdom work locally and globally. This includes resourcing ministries that meet immediate needs in our recovery community and positioning ourselves to purchase land for future church plants or campuses God may call us to build. By investing now, we are saying, “Lord, we’re ready”—ready to take new ground, ready to multiply, and ready to reach people we may never meet this side of heaven with the hope of Jesus.

The final piece of our vision looks toward growth of our ministry team to ensure we have the staffing we need as we continue to reach people in our city. Growth requires leaders, so we are prioritizing an investment in our leadership team as part of our vision.



Recovery Alive ministry in Gainesville

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. WHAT IS THE ONE MOVEMENT FOR?

CityLight is growing and we want to focus on our purpose as disciples and our vision for the future. This movement will lead us through a prayerful pursuit of God's will for the one in our life and a financial pursuit of our needs as a church. We will be working together to raise \$1.5 million to invest in church planting and ministry and to upgrade our space so we can reach more people with the gospel.

## 2. HOW IS OUR CHURCH GOING TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL?

Quite simply, because we have faith that we are following God's will for our church, we believe He will provide through sacrificial giving and His work in the hearts of those who hear about The One Movement.

## 3. WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU DON'T GET ALL THE MONEY YOU HAVE GOALS FOR?

Our list of projects is prioritized by the greatest needs we have as a church. We will put all the gifts we receive toward those projects in order until complete.

## 4. ARE YOU ASKING FOR THIS MONEY TO BE EXTRA, BEYOND A TITHE?

Yes, your commitment to the campaign will be a separate gift from a tithe. It will have its own category on our giving platform.

## 5. WHAT IF MY FINANCIAL SITUATION CHANGES AFTER I MAKE A COMMITMENT? CAN I ADJUST MY PLEDGE?

Of course. We understand that life circumstances can change over the course of two years. Please connect with our leadership team to adjust your commitment.

## 6. IS THE CHURCH GOING TO TAKE ON DEBT TO BORROW MONEY UNTIL YOU GET THE MONEY YOU NEED?

No. We want to be good financial stewards with the money we are given, so we will use what we have in faith that God will provide the full amount when it is needed.

## 7. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

The initiative will roll out in defined phases over the next two years, with regular updates shared to keep everyone informed of progress and milestones.



*Bringing one more to Christ*

## 8. HOW WILL FUNDS BE MANAGED AND TRACKED?

All contributions will be managed with transparency and accountability. Updates on progress and use of funds will be shared with the church family.

## 9. SO, WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

We are asking every person in our church family to join us in making a relational investment and a financial investment. We want every person to identify at least one person who doesn't know Jesus, and begin praying for and investing relationally in that person with the knowledge that God is seeking them too, and we can be His tools to lead them to Christ.

We also want every person to participate in contributing to the cost of the One Movement. We want you to start with prayer. Begin by asking God "How do you want to use me to reach more people for your kingdom?" We need people who are willing to step out in faith, out of their comfort zones, in whatever way God is leading.

Over the past seven years, many people have sacrificed so that God could use CityLight to impact our community for Christ. This is one of those defining moments for us as a church family. This is the time for a God-sized dream and a leap of faith. We are excited to have you join us.

## 10. WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED GUIDANCE?

If you have questions or need support, please reach out to a member of the leadership team or visit the information desk after service.

## 11. CAN I GIVE IN WAYS OTHER THAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Yes. Prayer, volunteering, and relational engagement are all meaningful ways to participate in and support this movement.



## RESOURCES FOR YOU

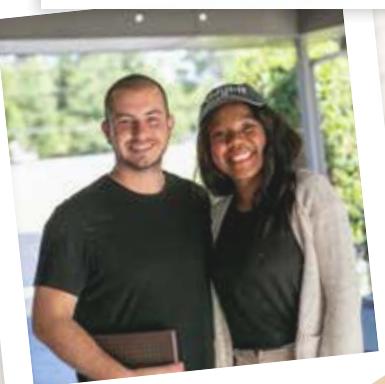
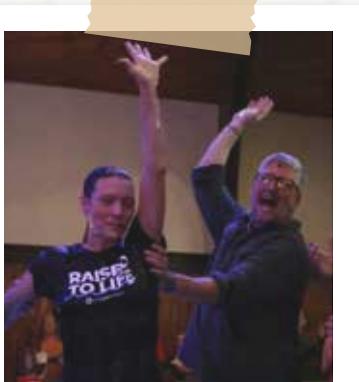
### Weekly Guide “How To”

The next seven weeks mark the official kickoff of The One Movement. The following devotional guide is designed to correspond with the weekly sermons from February 8-March 22 and invites us to go deeper as a church family.

We know that when it comes to spending time with God, everyone is different but we hope that whether you enjoy journaling, digging into your Bible, discussing God's word in a group, worshiping through music, or meditating while walking in nature, you will find something in this guide to strengthen your relationship with Him.

The following pages contain weekly questions, prayers, playlists, and ways to engage as we embark on this exciting time as a church. We recommend you use Sunday's space each week to write down your thoughts and reflections from each week's sermon, and then read the daily devos each day. You'll also have a chance to discuss the sermons and devotionals with your CityGroup.

*for the one*



### Identifying Your ONE

We encourage everyone to a deeper biblical commitment to following Jesus and living out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Everyone has been challenged to make a relational investment by building or deepening a relationship with one local person who has not encountered the life-changing love of Jesus. Take time to identify your “One” and make a commitment to pray for them daily the next seven weeks.

#### Who's your ONE?

Write below the name or initials of the individual with whom you believe God is calling you to pray for and engage with.



## WEEK 1 INVITATION TO ACT

message notes



## Day 1: Prayer for Invitation

Father, we first approach you with an attitude of gratitude for all you've done. You are the Almighty Creator of the universe, yet you still came from heaven to seek us when we were far from you. You love the world so much that you sent Jesus, your Son, to seek the lost. You have invited us to be part of this mission, as you send us into the world to make disciples from all nations, within our neighborhoods and across the oceans for your glory. You are the One who desires everyone to come to faith, so we too are now called to your mission to seek the one in our lives who you have placed on our hearts to invite into your family. God, give us a sense of urgency to find this person, to love them like you love them, and to seek them like you sought us. We accept this holy mission in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Day 2: Andrew's First Invitation

READ: John 1: 37-42

God knows how to reach people.

This occurs in many ways, shapes, and forms, however, the gospel being spread by children of God seems to be the most impactful and intentional. He knew how to reach you, and He can use you to reach one more. God uses His disciples to reach the lost.

In John 1, we see Andrew following John the Baptist and we witness the moment where Andrew meets Jesus as he was passing through the area. The interaction is so powerful that he immediately runs to bring his brother, Simon Peter, to the Messiah. Andrew's excitement and eagerness to tell his brother and introduce him to life-changing truth was a turning point in

what later became the early church.

**What if we too are one gospel-sharing moment away from revival?**

Similarly to Andrew, we don't always know what seeds we are planting, nor do we know what will come of our faithfulness. However, we do know that an invitation can change an eternity. And most importantly, that our God can do much with very little. God already knows how to reach each and every person and has invited us to be His disciples. We have the opportunity to join him in the mission with excitement and eagerness - to be the reason someone hears about Jesus today.

## Day 3: The Centurion's Faith

READ: Matthew 8:5-13

Did you catch that in verse 10? Jesus was **amazed**.

Only two times in the Bible does Jesus express his amazement (Matt 8:10; Matt 15:21-28). Here, Jesus was amazed by a Roman soldier who should not even have been talking to him. This centurion not only believed Jesus could heal his servant, he believed He could do it without ever laying eyes on him.

**Do you have faith like this? You should.**

If we believe the Bible's words, than we believe that God can do exceedingly and abundantly more than we ask of him (Eph. 3:20). Step out in faith like the centurion. With each uncertain step you take, you walk forward into obedience and the confidence to let God work miracles through something as simple as your belief in His almighty hand.

But if you don't take that step, you might miss that opportunity. Your comfort zone might be keeping you from bearing witness to God's glory. The centurion's faith was just a conversation - but it

wasn't one society said he should have.

**What can God do through your conversations? Through a step of faith you take today?**

## Day 4: Prayer for Boldness

Father, thank you for calling us into a covenant with you.

Thank you for the faithfulness and mercy you show us despite our sinful nature. We don't deserve your unconditional and faithful love, but how grateful we are for this free gift. As we grow in faith, Lord, we pray for increased boldness. We ask for the proper words to say and moments to pursue. For the fulfillment of the Great Commission through us, that we may not fall into the fear of man, but deeper into faith and trust in your almighty power.

You alone are the strength we need, God. You have not given us a spirit of fear but one of power and of love and of a sound mind. May we have the opportunity this week to boldly share your love for us with the one in our lives who has been on your heart since the beginning of time.

Amen.

## Day 5: The Story of Stephen

READ: Acts 6:8-7:60

When God invites you to reach the one, He can use any moment - every moment - in your life to accomplish His purpose. There may be times you see as loss, yet God will be victorious. Stephen is often cited as an example of one who saw each day of his life as an opportunity to reach one more person for Christ. He was arrested for spreading the gospel, and even still he used the opportunity to speak truth to his captors. He spoke scripture and shared the story of Israel from memory. If you are to be God's ambassador, you must know His story of love and redemption found in each chapter of the Bible.

Through much of Acts 6 and 7, we also see that Stephen was bold, willing to speak about Jesus in the most difficult environments. **Does your boldness rise to match the difficulty you may face? Are you willing to embrace resistance, even rejection for the sake of the Gospel?**

Finally, although Stephen was killed for his witness, a young man named Saul heard his testimony. He later was known as Paul, and though it was not immediate (Saul at first disregarded Stephen's words), he later became a champion for Jesus.

You may not know on this side of heaven what impact your

words might have on someone's future in eternity. Pray for God-given moments to speak His truth, and realize that the impact on the One in your life may not be immediately visible.

## Day 6: Timothy's Encouragement

READ: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

*"I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

Timothy is a very relatable figure in the Bible; much like us, he often felt discouraged. Paul wrote this letter to remind Timothy who he was and from where he had come. Paul starts the letter by recounting his heritage - how he is serving as his ancestors had. He encourages Timothy by bringing to mind the faith of his mother and grandmother and shares his hopes that Timothy will stay faithful to God.

Are you encouraged by the faith in God of those in your family? If that is not your story, God has a wonderful plan in store for you. You can be the one who cultivates that multi-generational faith that is passed down. The generations that follow you will be rooted in the seeds that are being planted today through God's work in your life. Embody the bold faith, like Eunice and Lois, that the next generation needs to see.

You were the one someone prayed for and the generations to come are the ones you now have the privilege of bearing witness to. You can be the first in the line of those who come after you to follow Jesus.

## Day 7: Whose One Were You?

JOURNAL: Who is the person that invited you into a relationship with God/deeper relationship with God? Write about them below.

## WEEK 2 MOVE OF LOVE

### message notes



#### Day 1: Prayer for Loved Ones

Father, you have placed so many people in our lives. Some we know intimately, others are acquaintances, friends of friends, neighbors. We have favorite athletic instructors, children's teachers, a stylist who does our hair just right, and that one chatty coworker. Lord, it is your will for us on this earth to exemplify your love and kindness to those who enter our lives whether they are a permanent addition and we encounter them daily or see them for only a few moments. Help us continuously make that effort to spread your love. Amen.

#### Day 2: What is Love?

**READ: 1 John 4:7-12**

What does it mean for you to truly love someone? Love is a choice you make because of (or sometimes in spite of) how you feel. You may be familiar with this concept in your own life, choosing to forgive, choosing to reach out, choosing to serve, or choosing to bring joy to the people you love. In this scripture, the apostle John reminds us that God is love, and that the one who does not love does not know God (1 John 4:8). Which means that when someone doesn't know God, they cannot know what it means to truly love someone like Jesus loves. But you can show them.

If you love God, you will love others (1 John 4:11). God loves the One in your life so much that he sent his Son for them and you (1 John 4:9), which begs the question: if you love - truly love - the one God has placed on your heart, what sacrifices are you willing to make to show them how much God loves them?

**Will you act according to the Holy Spirit's guidance?**

An eternity hangs in the balance. Pray for God to speak life through your words and actions for His glory.

#### Day 3: A Holy, Sacrificial Love

**READ: John 15:12-13**

W.W.J.D.

You've probably seen those letters before on a t-shirt or a bracelet. They stand for "What Would Jesus Do?" One of Jesus' most notable commands is; "Love one another as I have loved you," and it's something most Christians hear frequently in their faith journey. It's very easy to hear and very easy to be on the receiving end of that phrase. It's much harder to be the one doing the Christ-like loving.

This instruction is not just for our family or friends who are often already on our list to be recipients of love. Even then, it's very easy to love our friends and family as the world loves, not as Christ does. No, this wisdom goes beyond that. It's meant to follow us into our offices, schools, traffic jams, grocery store lines, and even the DMV. It must guide us in confrontation and keep us spirit-led, even in betrayal, sorrow, and frustration. The idea of loving one another as Jesus loves us seems simple until you remember the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made on your behalf.

*"No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13*

**Would you be willing to die out of love for your friends? Out of love for people you barely know? Who don't know you or maybe don't even like you?**

Most likely, the answer is no.

Jesus' sacrificial example of love is one that humbles and encourages us. A love that is unfathomable and all consuming all at the same time. A holy love that we should aspire to model and one that we can never replicate, because His love is just that big.

May we internalize this great love a little extra today.

#### Day 4: Prayer of Hope

Father, our hope is in you alone.

This hope is a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul (Hebrews 6:19), and nothing can take it away from us. We know that there will be troubles in this world, but you assure us that these trials will build a character that produces hope (Romans 5:4).

By putting our faith in Jesus, we are born again to a living hope through His resurrection (1 Peter 1:3). We are thankful for this gift, but you also call for us to share with others the reason for our faith (1 Peter 3:15).

Father, grant us the courage to take this hope to a lost and hurting world. Give us the resolve to trust in you and not the things of this world, for you are our firm foundation (Matthew 7:24) through Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### Day 5: For God So Loved the World

**READ: John 3:16-17**

John 3:16 is one of the most recognized verses of all time. *"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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

This verse is a summary of the faith and a declaration of the love every one of us experiences as a Christian.

As it is described, God SO loved us. He loves us beyond anything we can comprehend. And He wants everyone to be saved and to know and experience this kind of love. When we love God and truly understand His love for us, we can't help but want to join God in reaching those who don't know Him. Who wouldn't want to be loved like that?

But all-consuming, unfailing love can be hard to relate to for humans. We are used to conditional love. A love that recognizes fault. For us, some people are easier to love than others, and we tend not to invest the time and effort into love that isn't reciprocated or paid forward. And yet, it is our purpose and calling to reach out to those who don't know God's love, even the ones who seem far from God. You see, there is no such thing as far for the One who holds the world in His hand.

So we join Him to share, to show, to live His love. You may never see the fruit of your actions, but they are more important than you know.

#### Day 6: Love in Action

**READ: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

These familiar verses are used in everyday conversation, marriage ceremonies, and reverent prayers. This passage is used often, but do we pause in our busy days to acknowledge what this scripture means?

If love is patient and kind, that means that love pauses to deeply consider others and expresses compassion.

If love does not envy, boast or display arrogance, that means that love is humble, celebratory and sincere.

If love is not self-seeking, nor easily angered, that means love is servant-hearted, gentle, and understanding.

Though often used for weddings, this passage is not written in the context of marriage. It is written in the context of Paul's letter to Corinth for true, Christ-like love in the church. Read this passage again without the lens of the people who come first to mind.

**Love is patient and kind** - even to those who believe different things than I do.

**Love does not envy or boast** - even when I am overlooked or unappreciated in this world.

**Love is not self-seeking, nor easily angered** - even when I am wronged by someone who I barely know, and retaliation is easy.

**Do we show the biblical definition of love to all people? Are we patient when it matters most? Do we forgive rather than keeping a record of wrongs? Do we protect, trust, hope, and persevere?**

Reflect today on the truth behind the love described in 1 Corinthians 13 and ponder on ways you show love to people around you.

#### Day 7: Who is Your One?

**JOURNAL:** Who is your one? Why? How can you show love to them this week?

## WEEK 3 COURAGE TO BUILD

message notes



## Day 1: Prayer for Courage

Father, this week we pray for the courage to invite someone to seek you, despite our fear. God, you know our difficulties and challenges, our history with sharing your love, our anxiety about what we might lose, and our desire to overcome those for your kingdom. Help us take one step at a time to show others our vulnerability.

You have done so much for us. Our obedient response - our courageous response - must be to take the next step and to pray for those you have put in front of us to share with them about your saving grace. Remind us daily what truly matters and keep fueling our courage to move mountains (or just neighborhoods) to help people know you.

Amen.

## Day 2: The Calling of Matthew

## READ: Luke 5:27-32

Luke 5:27-32 tells us the story of Matthew (also known as Levi) being called by Jesus to become his disciple.

At the beginning of this account, we see Matthew sitting at his place of employment as a tax collector. From the history of the tax collector role, we can assume that Matthew was well paid for doing this. We also can assume that he was ostracized by his fellow Jews for working for the Roman occupation.

This seems like an unlikely person for Jesus to call to follow Him and make disciples of all people.

We don't know how much Matthew knew about Jesus before this documented moment, but we do know that Jesus said a simple phrase recorded in verse 27: "Follow me." In the next

verse, we read that Matthew left everything, stood to his feet, and followed Jesus. This is an amazing display of courage! Matthew left everything he knew. His job. His standing with the government. What is also astounding is that immediately he threw a party for Jesus and invited his fellow tax collectors to join him (Luke 5:29). He wasn't satisfied to have a quiet, personal faith, and didn't seem concerned about what the establishment thought (Luke 5:30). He had the courage to live his faith boldly in the world and share the amazing story of God's love with the people in his life.

## Do you have the courage to live your faith like Matthew?

What thing is Jesus calling you to leave behind? Are you willing to invite those around you into the amazing celebration that is the life of faith with Jesus as Lord?

These are difficult questions. But, we need to answer them. After all, Jesus is calling us.

## Day 3: The Courage of Esther

## READ: Esther 4:9-17

Esther 4:14 calls us into action.

We never know where God is going to place us and how he is going to use us, and it can be difficult and confusing. What we see around us and feel in our sometimes overwhelming thoughts can make action seem impossible. We say we want to live out the purpose God has for us, and then when the time comes for action we look at the state of the world and think - right now?

Really? It's not the time for that!

But it's exactly the time for that.

Perhaps you think God would not be able to use you. Perhaps

you think no one would listen, or they would react poorly. But God used Esther, who was not only a woman in a time when women were not permitted to speak freely to men, but also a Jewish woman in a foreign land where sharing her beliefs would generate outright hostility.

In this passage, we see Esther at the critical moment of decision, receiving a call to action, a reminder of her purpose - will she act? Or will she remain frozen, and through her inaction see God use someone else to provide deliverance for her people? "If I perish, I perish," she says. (Esther 4:16)

Stepping into something uncomfortable takes courage. It may not look like a leap on day one. It may be a small step followed by prayer and then another small step. And then it may one day become a leap. But no matter what it looks like or what the ask is, the important piece is this: God is calling you at this time to act right where you are.

Reflect on Esther's example and consider what you are being asked to do and whether you will respond with courage.

## Day 4: Prayer for Building

Father, we thank you Lord for the work you are doing within our individual lives as well as the life of our church.

Thank you for the blessing that is the body of the church. Lord, we believe that you are calling our personal walk with you into a season of building, and we recognize that you desire to build up all of your children into disciples in our local communities, our country, and our world.

We ask you Lord for discernment on how we can help your mission to reach 'the One more' who we know. We pray diligently that you move in the hearts of your people that we may accomplish exceedingly and abundantly more through your grace and wisdom (Eph. 3:20). We pray that we will build strength through you to press on toward the mark of your high calling. Thank you Lord for the physical and spiritual building that is taking place in our lives.

Amen.

## Day 5: The Strength of Nehemiah

## READ: Nehemiah 1, 2, &amp; 4

The concept of miraculous building, both spiritually and physically is displayed well in the Book of Nehemiah.

"I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and

what the king had said to me. They replied, 'Let us start rebuilding.' So they began this good work." Nehemiah 2:18

Through prayer and 'getting his hands dirty', amidst direct opposition, Nehemiah was able to organize the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem in a mere 52 days. He took the daunting task on - Nehemiah requested that he be allowed to lead the project - and he persevered with a holy determination to protect the city and the temple. The speed of the rebuild and the united strength this took is a wondrous testament to God's power and favor over Nehemiah's efforts, and in light of the opposition Jerusalem was facing.

"Our enemies said, 'Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work'..."

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.' And when our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work." Nehemiah 4:11-15

What is the spiritual wall that you are building with God on your side? Is it a marriage, a family, your career, or even your church? Regardless of the building taking place in your life, we can look to Nehemiah for encouragement. As Nehemiah faced opposition from Sanballat and Gesham, he prayed earnestly for the resources he needed and for all schemes against him to be demolished in the name of the Lord.

"They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, 'Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.'

But I prayed, 'Now strengthen my hands.' Nehemiah 6:9

God came through for Nehemiah because of his faithfulness, will he not do the same for you?

Let us start to rebuild what has been destroyed, neglected, or broken and rely on God to bring us through it.

## Day 6: The Command of Joshua

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

What would you be brave enough to do if you knew you couldn't fail?

Be strong and courageous.

Continued on next page

# WEEK 3 COURAGE TO BUILD

***If you were sure the God of the universe was with you, what things would you be willing to attempt?***

*Be strong and courageous.*

It's easy to look back on the stories in the Bible and be amazed at what God did through the people and events recorded there. It is also easy to forget that these are normal people just like you, who faced tasks and challenges that would have seemed just as impossible then as they do to us looking back.

In the opening of the book of Joshua, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous three times (verses 6, 7, and 9). After this, Joshua immediately obeyed God and began the preparation to do everything God told him to do. He trusted that God was God. If God was on his side and he was being obedient, there was no way he could fail so nothing was stopping him from starting right away.

God still gives us big tasks in our day just like he did for Joshua. God still speaks to us and expects us to trust Him. God promised that if Joshua obeyed his commandments, he would be successful. That promise is still true today.

*Be strong and courageous.*

God is telling you to be strong and courageous in your life. Have the courage to obey Him and watch Him use you to do the impossible.

## Day 7: Through Christ Who Strengthens Me

JOURNAL: What is a time that God filled you with the courage you need? What did you accomplish? What is something you believe you can accomplish with the courage and strength God freely gives?



*Have I not commanded you?*

## BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

*Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,*

## THE LORD GOD IS WITH YOU

*— wherever you go.*

-JOSHUA 1:9-

God invites us into a  
*life of trust*

# TRUST IS LOVE IN ACTION

**EXPRESS TRUST. EXPERIENCE GOD.**

## WEEK 4 EYES ON JESUS

### message notes



#### Day 1: Prayer for Mission

Father, we thank you that you are a God on mission. From the moment humans rebelled against you in the Garden of Eden, you have been pursuing us to redeem what was lost. We are grateful for the salvation we have in you, and in this gratitude accept the role you have given us to play in this mission. You call us to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20). This task would be impossible without the Holy Spirit to guide us. As we speak of Jesus across the street and support missionaries across the globe, give us the strength and courage to finish the race (Hebrews 12:1). Keep our eyes fixed on you and not the things of this world as we follow you into the mission fields in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and cities. You never promised it would be easy, but you do promise to be with us every step of the way. We thank you for this promise and for the sacred task in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### Day 2: Thomas

##### READ: John 20:24-29

After Jesus rose from the dead, the Bible gives us many unique perspectives of how the disciples handled the news. Some leapt for joy, others cried tears of happiness, and one notably had doubts. Thomas witnessed Christ die on the cross and be buried. He saw the tomb was sealed and guarded. Thomas saw the aftermath of his savior's death and, along with the other ten disciples, lived those three days in fear of what was next. We quickly judge Thomas for his doubt, but the truth is we are all like Thomas.

##### How often do you plead with God to give you signs that he is moving? How quick are you to forget what God has already done?

Jesus met Thomas where he was, showed him the holes in his hands and the pierced wound in his side. He said, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." (John 20:29)

Thomas was not condemned for his doubt, but Jesus encouraged him to have greater faith going forward because of what he had seen. There is no condemnation in asking Jesus to show up in your situation and help your unbelief. Allow what Jesus has already done in your life to be the foundation for your faith, which you can build on as you look back and see signs of His work. Don't let doubt cloud the vision Jesus has given you. Jesus has indeed moved in your life and He will surely have the victory again.

#### Day 3: Paul

##### READ: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Paul spent years in prison and under house arrest. Once he began his mission work, he was never sure what would happen in his life, but what he did know is that he needed to fully trust God was for him and with him. Paul experienced inner struggles and weakness, physical trials, and he wrestled with many challenging, complex situations with the early church as one of their leaders. He couldn't have always felt completely confident in his own power, but he didn't need to - he found strength in God's power. In 2 Corinthians, he shares that we are full of doubts, but we are never in despair (2 Corinthians 4:8). Why? Because God has given us a spirit of faith and we know the story ends with Him and only Him.

Doubt is a natural part of our lives. We can grow through our doubts. When we doubt, we hesitate, lack confidence and are uncertain. These traits can actually show us where we are lacking. We need to keep looking to God even when we doubt because that is how we grow closer to Him.

##### Are you doubting what your next step should be? Is God pushing you toward something, but you doubt His voice or His request?

Few biblical figures can be as relevant an example to the modern church as Paul is. When confronted with doubts of any kind, begin where Paul does, turn to the Author of our Faith and ask Him to lead you through.

#### Day 4: Prayer for Faith

Father, help strengthen our faith even when we doubt.

Paul's mission focused on being saved by faith alone so we ask for a faith that becomes the source of everything we are, everything we do, and everything we want to become. Lord, we know that the only way we can spend eternity with you in Heaven is our faith in Jesus Christ, and we pray against a spirit of doubt that would challenge that faith.

Let us be like Paul and combat our doubt and share with others the faith that saves us.

Let us be like Thomas, disciples even through our doubt, seeking truth and humility as we grow in our faith every day.

Help us handle our doubt the correct way. Doubt can deepen our faith when we turn to you to find our answers in your Truth. God, guide us as we seek to know you more and invite others to join us. Amen.

#### Day 5: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

##### READ: Daniel 3

In Daniel 3, we read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. As you read this passage, you can see that God is on mission through these young men's lives. In the first chapter of Daniel, we see that they are forced to live in a land hostile to their faith, taken from their homes and the safety of practicing their faith. King Nebuchadnezzar tried everything to wipe away their faith in the true God of the universe (changing their names, enforcing false worship, etc.), until it all came to a head at this point in their story where these three had to choose whether they would stand firm in what they knew to be true or waver in their faith.

##### Are you standing strong against the world when it attempts to pull you away?

As you read the story, you see the men thrown in the furnace to die - but wait! There is another in the fire (Daniel 3:25) to keep them safe. God quite literally joined them in the fires of their trial, as He still joins us in the middle of trials today through His Holy Spirit.

It is easy to stop here at the rescue. But look what happened as the result of the three men's faith!

Nebuchadnezzar says "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego" and declares that anyone who speaks against the true God will be punished (Daniel 3:28). The king who had been the oppressor became the protector! Not only were the three men now safe, but through their choice to remain true to their faith - no matter the cost - countless other people in

the nation were also protected by the king's edict.

Never underestimate the power of a life devoted to Christ. The evidence of your faith can be the vehicle for God to speak life to others. It is said that actions speak louder than words and nowhere is that more evident than how you live out your faith. As you enter your mission field daily and face trials, remember that those watching your life will see the fruit of your faith, and that Jesus promises to be in the fire with you.

Your faithful actions today have eternal consequences.

#### Day 6: David

##### READ: Psalm 18:1-6

The Psalms paint a beautiful picture of the everyday life of a Christian. The highs and lows of trusting God. The belief and doubt that we face whether it is consciously or subconsciously. King David is a wonderful depiction and character of faith. No matter how far he falls or the struggles he faces, he consistently turns back to God. The verses of Psalm 18 are David's thoughts on faith. After years of obedience David's conclusion is "*I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me and my place of safety.*" (Psalm 18:1-2). We can pull deep inspiration from this, challenging our hearts.

##### When our life ends, will God be glorified?

When God places a mission and purpose on your life, He will surely have the glory.

Every good and perfect thing comes from above (James 1:17). Even though we know this to be true, God invites us into the equation, to find identity and lifelong enrichment in partnering with Him.

May the journey of salvation and mission that we have partnered with God be worship to him.

#### Day 7: Your Mission

JOURNAL: What is the mission God has placed on your heart?

## WEEK 5 UPON THIS ROCK

message notes



## Day 1: Prayer for Commitment

Father, today we pray that you will instill a commitment to you into our lives.

Commitment to do what you have asked of us, to give, to serve, to invite. To help those in need, to step up without being asked, to tell the One in our lives about who you are. Lord, may we be dedicated like Peter was, showing loyalty and perseverance. Like Peter, may our commitment mature over time. May we ask where you are going Lord and then follow (John 13:36). Like Peter, at times we will fall short, stumble and say the wrong things. Forgive us, and teach us God to repent and rely upon your grace.

We thank you that commitment doesn't require perfection. That this is a journey where we keep coming back to you. May we seek Jesus in every day not just once a week, and may we commit to serving others as He did, laying down our lives for the calling God has placed upon us.

Amen.

## Day 2: Peter's Answer

READ: Matthew 16:13-19

"Who do you say I am?"

Jesus asks his disciples this question in Matthew 16:13-19. Peter's answer to this question is an amazing statement of conviction. He says "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus asks you the same question today.

**Who do you say He is? Is He the Messiah, the King, the Lord**

## of your life? Or, is He your "get out of hell free" card?

When Jesus hears Peter's answer, He tells him that He will build His church on this rock, and the gates of hell would not stand against it (Matthew 16:18). Peter's confession becomes confirmation, which leads to action. If you answer as Peter did, hell shakes in fear!

But if you answer that Jesus is Lord, you declare He is Lord over **everything** in your life. Your career. Your finances. Your decisions. This might sound scary, but if you are willing to say yes, your life will be forever changed.

God is still building His church today on people like you. The question is not if He can do it (because He can and will!), but whether or not you will call Him Lord and storm the gates of hell with Jesus as the King of your life. Don't miss your moment.

## Day 3: The House Built on the Rock

READ: Matthew 7:24-27

*"Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against the house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."*

This parable is less metaphorical than we often realize. Bills beat us down like heavy rain. Work sweeps us away like heavy floodwaters. Family crises are strong winds that push and pull us in many directions.

And yet - when finances are overwhelming, Christ is the ultimate provider. When we are burnt out by the overwhelming assignments at work, Jesus is the ultimate

rest. And when our family is threatened by sickness and injury, or divided by politics and religion, we are stabilized in the truth that comes from Him. The only answer to the troubles of life is the bedrock that is Jesus Christ. We cannot be destroyed if we are built on Christ. Trouble comes when we look to the world to fix our problems, but Jesus said "*Anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.*" (Matthew 7:26) The world we know is sand. It is not strong, it moves with the tides and is forever changing. Anything trusted to rest there can and will be swept away.

**Are you leaving your hopes to rest on the sand? Where can you move your cares and worries to the firm foundation of Jesus?**

## Day 4: Prayer for Obedience

Father, thank you for the guidance that we need.

Thank you for the redirection and spiritual shaping you provide us every day. We put aside our pride and recognize that your way is perfect. The purpose you have for our life exceeds what we can comprehend and we thank you for the guidance that you graciously offer.

Lord, we ask for an obedient heart. Anoint our minds with your wisdom and use us for your Glory. Help us to acknowledge your ways in all that we do (Proverbs 3:6) and strengthen us to be disciplined in serving you. Thank you for calling us into more each and every day.

Amen.

## Day 5: Jesus is the Cornerstone

READ: Ephesians 2:19-22

These verses share several ideas with us.

- We, as Christians, are all part of God's family.
- We aren't just visitors in His kingdom, we are citizens adopted as part of God's household, with full access to our Heavenly Father.

The Church is like a building. Those that came before us built the foundation, the part that must be the strongest as it bears the load of the future. They built it working side by side with the Cornerstone of the building, who is Jesus Christ. As we expand this building over time, adding space to welcome new believers to the house of God, we follow the words and

patterns of the original builder laid out in His word.

We aren't just a collection of individuals, but a spiritual household where God is present. And God asks us to help Him with the expansion project as He builds His church to this day.

So we choose if we will commit to being on the construction crew, commit to what God is calling us to do, and follow Jesus' example.

**What is God asking you to do today to expand His house?**

## Day 6: Obedience is Important

READ: James 1:22-25

Do you know the difference between hearing and listening? Some say that hearing is passive (you notice a bird chirping outside your window) but listening is active (your alarm goes off and you get out of bed).

In James 1:22-25, the author reminds you to be a doer of the word of God, not just a hearer, and compares this to one who sees their reflection in the mirror but forgets how they look moments later. James tells us that a doer acts and is blessed through that action (James 1:25).

**Are you listening to and obeying what God is telling you to do, or are you just passively hearing what He is saying in the Bible? Are you missing out on God's blessing due to disobedience?**

God has such amazing plans for your life, but you have to say yes to His commands. If God has been prompting you to do something, don't let anything stop you from obeying. What is He asking you to do? Who is the one He has placed on your heart? Don't let fear or complacency stop you, because if you say yes, then God will bring His plans to fruition through you.

## Day 7: The Call to Obedience

JOURNAL: What is God calling you to be obedient about?

## WEEK 6 **STRENGTH TO STAY THE COURSE**

message notes



### Day 1: Prayer for Strength

Lord, we pray for strength that only you can provide. We long for your divine ability to overcome challenges and endure hardships to fulfill your plans for us. We read of strength and being strong over 360 times in the Bible. You want us to turn to you because in our weakness your power is most evident. We desire what Paul mentions in Colossians 1:11, we want to be strengthened with power according to your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience. May you grant us strength to follow through on what you have put in our hearts, living righteously and serving others, enduring hardship. True strength comes from you, oh Lord, and not from us. Amen.

### Day 2: "You Know That I Love You"

**READ: John 21:15-17**

In John 21:15-17, we see not only an assignment being given but also a moment of redemption. After Jesus is resurrected and spending time with the disciples, He shares a moment with Peter where He asks him three times if He loves Him. *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time,*

*"Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

This scripture is important because it redeems the three times that Peter denied Christ, but it also gives direction to Peter in regard to starting the church. In a lot of ways we may have been like Peter. Maybe we denied Christ all our lives and finally declared Him Lord of all. Or maybe we keep returning to a habitual sin and declare that this year will be different. Similar to Peter, Jesus redeems us for our sinful and forgetful moments. And similarly once more we can take instruction from Jesus in John 21:15-17. As we are praying over our Ones, may we recognize the love we have for Jesus openly and take steps to 'Feed his lambs', 'Take care of his sheep', and 'Feed his sheep'. Dwelling on this instruction a little extra today helps us to serve in our Kingdom mission.

### Day 3: Press On

**READ: Philippians 3:14**

Some of us are more competitive than others, but we all want to win sometimes. In life we set goals for ourselves; some we achieve and others we miss. In this verse Paul is describing his intense focus on spiritual growth. We are not just citizens of earth, but ultimately as Christians we are citizens of Heaven. We have all failed at times here on earth, but we need to focus on eternity and not dwell on what's behind, but learn from our failures. Don't let your past define you, set new goals, trust God for the future, look for His purpose and be an example to others. Paul has a clear goal of being in Heaven

strength to stay on the course

with his Heavenly Father and bringing as many people as he can with him. We set many personal goals, but they fail to bring us lasting happiness. Live and strive for more of God. Leave your earthly successes and failures and press on towards the ultimate goal of your heavenly calling and eternal life with Jesus.

### Day 4: Prayer for Endurance of Faith

Father, We thank you for the opportunity to serve you. We know there will be trials as we follow your will, so we constantly cry out to you to strengthen us. Give us endurance as troubles arise so that we can meet these challenges through the Holy Spirit. We have faith that on the other side of the endurance is a blessing that we might not see in the midst of the trial. There might be times, like Job, that we don't understand why these things are happening, but we do have faith that you are in control of everything. Give us the endurance to persevere in every trial as we follow you on the path you have placed before us.

We pray boldly for this in Jesus' name, Amen.

### Day 5: Your Battle has a Victory

**READ: Joshua 6:12-21**

The Battle of Jericho is a powerful moment of faith, movement, and obedience. Joshua was instructed by God to walk around the walls of Jericho seven times. However, this instruction came with many moving parts. The order from God also included seven priests to walk in front, priests to carry the 'Presence of the Lord', aka the Ark of the Covenant, and Joshua's army. Each of these people, led by Joshua, walked in unison around the walls of Jericho for seven days. Rising early in the morning and walking until sunset at night. And on the final day, when the rams horn was blown the walls came tumbling down and Jericho was defeated.

At any point, one of these crucial members could have stepped back. They could've gotten bored, lacked faith in the mission, or gotten tired. Yet they stayed. They marched on believing that on the seventh day God was going to come through for them. That victory over their battle was going to happen.

**What if you are on the sixth day of your seven day mission?**

**What if God's victory in your life is just one day away? What**

**if that answered prayer is right around the corner? Or that the battle you have been fighting will surely be won.**

The story of Jericho is about perseverance and better yet, perseverance while in the presence of God. The Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us gives us the faith and strength to press on to victory. Take courage today from Joshua's army and press on to the victory God has for you.

### Day 6: Whatever You Do, Do It for the Lord

**READ: Colossians 3:17**

Colossians 3:17 reminds us that whatever we do "in word or deed," we should do this in the name of Jesus. This can be difficult to remember in the midst of the day to day challenges in the life you lead. However, if you look at verse 16, you will see the key to how to do this. You must "let the message of Christ dwell among you richly" if you are to accomplish this command. The apostle Paul even reminds you of how to do this. You must worship with one another! The Christian life was not meant to be lived alone. We gather together to worship through song, word, and action as we grow in our faith walk, "admonish(ing) one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." If you and your One aren't surrounded by fellow believers, you are missing out on the opportunity to be strengthened and to strengthen others. This will equip you to go into the world to reach your friends, neighbors, and family as you do everything in the name of Jesus Christ, our King and Savior!

### Day 7: Gratitude for God's Work in Your Life

**JOURNAL:** Write a note of gratitude to God for what He's done and renew your "yes" to His Mission this week.

## WEEK 7 THE FIRE IS FALLING

message notes



fire is falling



### Day 1: Prayer for Empowerment

Father, you are the almighty and all-powerful God of the universe. There is nothing you cannot do. Through your Holy Spirit, we ask you to empower us to do your work for your kingdom and your glory. Like the writer of Hebrews, we pray for you to equip us to do everything in your will through Jesus, our Lord (Hebrews 13:21). You command us, like Joshua, to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9). We also know that we can't do anything of eternal consequence without you, but we can do all things through Christ, who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13).

Keep these thoughts in our hearts and our minds as we go forward to do your work in this world that you loved so much that you sent your Son to die for it. Empower us to love like you love, in and through the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

### Day 2: The Day of Pentecost

READ: Acts 2:1-47

Imagine if every July 4th, Americans made a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. to celebrate and feast together. A melting pot of people - every accent, every race, all who call America home coming to celebrate its existence. Now imagine that at this giant feast of thousands of people, a wind of fire appears, swirls around (but burns no one!) and right after that happens one man stands up and begins preaching. Everyone can hear him in their native tongue (or regional accent, if you will). This is the story of Acts 2.

Before this story, Jesus has just ascended into Heaven after promising the disciples they will be given the power of

the Holy Spirit to reach all people (Acts 1). But they couldn't speak all languages? They could never get to all places? And how would they know when they had this power? And yet they believed and stayed ready nonetheless, because they had faith that when God was ready to use them, they would know.

As the holy fire of the Spirit touched them all at Pentecost, the disciples knew. Peter immediately took the opportunity to stand and preach the gospel to thousands of people.

#### When you see God at work, are you ready? Will you take the opportunity to stand up and speak?

Thousands were saved that day, encouraged and discipled through the rest of the feasting season, and then sent home to their countries and cities to share the gospel to the people who had not been in Jerusalem. And more were added to their number every day (Acts 2:47).

Every person you share Jesus with can reach others who you never have and never will interact with. The spread of the gospel starts with you reaching just one person.

### Day 3: The Story of Phillip

READ: Acts 8:26-40

When God calls us to action, we are to respond immediately with obedience.

When the angel of the Lord told Philip to go south to the Gaza road, scripture says "He rose and went." When God speaks, you shouldn't wait or negotiate. If He wills it, He will fulfill it! Philip obeyed immediately and he observed God already at work in the Ethiopian official's life.

Are you looking to see where God is already at work in your

### neighborhood or place of employment?

Philip was willing to spend time with the one person God placed on his heart. It didn't take place at church or in a spectacular environment. This was a desert place, in the middle of the road. What was the result? The Ethiopian was baptized and went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39). Sometimes you must take God's truth and love to desolate places to reach your lost one. There is great joy to be found when you obey God's call and reach the one on your heart, for there is great celebration on earth and in Heaven when a lost soul accepts Jesus as Lord.

### Day 4: Prayer for God to Move

Father, thank you for the work you are doing and will continue to do in the life of our ones.

We thank you for the gift of your salvation and the gift of seeing your almighty work at hand in the life of our friends and families.

Lord, today we ask for a powerful work to be done in the life of our ones. We pray for transformation in every aspect of their life - from work and finances, to relationships with family and friends. We know that you are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End, and we desire that our one will come to marvel and surrender their life to you, to know you as the one true God. Prayer is not the last resort but our intercession on their behalf, and telling them about you is the most loving thing we can do for them.

We thank you for dying on the cross for all of us and we pray for a time soon where we will worship you together. Amen.

### Day 5: The Lord Works in Mysterious Ways

READ: John 3:8

"The Lord works in mysterious ways."

It's a phrase we hear and can certainly agree with more often than not. We may pray for decades and never see an answer. We don't tithe, yet we see the church expand. We even can read the same verse 100 times and find a new meaning each time. The Lord certainly works in mysterious ways.

In John 3:8, Jesus explains this to Nicodemus: *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

When it comes to salvation, God works in ways that we can't

always fully understand. The way you feel God 'tug' on your heart is different from the way your friend experiences His influence. And when it comes to the salvation of our ones, we must be patient but leave no stone unturned as we listen for God's whisper of direction. You never know what action, scripture, gift, or song may be the turning point that your one needed. Like the wind, it is forever changing, but the unchanging love of Jesus Christ is going to reveal itself in the perfect time.

**Have you seen any nudges from God in the life of your one?**

**How can you join Him in His work?**

### Day 6: The Joy of Heaven

READ: Luke 15:3-7

In this passage, Luke records Jesus' words about the joy in Heaven over one saved sinner. Jesus is responding to those who demanded perfection, but didn't repent themselves; He isn't encouraging them to sin, but encouraging compassion. Each and every person is precious to God. He doesn't want anyone to be lost and left out from His saving love. He desperately wants those wandering far from Him to be brought into His open arms, to be with Him in Heaven someday. That is where we come in.

We can't save the ones in our lives, only God can do that. But we can invite them. We can include them. We can let them know they matter to God, whatever situation they are in. God deeply values bringing a single life home to Him and Heaven celebrates when a sinner acknowledges wrongdoing, seeks forgiveness and returns to God.

God gives us the opportunity to do the leg work for Him. Continue praying that those in your life move closer to God and take the next step toward salvation.

### Day 7: Invite your One

JOURNAL: Who is Your One? Write about how you plan to engage with them and invite them to know Jesus - then do it!



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