CORE VALUE 10 OF 10 · WEEK 10

ANABAPTISH

Relying on God

We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.

Alice Musumba | Sunday, November 15, 2026 | Crest Community Church

For the Nightstand

THE TEACHING

"I can do it by myself!" Every toddler says it. Holding the door. Tying the shoes. And we never really stop saying it. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Stand on your own two feet. It's a real strength. But it can become our curse. Too often we tell God, "Please stand by while I take care of this by myself." And prayer becomes our last resort.

Moses saw it coming. Before Israel entered the land, he warned them. When you're full and the houses are built, you'll say, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." Remember the Lord. He gave you the ability. Here's the irony. When we have very little, we learn to depend on God because we know our limits. When we have more, we start to believe we have everything under control.

Relying on God means making Him our first response, not our last resort. Receive: ask Him first, "God, what's Your take?" Rest: hand Him what you can't fix. "God, it's Yours." Return: when you start to sink, cry out. Some days we walk on water. Other days we just fall on His chest. Either way, He reaches out His hand.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 8:17–18
Remember who gave you the ability.

Exodus 14:13–14
The Lord will fight for you. Be still.

Matthew 14:29–31
Peter sinks. Jesus reaches out His hand.

Psalm 121:1–2
Where does my help come from? The Lord.

A PRAYER

God, we confess it. We've been trying to do it by ourselves. Forgive us for making You our last resort. Here is the thing we can't fix. It's Yours. Teach us to turn to You first, and when we start to sink, to cry out. You are our help. In Jesus' name, amen.

PART TWO

For Your Home Church

Gather together. About 60 minutes, after your meal or around it.

FOR LEADERS

This is shared language, not a script. Everyone in the room can see these notes, so feel free to read them out loud. The times add up to an hour. Hold them loosely. If a conversation is alive, stay with it and trim somewhere else.

This is the last gathering of our fall home church rhythm. Thank you for leading. It has mattered.

Check In

5 min

Start by hearing how last week actually went.

LEADER NOTE

Go around the room. **How did last week's practice go?** Three were offered: pray each morning, "God, give me less of what doesn't matter. And more of what does," open one hand (delete an app for seven days, leave an empty space on your calendar, or say one honest "no"), or give away one thing that has a grip on you.

Some people will not have done it. That is fine, and it is worth saying out loud so nobody performs. Ask them instead what the week was like. No fixing and no follow-up questions. Just receive it.

Take Communion

5 min

We don't clean ourselves up to come to this table. We bring it all.

LEADER NOTE

Share the bread and the cup, before, during, or after your meal. If your group doesn't have its own words yet, have someone read this psalm out loud first.

PSALM 62:5–8 · NIV

5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.

6 Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

7 My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

8 Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.

Read This Overview

5 min

LEADER NOTE

Ask someone to read this out loud.

Ten weeks. Ten core values. And we end with the one that holds up all the others. Relying on God. Listen to the first word of it. "We *confess* our dependence on God for everything." Confess. That's a word we usually save for sin. Maybe that's the point. In a culture that prizes doing it yourself, admitting you need God for everything can feel like a confession.

Alice Musumba, our Director for Prayer, has lived in two cultures. She grew up with very little to fall back on. When there was no money for school fees and no easy answer, God was not her last resort. He was her first resort, and many times her only resort. Now she lives where there's a lot to fall back on. And she sees the danger. We can still believe in God, pray to Him, and worship Him, and in practice still be relying on ourselves.

Joshua Nolt, who wrote the chapter on this value in *Compelling Convictions*, our series book, names three postures of prayer. Receiving. Resting. Returning. We receive what God offers with open hands. We rest in Him with the thing we can't fix. And when our open hands close up again, and they will, we return. God is not surprised by that. He invites us to open them again.

Notice the second half of the value too. It isn't only about getting through hard things. It's about intimacy. Prayer isn't a crisis hotline. Talk to God the way you talk to a dear friend, about the big things and the little ones.

Relying on God

We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.

Make Him your first response, not your last resort.

Go Deeper in the Scripture

20 min

Watch Peter step out, start to sink, and cry out. Then watch Jesus reach.

LEADER NOTE

Have two people read the passage out loud, switching at verse 28. Read it slowly. You won't get to every question. If time is short, start with the three marked START HERE

MATTHEW 14:22–33 · NIV

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of
him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed
them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he
was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land,
buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the
disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they
said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward
Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried
out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith,"
he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those
who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

BACKGROUND NOTES

Up the mountain to pray. Before any of this, Jesus sends everyone away and goes off alone to pray (verse 23). Even Jesus began with his Father.

Shortly before dawn. Literally, "the fourth watch of the night," somewhere between three and six in the morning. The disciples had been fighting the wind for hours, far from land.

"It is I." In Greek, Jesus says, "I am." It's the same way God names himself to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). The one walking on the water is the God who split the sea.

The wind. Peter's problem wasn't the water. It was where he looked. "When he saw the wind, he was afraid" (verse 30).

"Lord, save me!" Three words. One of the shortest prayers in the Bible, and one of the most honest. Peter didn't have to figure out how to save himself. He had to turn to Jesus.

Immediately. Matthew uses the word three times in this story (verses 22, 27, 31). Jesus doesn't wait for Peter to get it together before he reaches.

"You of little faith." The same phrase Jesus used in last week's passage about worry (Matthew 6:30). He says it while he's holding on. And little faith still got Peter out of the boat.

Long before Peter's boat, Moses warned Israel about a different kind of storm. Not the hard season. The good one.

DEUTERONOMY 8:10–18 · NIV

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the
good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your
God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving
you this day. 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine
houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and
your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart
will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you
out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

15 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and
waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water
out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something
your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it
might go well with you. 17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the
strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the

> LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

NOTICE THE SLIDE

God provides for them. They become prosperous. They begin to believe their own strength produced their success. They forget that God gave them the ability to succeed. As Paul asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7).

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Trace Peter from verse 28 to verse 31. What does he ask, what does he do, what does he see, and what does he say? START HERE
2. Where is Jesus at the start of the story, and what is he doing? Why might that matter?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Peter's prayer is three words. "Lord, save me!" Why is a prayer like that so hard to pray for people who are used to fixing things? START HERE
4. Moses warns that a good season can make us forget God. Why might the good seasons be harder on our faith than the hard ones?
5. Alice said that when we have very little, we learn to depend on God, but when we have more, we start to believe we have everything under control. Where have you seen that in your own life?

WHAT DOES IT ASK OF US?

6. When a problem comes up, what's your first move? Who do you call? What would it look like to ask first, "Lord, what's Your take?" START HERE
7. Some days we walk on water. Other days we just fall on His chest. Which one sounds more like this season for you?

THREE POSTURES OF PRAYER

1. **Receive.** Trust God as your first response. "Okay, God, in this situation, what is Your take?" Then actually listen.
2. **Rest.** Surrender your need for control. "God, it's Yours. I don't know the next step, but it's Yours."
3. **Return.** Step out in faith. And when you start to sink, turn back to Jesus. He still reaches out His hand.

FOR ANOTHER NIGHT

Joshua Nolt borrows a question from Luke Keefer Jr.: “What have we come to rely on that has taken the place of God?”

Parker Palmer calls it “functional atheism,” the belief that “ultimate responsibility for everything rests with us.” Where do you see that in yourself, or in the church?

Nolt also asks, “What good gifts in my life do I need to surrender so they do not take the place of God?”

Practice for the Night: Lay It Down Together

20 min

Remember what God has carried. Then hand Him what you can’t.

LEADER NOTE

Bring a small stone for each person and a few markers. Slips of paper work too. Set a cross, a candle, or an open Bible in the middle of the room. If someone laid a rock at the cross on Sunday, they are welcome to lay the same thing down again. Returning is the point.

The silence will feel long. Don’t fill it. When it’s time to share, go first, and keep it simple. Some people may not follow Jesus yet. That’s welcome here. Invite them to simply name what feels heavy.

1. **Remember** · 5 min
   Think of a time God showed Himself strong on your behalf. Maybe you walked on water. Maybe you just fell on His chest. Anyone who wants to can share one in a sentence or two. Then thank Him for it together. Let it be a faith builder.

2. **Name it** · 4 min
   In silence, ask yourself, **“What have I been trying to fix by myself?”** Write one word on your stone. Only you need to know what it means.

3. **Lay it down** · 5 min
   One at a time, set your stone in the middle. As you do, say, **“God, it’s Yours. I don’t know the next step, but it’s Yours.”** The group answers together: **“The Lord will fight for you.”**

4 **Pray for peace** · 6 min

The leader reads Philippians 4:6–7 out loud: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Then turn to one other person and pray for each other. Keep it simple: **“Jesus, guard my friend’s heart and mind with Your peace.”**

KEEP THIS

God, it’s Yours. I don’t know the next step, but it’s Yours.

My help comes from the Lord.

Cut this card out and keep it close this week.

Practice for the Week Ahead

3 min

Choose one small, honest step. Start where you are, not where you think you should be.

IF THIS STILL FEELS NEW

Begin with God. Each morning this week, before the demands of the day take over, pray one line: “God, I need You today.” Then notice what you’re tempted to carry alone.

IF YOU’VE FOLLOWED JESUS A WHILE

First response. When a problem comes up this week, pause before you call anyone or start fixing. Ask, “Lord, what are You saying in this situation?” Then sit quietly for one minute and listen.

IF YOU’RE READY FOR MORE

Pray with others. Join the Thursday online prayer space, where we gather to learn to pray and to pray for one another. Ask your home church leaders for the link. Or write down three times God carried you, and tell one person the story.

Bring the story with you to the potluck on November 22.

Close in Prayer

2 min

LEADER NOTE

This is the last home church gathering of the fall. Gather everyone and close your time in prayer, however the Spirit leads.

CELEBRATE WITH US · SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Home Church Potluck

Ten weeks. Ten core values. A whole season of tables, prayers, and stories.

This is the final week of our fall home church rhythm, and the end of our Anabaptish series. Thank you for opening your homes, your tables, and your lives. Let's celebrate what God has done. Join us for a potluck right after our worship gathering on Sunday, November 22. Bring a dish to share, and bring your home church with you.

Will you share a highlight?

At the potluck, we'd love to hear from a few of you. What did God do in your home church this fall? How has He been at work in you? A few minutes, in your own words. Nothing polished needed.

If you're willing to share, let your home church leader know, or email Kymbri at admin@crestcommunitychurch.org.

WANT TO GO FURTHER?

Compelling Convictions, the companion book to this series, is free to borrow from the church library. Chapter 10, by Joshua Nolt, is on this week's value, with responses from Stephen Badiger and Kerry Hoke. Ask your home church leaders.

Thursday online prayer. Alice invites all of us to a virtual prayer space on Thursdays, where we learn to pray and pray for one another. Ask your home church leaders for the link.