

Announcements

You can sign up to serve with our kids or first impressions teams by going to imageatl.com/serve. We would love to have you join us on a serving team!

Prayer Suggestions

As we seek to be good neighbors and to respond to our belief in Jesus with responsive action, keep these prayer requests in mind:

1. June marks the beginning of Pride month, a month set aside for the LGBTQIA+ community, and to bring awareness to issues facing people in that community. This is a community that has historically been ostracized from the church, which has turned many away from Jesus. Pray for the love of Christ to be evident to people of this community, and for hearts to be turned toward Him. Pray for healing from past hurts caused by people in the Church. Pray for the opportunity to be a good neighbor to and to share God's love with those in our communities who identify as LGBTQIA+.
2. May 31-June 1 mark the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre/Riot (<https://www.tulsaohistory.org/exhibit/1921-tulsa-race-massacre/>). Pray for those still living who experienced the violence of those days, and for their descendants. Pray for their peace and healing. Pray for those still living who inflicted that violence upon others, that they would repent of that evil and not pass it down to their descendants. Pray for the people of America as we grapple with these chapters of our history and seek ways to repent and make changes for the future, so these events do not happen again. Pray for hearts to turn from hate and racism and towards Jesus. Ask God to show you how to respond with right action in the face of hate and racism because of your belief in Him.

Joshua Project Unreached Peoples: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Family Time

Family Time is an intentional space where we live out the model we see in Acts 2:42. We want to be devoted to the Word together, break bread, fellowship, and pray. It's also a place where we practice hospitality. We want this time to foster both spiritual and relational growth moving the group from acquaintances and friends to family. Family Time begins with conversations around a meal, followed by a discussion about Sunday's sermon.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

Title: Follow Me

Series: Inverted Kingdom

Scripture: Luke 11:27-36

Other Scripture/Cross-References

James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works -- this person will be blessed in what he does.

Jonah -- "the sign of Jonah"

Luke 11:29-32; Matthew 12:38-42; Mark 8:12

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Main Points

11:26-32

We hear, we believe, we respond with action.

Belief requires responsive action

Jesus is the fulfillment of all the signs (sign of Jonah)

All of Scripture is weaving together a story of God's goodness, His faithfulness, His provision, His glory, His promises.

11:33-36

1. Jesus is the light that has come into the world
2. We must fix our eyes on Jesus

How do we pursue holiness? Things God has given us to help keep our eyes on Him:

1. The body (Church)
 - a. Church is people, not a place
 - b. Church is given for a specific reason
2. Prayer and the Word of God
3. Community

Jesus is the light of the world. Fix your eyes on Him and respond by living in obedience.

Quotes

"Good eyes" admit light; bad ones do not. The implication is that the individual is responsible for receiving light. The eye is thus a "lamp," not in the sense that it emits light, but that through it the body receives light. The real source of light is outside the body; if we think we can generate our own light, we must beware lest that inner "light" prove to be darkness. -- W.L. Liefeld, Luke (The Expositor's Bible Commentary).

Questions

1. What challenged you? What were your takeaways? What encouraged or convicted you?
2. What questions do you have?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?
4. Does your belief in Christ lead to responsive action? Why or why not? (Are you only a hearer of the Word, or also a doer of the Word?)
5. Do you see the story about God woven through Scripture? How do you see His story woven in our world today? In your life?
6. What does it mean to fix your eyes on Jesus? Are your eyes fixed on Jesus?
7. Which of the three (church, word/prayer, community) is most helpful to you when you struggle to keep your eyes on God? Which is hardest for you to engage with?
8. If we say our eyes are fixed on Jesus, but we are not responding with action, where is the disconnect? What do we need to confess and repent of? How can we begin acting and living in response to our belief in Christ?

The Sign of Jonah

(Luke 11:29-32; Matthew 12:38-42; Mark 8:12)

Tim Keller: Jesus is the prophet Jonah should have been...Jesus did not merely weep for us; he died for us. Jonah went outside the city hoping to witness its condemnation, but Jesus went outside the city to die on a cross to accomplish salvation (*The Prodigal Prophet*)

A few devotionals/links on the sign of Jonah/about Jonah:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/sign-jonah/>

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/spirituality/pencil-preaching/sign-jonah>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/tim-keller-fishy-story/>

Ekklesia -- ἐκκλησία

(pronounced ek-lay-see-uh)

From ek ἐκ + kaleo καλέω (kah-lay-o)

ek ἐκ: a preposition denoting origin; usually translated as from, out of, of, by, with, away from

kaleo καλέω: to call, to invite, to call aloud, to call by name, to give a name to, to call forth

Ekklesia literally means "a calling out"

Strong's Concordance: a calling out; ie, a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation

Thayer's Greek Lexicon:

1. A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly
 - a. an assembly of the people convened at the public place of the council for the purpose of deliberating
 - b. the assembly of the Israelites
 - c. in a Christian sense:
 - i. an assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting
 - ii. a company of Christians who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs

- iii. those who, anywhere, in a city or village, constitute such a company and are united into one body
- iv. the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth
- v. the assembly of faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven

Other Resources

Commentaries/Books Pastor Bryson used:

Tim Keller - The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy

John Piper "Be Careful Lest the Light in You be Darkness"

Bock, D. L. (1996). Luke: 9:51–24:53 (Vol. 2, pp. 1099–1100). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic

Liefeld, W. L. (1984). Luke. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke (Vol. 8, p. 954). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are where our community groups divide into gender-specific groups for a time of more intentional discussion and connection. This creates a safer and more intimate space to open up our hearts in order to grow deeper in the gospel. This time begins with a discussion about Sunday's sermon and then transitions to a time of transparency where we are honest about where we are relationally, personally, missionally, and spiritually.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

See Sermon Discussion Notes above.

RPMS (30-45 min)

R	How are you doing RELATIONALLY ? (friends, coworkers, neighbors, spouses, family -- also, how are you building relationships with people different from you or on the margins?)
P	How are you doing PERSONALLY ? (emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, etc.)
M	How are you doing MISSIONALLY ? (what you're doing daily to be on mission, how you're engaging people, etc)
S	How are you doing SPIRITUALLY ? (time with God, in Scripture, what you're learning, who you're learning from, memorization, etc.)

Prayer (10-15 min)

