



---

*Easter  
Prayer Guide  
& Devotional*

---

# who's your 1 ONE?

---

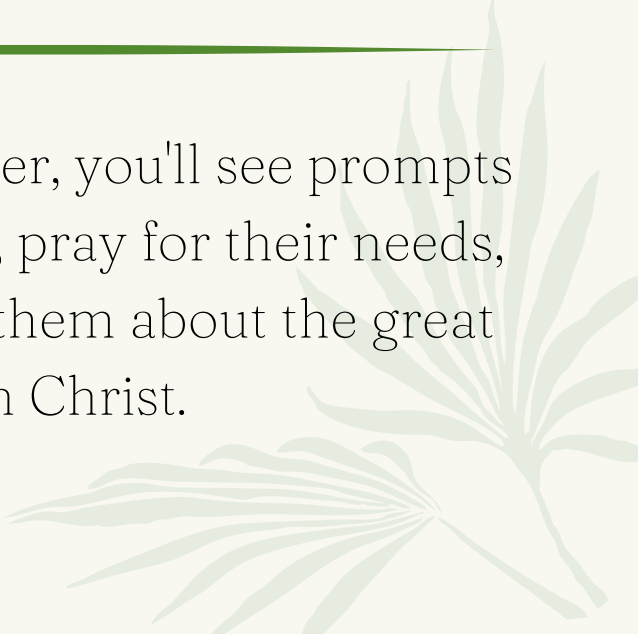
*Imagine if every member of FBC West Plains could answer that question with the name of a person—a person for whom they're praying, and with whom they're sharing the gospel.*

*How would it change our church?  
How would it change West Plains?  
How would it change the world?*

*God's people don't merely need another method for evangelism. What they need is a white-hot passion to see people who are far from God experience the new life He offers through Jesus Christ.*

---

That's why, as we walk towards Easter, you'll see prompts in this booklet to identify Your One, pray for their needs, serve them in love, and share with them about the great hope you have found in Christ.



# How to Use the Guide

---

*The goal of this guide is  
to prepare your heart for worship,  
your hands for service, your mind with truth,  
and your lips with the gospel*

---

## Each Week

You'll be asked to think and act strategically, based on how God has gifted you, in order to love and minister to Your One for the sake of the gospel



Function



Love



Life



Reach

---

## Each Day

You'll read a passage from God's Word, along with a short devotional, and be asked to respond in prayer and worship.

Hover your photo taking APP over the QR Codes to listen to worship songs.



Growth



Pray



Worship

---

## Easter Playlist

Over the next three weeks, as you go about your day, listen to [this playlist](#) as a way to prepare your heart for worship



# Week One Overview

March 20th - March 26th

## Rescue Promised



Function

Imagine the impact if every Christian had one person they prayed for and shared the gospel with. Let's prayerfully identify 'Your One' (or ones!) this week and commit to praying for them during this Easter season,

Find time this week to reach out to Your One. Express to them how much they mean to you.

See if you can make a plan to spend time together.



Love



Life

Brainstorm: How has God uniquely gifted you to minister to your One in a tangible way? What are their needs?

Be creative: Find ways to intentionally share the gospel with Your One.



Reach

This doesn't need to be a full gospel presentation, just a natural outgrowth of your existing relationship with Your One. We're just hoping to get the conversation started and see where God leads.

# Monday

March 20, 2023



Genesis 1:26-31

***Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”***

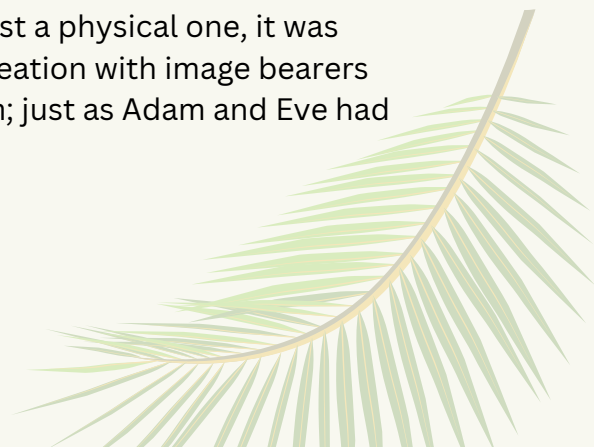
***So God created man  
in his own image;  
he created him in the image of God;  
he created them male and female.***

***God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.***



*some thoughts...*

On the sixth day of creation, God created man and woman. They were created in a special way, for a special purpose, and to enjoy a special relationship with their Creator. As image bearers of God, they were called to rule over the rest of creation as they enjoyed a close, intimate relationship with God. As a result, God blessed them and commanded them to "be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth." This command was not just a physical one, it was also a spiritual one. God's plan and desire was to fill His good creation with image bearers who would also enjoy a close and intimate relationship with Him; just as Adam and Eve had in Eden.



March 20, 2023



Pray

**As you Pray:**

- Reflect on the power and goodness of God displayed in His creation.
  - Ask God to reveal to you, and to remove from you, any barriers that might exist between you and Him.
  - Thank God for His goodness in desiring to have a close relationship with you.
  - Ask God to reveal to you Your One--the person God has placed in your life that needs this type of relationship with Him.
- 



Worship &  
Respond



[This is My Father's  
World](#)

As you begin to worship, reflect on the words of the hymn

*This is My Father's World:*

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world,  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--  
His hand the wonders wrought.

Spend time in nature. Reflect on the power and goodness of God that is evident through what He has created. Consider how He has uniquely created you.

Reach out to Your One. Briefly tell them how much they mean to you and to God. Maybe even invite them along to enjoy nature with you. Use this as an opportunity to point them to the Creator.

# Tuesday

March 21, 2023



Genesis 3: 8-15

***Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”***

***And he said, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”***

***Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”***

***The man replied, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate.”***

***So the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?”***

***And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

***So the Lord God said to the serpent:***

***Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than any livestock  
and more than any wild animal.  
You will move on your belly  
and eat dust all the days of your life.  
I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring.  
He will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.***

*some thoughts...*

God's good and perfect creation didn't stay that way long. Eventually, Satan stepped in and caused Adam and Eve to question the truthfulness of God, the character of God and the love of God. As a result, Adam and Eve rebelled against God, plunging God's perfect creation into chaos and dysfunction. No longer would mankind enjoy a close and intimate relationship with their Creator. Instead, they would run and hide from God. But God still desires to have a relationship with His image bearers so here, in Genesis 3, God makes a promise to send a Rescuer who, one day, will crush the head of Satan, and make a way for the close and intimate relationships to be restored.

March 21, 2023

As you pray:



Pray

- Meditate on the justice and mercy of God shown in this passage.
- Thank God for how He has shown you mercy
- Ask God to forgive you for the times when you have questioned His truthfulness, goodness and love.
- Pray for the hearts of those God has placed in your life.
  - Pray for opportunities to share about God's justice and mercy
  - Pray for the wisdom needed to recognize those opportunities to share
  - Pray for boldness to use those opportunities to point others to Jesus, the promised Rescuer.



Worship &  
Respond

Begin your time in worship by reflecting on the words of this hymn:

*"Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
In all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.*

*O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came."*

*-Praise to the Holiest in the Height*  
John Henry Newman (1865)



Holy, Holy, Holy.

At the fall, not only was man's vertical relationship with God broken, but our horizontal relationships with others was broken as well.

In light of God's grace and mercy towards you, are there relationships in your life that need to be mended?

Make an effort to reconcile with those you may have wronged and tell them about how God has reconciled you to Himself.



# Wednesday

March 22, 2023



Read

Genesis 12:1-4

***The Lord said to Abram:***

***Go from your land,  
your relatives,  
and your father's house  
to the land that I will show you.  
I will make you into a great nation,  
I will bless you,  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,  
and all the peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.***

***So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.***



*some thoughts...*

When was the last time you were asked to do something that seemed impossible or maybe even a little ridiculous? Generations after the Fall, God continued His rescue plan by calling a man and his wife, Abram (Abraham) and Sarah to leave behind everything they knew in the pursuit of a promise. God promised to bless them and to turn them into a great nation. The problem? Abram and Sarah were childless and well beyond the normal child-bearing years. Despite this overwhelming obstacle, Abram obeyed, trusting God to deliver on the promise. But the promise wasn't just for the sake of Abram and his wife. God's amazing promise wasn't primarily for Abram and his wife; it was for the nations. Through Abram's obedience, God was working out His great rescue mission to redeem His image bearers from all nations.

March 22, 2023



Pray

As you pray:

- Thank God for his faithfulness in pursuing the nations.
  - Thank God for his faithfulness to you personally.
  - God called Abram so that, through Abram, God might reach the nations. Ask God to open your eyes to who He is trying to reach through you.
    - Pray for wisdom to know who that is
    - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
    - Pray for boldness when God provides those opportunities.
- 



Worship &  
Response

*Read this excerpt from christianity.com's short biography of Gladys Aylward*

*"Get off the train!" the Russian conductor shouted in words 30-year-old Gladys Aylward did not understand. But she could tell from his angry face that he wanted her to get up. However, Gladys did not move. She did not know everyone else was getting off the train because there was a fierce war going on up ahead. The train soon would be filled with only loud mouthed, bad-tempered soldiers. It was not a safe place for a woman traveling alone.*

*When the train reached the next stop, the conductor forced Gladys Aylward to get off. She was the only non-military person left on the train. She now had to walk alone 30 miles back to the nearest city, through the woods in the cold, snowy night. This was only the beginning of her troubles, though. In the many hours to come, she would have almost no food to eat, nearly freeze to death, and barely escape being forced to become a Soviet military machine operator.*

*Gladys knew God wanted her to go tell the Chinese about Jesus, but why was it so hard for her to get there? Could it be God was getting her ready for even harder times?*



For the Cause

What obstacles are you going to have to face in order to obediently share Jesus with Your One? List them here:

# Thursday

March 23, 2023



Exodus 19:1-6

1 Peter 2:9-10

***In the third month from the very day the Israelites left the land of Egypt, they came to the Sinai Wilderness. They traveled from Rephidim, came to the Sinai Wilderness, and camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.***

***Moses went up the mountain to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain: "This is what you must say to the house of Jacob and explain to the Israelites: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites."***

-----

***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. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.***



*some thoughts...*

In the Old Testament, the job of the priest was to stand before God on behalf of the people. They were the ones who prayed for, and made sacrifices on behalf of the people. In Exodus, after rescuing the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, God reminded the Israelites why He chose them: they were to be a kingdom of priests, set apart for His purposes (holy). Just as Abraham was chosen for the sake of the nations, Israel was chosen so that they would bring the nations before God.

In the New Testament, Peter reminds believers that they too were chosen and saved for the same reason. God's intentions have always been that His grace and mercy should flow through His people to those who don't yet know and worship Him.

March 23, 2023



Pray

As you pray:

- Praise God for His power in rescuing His people from slavery to sin.
  - Praise God for how He works in drawing people, including yourself, to Himself.
  - Confess any areas where you have fallen short of the calling on your life to act as a priest.
  - Spend time praying for those around you who need the gospel.
  - Pray for the opportunity to share the gospel with them
    - Pray for wisdom to recognize the opportunities as God gives them
    - Pray for boldness to speak with those opportunities are given.
- 



Worship &  
Respond

*Notice that these verses are collective... we are meant for community with other believers, in part, to be reminded of our identity and spurred on in our purpose.*

*Call, text, or message a fellow believer today and share with them the things you've been meditating on this week.*



Let the Nations  
be Glad

*Share with this believer the name of Your One and the plan you've made to try to minister to them.*

*Ask for their advice or wisdom.*

*Pray together.*

*Spur one another on to love and good deeds.*



# Friday

March 24, 2023



## Jonah 3

***The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you.” Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the Lord’s command.***

***Now Nineveh was an extremely great city, a three-day walk. Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, “In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!” Then the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least.***

***When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he issued a decree in Nineveh:***

***By order of the king and his nobles:***

***No person or animal, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all.***

***They must not eat or drink water.***

***Furthermore, both people and animals must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God.***

***Each must turn from his evil ways and from his wrongdoing.***

***Who knows? God may turn and relent;***

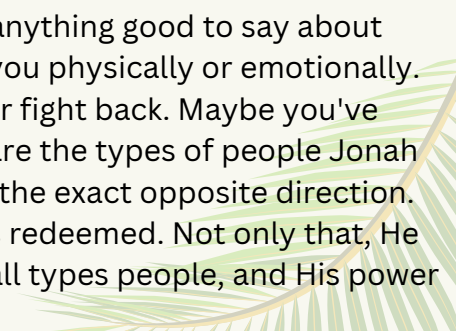
***he may turn from his burning anger so that we will not perish.***

***God saw their actions—that they had turned from their evil ways—so God relented from the disaster he had threatened them with. And he did not do it.***



*some thoughts...*

Imagine your worst enemy. Perhaps someone who never has anything good to say about you or worse--someone who has tried or succeeded in harming you physically or emotionally. Our natural response to people like this is to either avoid them or fight back. Maybe you've even asked God to wipe them from the face of the earth. These are the types of people Jonah was called to preach to in Nineveh. No wonder he tried to run in the exact opposite direction. And yet God's heart was still to see even the most vile of nations redeemed. Not only that, He redeems them! Never forget, or underestimate, God's heart for all types people, and His power to save them; even the ones we think are the least deserving.



March 24, 2023

As you pray:



Pray

- Thank God for his mercy towards you, even when you least deserved it.
- Confess any sins that still linger, and for the times when you refused to extend mercy towards others.
- Confess any fears, anxieties, or doubts that may be lingering
- Ask God for a Nineveh sized miracle... that He would do above and beyond all that you could expect or think
- Pray for Your One and for boldness to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness to speak with God gives the opportunity

-

---

*The easiest way to share the gospel, is to share the gospel.  
Yep, you read that one right.*

*Unless you have the gift of evangelism, this can be a scary prospect.*

*It gets less scary the more you do it.*

*Start today by telling yourself, out loud, the story of how God saved you.  
See if you can do it in under 5 minutes.*

*If you haven't done so already, reach out to Your One and share about  
Christ's goodness.*



Worship &  
Respond



Revelation  
Song

# Saturday

March 25, 2023



Read

## Psalm 67

***May God be gracious to us and bless us;  
may he make his face shine upon us [Selah]  
so that your way may be known on earth,  
your salvation among all nations.***

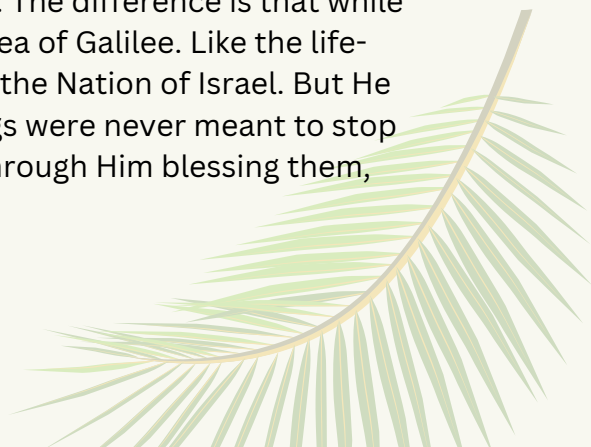
***Let the peoples praise you, God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations rejoice and shout for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with fairness  
and lead the nations on earth. [Selah]  
Let the peoples praise you, God,  
let all the peoples praise you.***

***The earth has produced its harvest;  
God, our God, blesses us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.***



### *some thoughts...*

Have you ever thought about the difference between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee? Both are fed by the Jordan River and yet, one is teeming with life and the other has a salt content so high that nothing can live in it. The difference is that while the Jordan flows into both, it only flows out of one: the Sea of Galilee. Like the life-giving waters of the Jordan River, God promised to bless the Nation of Israel. But He wanted to remind them, as He told Abraham, His blessings were never meant to stop with them. God's purpose in blessing Israel was so that through Him blessing them, all the nations of the earth would be drawn to God.



March 25, 2023



Pray

As you pray:

- Reflect on how God has blessed you personally.
- Pray for Your One and for boldness to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness to speak with God gives the opportunity



Worship &  
Respond

One sweet, often neglected, blessing that God has given us is rest. In fact, the Psalms often have the phrase 'selah' in them which means to 'pause and reflect'.

Though it was not required, God took time to rest on the 7th day of creation. He took time to review all that He had created and declare it "very good".

He established a pattern of rest for us.

Take a minute to reflect on your current physical and mental state.  
Are you teetering towards burnout in either area?

Commit to laying aside the never-ending to-do lists in your life for today in order to rest. Rest cultivates a space in our hearts and our minds to reflect on all the very good things God has done.

Rest and reflect to the glory of God.



The Blessing





# Sunday

March 26, 2023



Read

Psalm 96:7-13

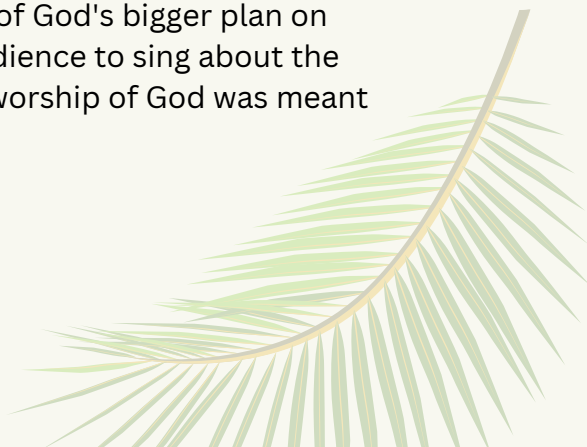
***Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
bring an offering and enter his courts.  
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.***

***Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns.  
The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.  
He judges the peoples fairly."  
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;  
let the sea and all that fills it resound.  
Let the fields and everything in them celebrate.  
Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy  
before the Lord, for he is coming—  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his faithfulness.***



## *some thoughts...*

Psalm 96 is David's song as the Ark of the Covenant was finally brought into Jerusalem for the first time. These words flow from David's heart as he contemplates all that God had done to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land and settle them. David realized that God's faithfulness to Israel was a part of God's bigger plan on bring the nations to Himself. That's why David tells his audience to sing about the greatness of God among the nations. In other words, the worship of God was meant to resound around the world and not just in Jerusalem.



March 26, 2023



Pray

As you pray:

- Praise God for His many attributes:
  - His holiness
  - His power
  - His goodness
  - His sovereignty
  - His love
  - His faithfulness
- Pray for Your One and for boldness to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness to speak when God gives the opportunity



Worship &  
Respond



All Glory be  
to Christ


---

As you go into church today, let's worship by testifying before our church family about the things that the LORD has done this week.

Testifying can happen with another believer, during your small group time, by praying at the altar.... wherever makes sense, so long as you are able to honor before others the LORD's work.

-----

In the Bible, people often erected memorial stones to both remember what the LORD had done AND to teach the future generations about Him. These are referred to as 'ebenezers'. On the following page, write down the ebenezers you want to remember from this week,



# *Ebenezer Stones*

What has happened this week that you would want to remember?

What has happened this week that you could use as an illustration of the character of God if a younger person asked you what He is like?





# Week Two Overview

March 27th - April 2nd

---

## Rescue Arrives

---



Function

How can you continue to deepen your relationship with Your One? Are there hurts or needs you can help meet? Praises you can celebrate?

---

Reach out to Your One either by phone or in person. If you go in person, take something with you that will be a blessing them.



Love



Life

Find a way to meet a physical or spiritual need this week in our community. Take along others that are either young or young in their faith

---

As you serve the community and meet with Your One, tell a story about how Jesus has been there for you.



Reach



# Monday

March 27, 2023



Read

Luke 2:25-35

***There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,***

***Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace,  
as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation.  
You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.***

***His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and told his mother Mary, "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed — and a sword will pierce your own soul—that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."***

***There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers. At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.***

*some thoughts...*

The Rescuer, promised in Genesis 3 has finally arrived! And while many missed the importance of the birth of Jesus, both Simeon and Anna get it. The One the Old Testament prophets spoke about and hoped for had finally arrived and the only right response was worship!

March 27, 2023



Pray

As you Pray:

- Praise God for His faithfulness to send a rescuer (like Simeon and Anna did)
  - Recall the specific details of how Jesus rescued you
    - Thank Him for His mercy and grace
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see those around you that also need to hear this good news
    - Confess any areas of fear or any obstacles to obedience
    - Ask God to give you the boldness needed to talk candidly about His salvation
- 



Worship &  
Respond

*Sing as you go into your day about the miracle of Christ's birth:*

*Prophets had foretold it, a mighty King would come  
Long awaited Ruler, God's Anointed One  
But the Sovereign of all looked helpless and small  
As God gave the world His own Son*

*And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen  
That we could hold God in our hands?  
The Giver of Life is born in the night  
Revealing God's glorious plan  
To save the world*

*Who Would've Dreamed  
By: Sovereign Grace*




Who Would've  
Dreamed

-----

*Research opportunities this week to serve the community physically or spiritually. Ask those younger than you (either physically or spiritually) to join you in serving.*

*For many of you, this may be as simple as inviting along someone to join you in a ministry area where you already serve.*

*Need ideas? Reach out to Pastor Charlie to get connected  
[charlieb@westplainsfirst.org](mailto:charlieb@westplainsfirst.org)*



# Tuesday

March 28, 2023



Luke 3:1-6


**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God's word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:**

**A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight!  
Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be made low;  
the crooked will become straight,  
the rough ways smooth,  
and everyone will see the salvation of God.**



*some thoughts...*

Several hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah spoke about a time when the promised Rescuer would arrive. The presence of John in the wilderness, calling for repentance and forgiveness of sins, was the fulfillment of that prophecy and proof that the Promised One was near. John began preparing people to hear from Jesus.



March 28, 2023



Pray

As you Pray:

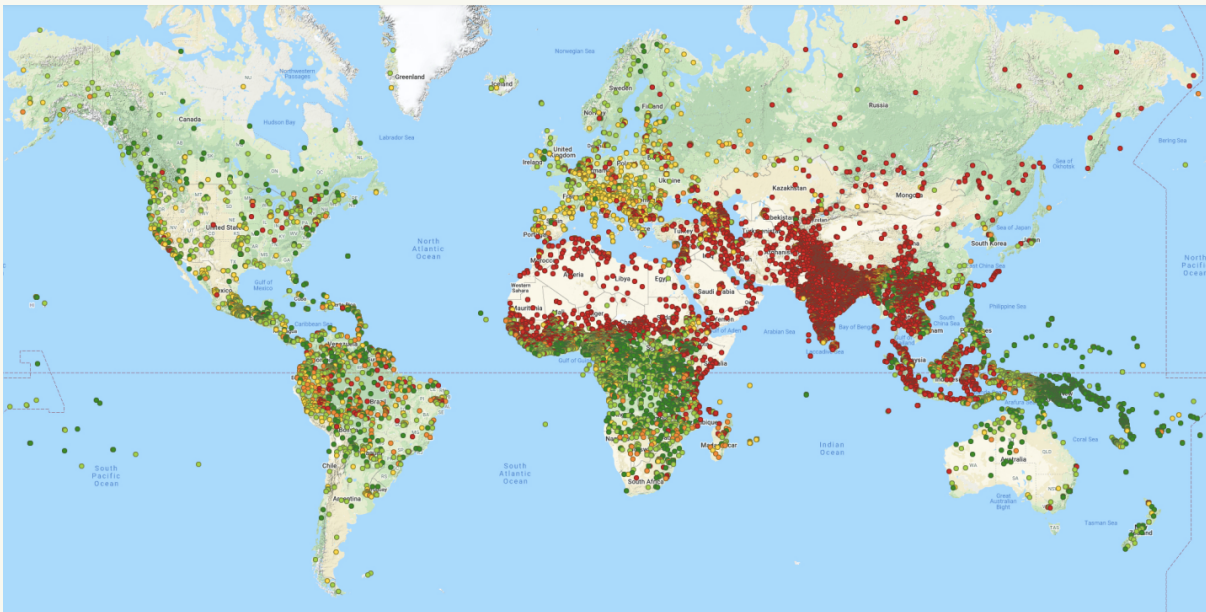
- Meditate on God's name *Jehovah Tsidkenu*... the LORD our righteousness
- Confess any areas of sin that you have not allowed the Spirit to bring to repentance
- Thank God that giving us a clear vision of who He is by sending Christ, the image of the invisible God
- Pray that God would prepare the way for salvation for Your One. Pray also that He would prepare you to share.



Worship &  
Respond

Explore the status of worldwide salvation by investigating the interactive map of reached and unreached people groups on <https://joshuaproject.net/maps/google>

(The red dots indicate people groups with little to no access to the gospel)



Plan to eat dinner tonight at For the City from 5-6pm at the South Campus.

Sit at the table with somebody you don't know, whom Christ came to earth to save.

Just simply have a conversation with them.



Let the Nations be Glad



# Wednesday

March 29, 2023



Read

Matthew 14:13-21

***When Jesus heard about it, he withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.***

***When evening came, the disciples approached him and said, “This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”***

***“They don’t need to go away,” Jesus told them. “You give them something to eat.”***

***“But we only have five loaves and two fish here,” they said to him.***

***“Bring them here to me,” he said. Then he commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.***



*some thoughts...*

Life can get busy. We have places to be, things to do, people to meet, to-do lists to get accomplished. We get so busy trying to accomplish all that we need to get done, that we can easily ignore the people God has placed around us. Jesus though never lost sight of the people He came to rescue, and He wouldn't allow his disciples to either. Moved with compassion by their lostness, Jesus met them where they were and served them.

March 29, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Reflect on the fact that God is a miracle worker
- Seek forgiveness for areas of weak faith where you doubt God's ability to work a miracle
- Thank God for his good provision and that we can be fully satisfied in Him.
- Pray that God would work in Your One's heart to make them greatly dissatisfied in their sin and filled with great longing for truth.



Worship &  
Respond

**Read this testimony from IMB missionaries in Southeast Asia\***

*When Momma heard Bible stories [from us], she told her family, “There might be something to this Living God they’re talking about.”*

*One day Momma’s daughter came with the disastrous news that their pig had died. In this area, a pig can be sold for the equivalent of two or three months of income. “Is there anything this ‘Living God’ can do?” her daughter asked.*

*“Momma marched down to the pigpen where a crowd had gathered from the village and didn’t know what else to do,” Stephen explains. “She just crawled into the pigpen and got down on her knees and said, ‘God, if You’re real, then show these people that You’re real.’ And while she was praying, the dead pig stood up.”*

***Momma believed and was baptized the next day.***

*Later, a woman in her village became immobilized and was bedridden in severe pain for four months. “I know you can pray, and God does things. Will you pray for my wife to die? Because she’s just in agony,” the woman’s husband asked Momma.*

*Momma asked him if she could pray and ask God to heal her. Mama shared the gospel and prayed for the woman. Ten minutes later, the woman was sitting upright in a chair. The next day, the woman walked out of her house to greet Stephen and Erin.*

***She committed her life to Christ.***



Way Maker

Purchase or make something that would bless Your One.  
Deliver it to them, no strings attached.

# Thursday

March 30, 2023



John 3:14-21

***“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.***

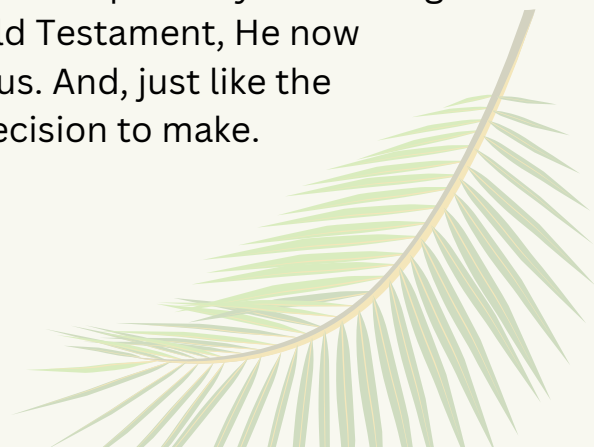
***For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.***

***This is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”***



*some thoughts...*

There's an uncomfortable tension in Scripture between God's sovereign love and grace towards all people, and His perfect, holy justice. To illustrate that tension, Jesus reminded Nicodemus of a well-known instance in Israel's history found in the Old Testament (Numbers 21). Jesus was reminding Nicodemus, and us, that while God's love and mercy is extended to all people, it does not mean that all people will receive it. Just as God provided a pathway for healing and restoration through the bronze serpent in the Old Testament, He now offers all people a pathway back to God through Jesus. And, just like the Israelites in the Old Testament, people still have a decision to make.



March 30, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God for His justice and mercy.
  - Thank God that His salvation is freely offered to all people.
  - Ask God to reveal any areas in your life where you are still holding onto sin, and confess those to Him knowing that He is ready and able to forgive and heal.
  - Ask God to move in the heart of Your One
    - To expose sin
    - To see their need for a savior
  - Ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with Your One
    - Pray for wisdom to see those opportunities
    - Pray for boldness to take those opportunities
    - Pray for the words to speak when those opportunities are given.
- 



Worship &  
Respond



To God be the  
Glory.

Meditate on these lyrics;

***To God be the glory  
Great things He has done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the earth hear His voice***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the earth hear His voice  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
Come to the Father  
Through Jesus the Son  
Give Him the glory  
Great things He has done***

Reflect on the great things God has done in your life

Share those with Your One

# Friday

March 31, 2023



Luke 15:1-10

***All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."***

***So he told them this parable: "What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance.***

***"Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."***



*some thoughts...*

Several months ago we lost the keys to our van. They weren't hanging up where I typically leave them, they weren't on a table anywhere. They were gone. Confronted with the reality that replacing them would cost us several hundred dollars, I did what any sane person would: we all but tore our house apart looking for them. They were far too valuable for us to give up on finding them.

Confronted by the Pharisees for His open embrace of "sinners", Jesus tells a series of parables meant to communicate God's heart for those farthest from Him. Instead of criticizing Jesus for eating and caring for "sinners", the Pharisees should have been rejoicing that those farthest from God were being brought rescued. Instead of contempt, there should have been joy.

March 31, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God as a God who pursues the lost and doesn't just leave them on their own.
  - Praise God for how He pursued you, even when you were running from Him.
  - Confess the areas in your life where you are still prone to wander from God.
  - Ask God to open your eyes to those around you who are still running from God, and for the heart to love and pursue them as He does.
  - Pray for Your One
    - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
    - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
    - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
- 



Worship &  
Respond

Reflect on these words from the hymn *Come Thou Fount*

***Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee***

***Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above***



Come Thou  
Fount

Reflect on the extent that God went to to pursue you and rescue you.  
Allow that to overflow into worship.

Share that with Your One. Tell them about how God pursued you and how God continues to pursue people

# Saturday

April 1, 2023



Mark 4:13-25

Read

***Then he said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand all of the parables? The sower sows the word. Some are like the word sown on the path. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word sown in them. And others are like seed sown on rocky ground. When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy. But they have no root; they are short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away. Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word, but the worries of this age, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown.”***

***He also said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn’t it to be put on a lamp stand? For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be brought to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear. By the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and more will be added to you. For whoever has, more will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”***



*some thoughts...*

I am not a farmer so I will not pretend to know much about it. However, I know enough to know that, when it comes to planting crops, soil matters. Farmers will spend a lot of time, effort and money ensuring that they are sowing seed only in the best soil. Jesus however, tells a parable in which a farmer seems to ignore these farming best practices. Instead of being careful to only plant the seed in the good soil, this farmer throws seed everywhere, regardless of the soil type or condition. Jesus is calling His followers to be like that farmer and to spread the gospel everywhere, regardless of what the soil might look like. Some will reject the gospel, some will look like their growing only to burn out or turn away, but others will accept the gospel and produce much fruit. Our job is to sew the Word and allow God to worry about the results.

April 1, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God for the power of His Word to penetrate even that hardest of soils.
- Ask God to remove any barriers in your heart and life that are keeping His Word from taking root in your own life.
- Pray for Your One
  - Pray for opportunities to sew the Word in them
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.



Worship &  
Respond

Reflect on these words from the hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

*Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth His Name,  
From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.*



[A Mighty  
Fortress](#)

Rest time is not waste time. It is economy to gather fresh strength... It is wisdom to take occasional furlough. In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less"- Charles Spurgeon

Take a minute to reflect on your current physical and mental state.  
Are you teetering towards burnout in either area?

Commit, for another week, to lay aside the never-ending to-do lists in your life for today in order to rest. Rest cultivates a space in our hearts and our minds to reflect on all the very good things God has done.

Rest and reflect to the glory of God.



# Sunday

April 2, 2023



Read

Luke 11:5-13

*He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' Then he will answer from inside and say, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I have gone to bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' I tell you, even though he won't get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his friend's shameless boldness, he will get up and give him as much as he needs.*

*"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*



*some thoughts...*

"Baby sleeping, **DO NOT** ring doorbell". Perhaps you've seen a sign like this on the front door of a new parent's home. Sleep is a precious commodity in a home with a new baby, and you'll do just about anything to protect it. Imagine the shameless boldness it would take for someone to press that doorbell. In this parable, Jesus wants us to know that, when it comes to praying to our Heavenly Father, shameless boldness pays off. Unlike the unjust judge, or the impatient homeowner, God never tires of hearing us pray to Him and asking Him for things. In fact, He wants us to. He wants us to be persistent and bold, even shameless, in our prayers to Him. He's a good Father who delights to give good gifts to His children.



April 2, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God for being a God who not only hears our prayers, but is good and who delights in answering.
- Confess the times where you don't pray because you feel like either God can't or won't answer you.
- Pray for the faith it takes to pray expectantly. That not only can God answer, but that He will.
- Pray for Your One
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
  - Pray that what has been shared already will be understood and that they would believe.

---

As you go into church today, let's worship by testifying before our church family about the things that the LORD has done this week.



Worship &  
Respond

Reflect on the lyrics from this song:

*Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide  
'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word  
You're a good, good Father  
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You  
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am*



Good Good  
Father

Testifying can happen with another believer, during your small group time, by praying on the altar... wherever makes sense, so long as you are able to honor before others the LORD's work.

-----

Once again, let's pause and erect some memorial stones from this week on the next page.

# *Ebenezer Stones*

*In the Bible, the people often erected memorials to both remember what the LORD had done AND to teach the future generations about Him.*

What has happened this week that you would want to remember?  
What you could point to as an example so that future generation would know the LORD?





# Week Three

April 3rd - April 9th

---

## *Rescue Accomplished*

---



**Function**

As your relationships grow with those God has placed before you, think through ways that you can intentionally share the gospel with them this week.

---

Find a time this week to have Your One in your home for a meal. Invite them to church with you on Easter and then over for lunch afterwards.



**Love**



**Life**

Find a way to bless them this week that they might not expect. A meal, a card, anything that will show them the love of Christ.

---

Share with Your One how the events of that first Easter have changed your life and invite them to experience that too.



**Reach**



# Monday

April 3, 2023



Read

Mark 11:12-18

***The next day when they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to find out if there was anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And his disciples heard it.***

***They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. He was teaching them: "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!" The chief priests and the scribes heard it and started looking for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was astonished by his teaching. Whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.***



*some thoughts...*

Imagine planting a fig tree with the expectation that, one day, you would get to enjoy some of its fruit. You fertilize the soil around it, you water it, prune its branches and defend it from pests. For years you care for it and watch it grow in anticipation of the day when you will see your first eatable figs, but that day never comes. You've done all the right things, and the tree looks healthy and should have figs but, despite your best efforts, no figs appear.

Jesus encountered such a fig tree, and this fig tree represented Israel. God had cared for them for years. They looked good and healthy from afar but, upon closer examination, they're was no fruit. Jesus' frustrations and anger increase as He enters the Temple only to find it full of people abusing its holy grounds. Israel had lost sight of its holy purpose. They were supposed to produce fruit and draw the nations to God. Instead, they had become so insulated and exclusive, that they actively kept the nations away.

As we begin the Passion Week, take the time to examine how you are fulfilling your holy purpose to bring the nations to God. Are you producing figs? Or, like Israel, have you created barriers which exclude those farthest from God to reaching Him?

April 3, 2023

**As you pray:**



Pray

- Praise God for His faithfulness in planting the seed of the gospel in you and growing it.
  - Confess any unfruitfulness in your life. Take time to reflect on your life for areas where you should be producing fruit but are not.
    - Pray for wisdom and open eyes to see clearly those areas
    - Ask God's grace in rooting out anything that is preventing fruitfulness.
  - Pray for Your One
    - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
    - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
    - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
    - Pray that what has been shared already will be understood and that they would believe.
- 



Worship &  
Respond



Jerusalem

Reflect on this quote from Count Nicolaus Zinzendorf:

*"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone.  
The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth  
that country shall be my home where I can  
be most used in winning souls for Christ."*

Reach out to Your One and invite them to Easter Service and then to a meal afterwards with your family.

# Tuesday

April 4, 2023



Mark 12:28-34

*One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which command is the most important of all?"*

*Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."*

*Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, teacher. You have correctly said that he is one, and there is no one else except him. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

*When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to question him any longer.*



## *some thoughts...*

I enjoy a good cup of coffee. I roast my own coffee, and have several contraptions which allow me to make coffee in several different ways. One day, our youngest said: "Daddy, you love coffee." As I thought about what she said, I realized that the time and effort that I put into my coffee habit looked like love to her 3-year-old mind. After all, our calendars and bank accounts typically indicate something about our affections. After a second I responded to her: "No sweetie, I **like** coffee, I **love** you."

Jesus' words in this passage ought to cause us to reflect on our lives in the same way. What we invest our time, energy and money in tend to reflect where our hearts are. The Israelites were commanded to love God with everything they had, not just with their material wealth and time. Sure, they spent a lot of time and money at the Temple, but their hearts and souls were far from Him. How do we know that? Because while they did all the right things in the Temple, their love failed to extend beyond the Temple.

God's heart is for people from every nation, tribe, people and language to know Him and love Him. And God's people ought to reflect God's heart; not just in feeling, but also in action.

April 4, 2023

**As you pray:**



Pray

- Praise God for being the Great I Am. For being all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, ever-faithful, all-loving, and whatever other attributes that come to mind.
- Confess any ways in which you fail to love God with all your heart, soul, mind or strength.
- Ask God to give you the heart and eyes to love and see people the way that He does.
- Confess those times when you failed to love your neighbor as yourself.
- Pray for Your One
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
  - Pray that what has been shared already will be understood and that they would believe.

---

*Reflect on the words of the hymn  
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing:*



Worship &  
Respond

***Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.***



O For a  
Thousand  
Tongues to Sing

***His love my heart has captive made,  
His captive would I be,  
For He was bound, and scourged and died,  
My captive soul to free.***

*Be one of the thousands of tongues singing the glory of God.  
Call a believer and 'sing' of His goodness.*

*Make plans on attending the For the City Meal where you can serve  
by telling others about the greatness of God. 5pm South Campus*



# Wednesday

April 5, 2023



Read

Matthew 26:6-16

***While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw it, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This might have been sold for a great deal and given to the poor."***

***Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a noble thing for me. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me. By pouring this perfume on my body, she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."***

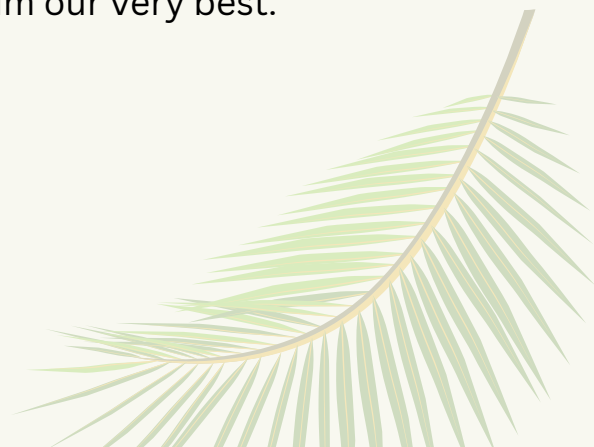
***Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.***



*some thoughts...*

Oh the irony! On the one hand, this woman (Mary) sacrifices a jar of expensive perfume (likely worth about a year's wages) in order to anoint Jesus for the burial He will go through in just a couple of days. On the other hand, Judas Iscariot, who has walked with Jesus for the last 3 years, agrees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (worth about 4 months wages). For one, Jesus is infinitely valuable, and she's willing to give up her most prized possession. For the other, Jesus is a cheap commodity to be used and sold for his own benefit.

The question for us is: what is Jesus worth to us? In light of all He did on the cross for us, shouldn't we freely, and joyfully, give Him our very best.



April 5, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God for His infinite worthiness.
- Anything we want more than God, or anything we count as more valuable than God is an idol. Reflect on your life and ask God to open your eyes to the idols in your life.
  - Ask God to forgive you for valuing things above Him
  - Ask God for the ability and desire to remove those idols.
- Pray for Your One
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
  - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
  - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
  - Pray that what has been shared already will be understood and that they would believe.



Worship &  
Respond

---

Reflect on the words of the hymn *Jesus Paid it All*

***Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and thine alone  
Came and changed the lepers spots  
And it melt the heart of stone  
Jesus paid it all  
All to him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow***



[Jesus Paid it All](#)

Using materials found around your house, create a simple Easter Garden that reflects both the cross and empty tomb.



As people come into your house this week, share about your Easter Garden and tell what the first Easter means to you.

You can also share on social media.

# Thursday

April 6, 2023



Luke 22:14-23

***When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."***

***Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."***

***And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But look, the hand of the one betraying me is at the table with me. For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"***

***So they began to argue among themselves which of them it could be who was going to do it.***



*some thoughts...*

"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" These are the words of John the Baptist. He proclaimed them in reference to Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. It's no coincidence then, that Jesus' last meal with His disciples was the Passover meal. Like the Passover lamb in Exodus, Jesus' body and blood was being broken and spilled for the sake of sinners. What the Passover lamb foreshadowed in Exodus, rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Jesus fulfilled on the cross by ransoming sinners from slavery to sin.



April 6, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God for being the true Passover Lamb who shields us from the wrath of God.
- Take time to reflect and ask God to reveal any unrepentant sins still lingering in your life (anger, jealousy, etc.).
  - Ask God to reveal it, confess and repent.
- Pray for Your One
  - Ask that they too would be covered by the blood of Jesus
  - Pray for opportunities to continue to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray for wisdom and boldness to speak with God gives you the opportunity.



Worship &  
Respond

---

Reflect on the words of the hymn  
*Behold the Lamb (Communion Song)*

***Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us: and we remember:  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this Bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice,  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.***



Behold the Lamb

Take time today to seek forgiveness from someone that you have wronged. Share with them the forgiveness you've received through Jesus.

# Friday

April 7, 2023



John 19:16-30

***Then they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'"***

***Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written."***

***When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did.***

***Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.***

***After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, "I'm thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth.***

***When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.***

*some thoughts...*

Rescue accomplished! I remember the day in 2013 when my wife and I finally paid off all of our debts. What a freeing feeling that was. Jesus' last words on the cross, "It is finished", is a banking term. It was used by lenders to indicate when a debt had been paid in full. On the cross, the debt that we all owed because of our rebellion against the Creator was paid in full by Jesus. We have been rescued and set free from the debt of sin. How freeing is that!

April 7, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God as both King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Thanks God for enduring the horrors of the cross for your sake. Use this as a time to confess any sins that need to be confessed.
- Thank God that, on the cross, all your sins were paid for once and for all. That your sin debt has been paid in full.
- Pray for Your One
  - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them and ask God to give you a sense of urgency to share.
  - Pray for wisdom and boldness to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray earnestly for their salvation.



Worship &  
Respond

*If you created an Easter Garden earlier this week,  
go ahead and cover the entrance to the tomb.*

*Meditate on what it means that the tomb held the body of Jesus,  
son of God.*



It is finished

*In preparation for sharing the gospel with Your One this weekend,  
take a listen to this podcast from Southeastern Seminary.*



Podcast

NOV 10, 2021

**Embracing The Discomfort of Evangelism - EP54** >

On this week's episode of #TheSentLife: ◆ Learn about Count Zinzendorf ◆ Let's talk about embracing the discomfort of evangelism ◆ Learn from Dr. Robinson about personal evangelism in our brand new SentLife segment, "OUT OF THE TOWER."

15 || 30 0:40 ————— -34:01

# Saturday

April 8, 2023



Read

Matthew 27:62-66

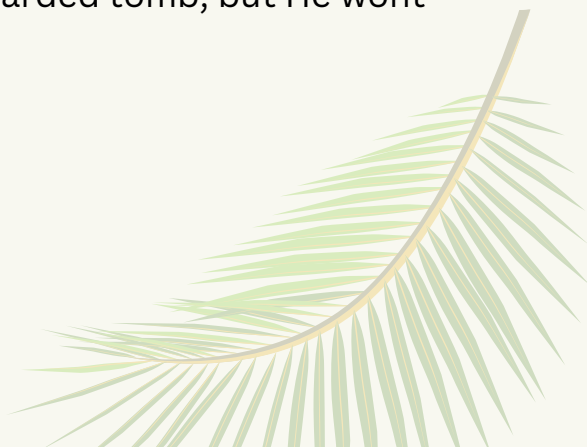
***The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive he said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come, steal him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."***

***"Take guards," Pilate told them. "Go and make it as secure as you know how." They went and secured the tomb by setting a seal on the stone and placing the guards.***



*some thoughts...*

The seal and the guards were meant to prevent anyone from tampering with the tomb. Both bared the authority of Rome so that, any attempt to interfere with, or tamper with, either, was to defy the authority of the Emperor himself. The religious leaders hoped that these symbols of Rome's power would dissuade Jesus' followers from attempting to steal the body of Jesus. What they failed to understand was that a power greater than Rome was lying inside the tomb. The God who spoke everything into existence, and by whom, Caesar was allowed to rule, was inside the tomb. They had witnessed that power at the crucifixion when the earth shook, the sky darkened and the veil of the Temple tore in two. And yet, they refused to believe. The same power that spoke all of creation into existence is lying inside a sealed and guarded tomb, but He wont stay there long.



April 8, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Spend time to just be silent and listen to what the Holy Spirit says.
- Use this as a time of reflection and repentance.
- Praise God for his willingness to die on your behalf. Praise Him for his grace, mercy and love made evident on the cross.
- Pray for your one.
  - Pray for them to hear and understand their need for a rescuer.
  - Pray for opportunities, wisdom and boldness to share the gospel with them.
  - Pray for their salvation.



Worship &  
Respond



The Reward  
of His  
Suffering



**The painting reads**  
**"This I have suffered for you;**  
**Now what will you do for me?"**

*If you listened to the podcast yesterday, you heard about the Moravian Missions movement beginning when Count Zinzendorf beheld this painting.*

*Consider its significance as you rest today.*







# Sunday

April 9, 2023



Read

John 20:19-23

***When it was evening on that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you."***

***Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.***

***Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."***

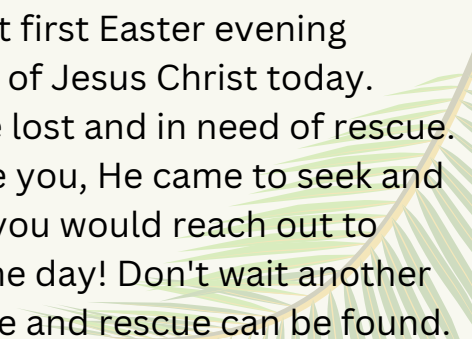


## *some thoughts...*

It walks the conquering hero. As the disciples are huddled in fear behind locked doors, Jesus appears in their midst and proclaims peace. Peace with God because His atoning work on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead, has reconciled sinful people to their Creator. No longer enemies of God in active rebellion, those who place their faith in Christ are now free to enjoy a right relationship with God. We are now at peace with God.

And peace for a mission. "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that there was still work to be done to accomplish God's great rescue mission and that they had a part to play in it. He had told them that there were more sheep in God's flock than just Israel (John 10:16) and he had prayed for those that would come to know Him through them (John 17:20), and now He was sending them out just as He had been sent out. To be among the lost, to serve the lost, to love the lost, and to help lead the lost back home to their good and gracious Father.

The command Jesus gave those first disciples on that first Easter evening almost 2,000 years ago remains the calling on disciples of Jesus Christ today. There are still over 3 billion people in the world who are lost and in need of rescue. Your One included. Just as Jesus came to seek and save you, He came to seek and save them, and He has placed them in your life so that you would reach out to them and beg them to look up and be saved. Today is the day! Don't wait another day or another minute without telling them where peace and rescue can be found.



April 9, 2023



Pray

**As you pray:**

- Praise God as the victorious conquerer who defeated sin and death.
  - Spend time reflecting on the joy of your salvation
  - Confess the times when you've kept that joy to yourself instead of sharing with others so that they could be rescued as well.
  - Pray for Your One
    - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them
    - Pray for wisdom to recognize those opportunities
    - Pray for boldness when God gives you those opportunities to share.
    - Pray that what has been shared already will be understood and that they would believe.
- 



Worship &  
Respond

Worship is more than a song. It's more than an event that we partake in once a week. Worship is the natural result of a heart moved by the goodness and power of God. Paul tells us to make our whole lives an act of worship. Evangelism is an act of worship. It is the overflow of the joy we have found in our own salvation. These three weeks, we have gone on a journey to remind ourselves of the joy of our salvations, and encouraging us to tell our Ones about that. Today's the day. As you reflect on the resurrection of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and what that has meant in your life, proclaim that to Your One.



O Praise the Name

***Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting?  
The angels roar for Christ the King***

***O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God***

# *Ebenezer Stones*

*In the Bible, the people often erected memorials to both remember what the LORD had done AND to teach the future generations about Him.*

What has happened this week that you would want to remember?  
What you could point to as an example so that future generation would know the LORD?



