the WELL

DEEP TRUTHS LASTING TRANSFORMATION



TFH
YOU BELONG HERE!
The Father's House

Devotional Cover Page

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"With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation." Isaiah 12:3

I heard John Maxwell say, "*The greatest day in a man's life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man's life is the day he finds out why.*" You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a "follower of Christ." For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple "follow Me," Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - "follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

Drawing water from - The Well

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

Exercising my Faith this month

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
  - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.

- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
  - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
    - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
    - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
    - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
    - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.

- **Weekly Prayer notes**

  Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and

(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony…. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?

1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.

2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?

Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread''

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Part of my daily prayer: *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."

Week One Sermon Notes *(Example)* **Date: __12/29/24__**

Sermon Title: ____This Time Next Year_____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further
Genesis 17:21	**- God has more in store for me than I have yet discovered** **- If Abraham laughed when he first heard the promise of God, and could still find God's favor and believe, then I realize I'm not alone, when sometimes I find it almost "to good to be true."**	
2 Peter 1:5 - 11	**- If I "add" these 7 areas to my faith in God - there is unstoppable fruit that will come in my life.** **- I can lead someone to Jesus** **- I can bear the fruit of the Spirit** **- I can discover and develop the call of God on my life** **- I can be fully assured of my salvation** **- I can live without stumbling**	**- What is Virtue?** **- What is knowledge referring to?** **- I think I understand self-control** **- Are perseverance and patience the same word here?** **- What is meant here by Godliness** **- What's the difference between brotherly love and love in 2 Peter 1:7**

Versions of the Bible

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)
King James Version (KJV)
New International Version (NIV)
The Message Translation (MSG)
The Passion Translation (TPT)
The New Living Translation (NLT)
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

(NKJV) - [16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(AMP) - [16] "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

(YLT) - [16] for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-

(MSG) - [16] This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

Bible Reading Plan November

	3 year (2)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Hosea 1	Mark 15-16	2 Chron. 6:37 - 22:6	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Hosea 2	Matthew 1-4	2 Chron. 22:7 - 34-26	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Hosea 3	Matthew 5-7	2 Chron. 34:27 - Ezra	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Hosea 4	Matthew 8-9	Nehemiah 1 - 12:36	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Hosea 5	Matthew 10-12	Neh. 12:37 - Job 6:15	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Hosea 6	Matthew 13-14	Job 6:16 - 23:17	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Hosea 7	Matthew 15-17	Job 24:1 - 40:18	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Hosea 8	Matthew 18-20	Job 40:19 - Psalm 22	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Hosea 9	Matthew 21-22	Psalm 23 - 43	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Hosea 10	Matthew 23-24	Psalm 44 - 68	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Hosea 11	Matthew 25-26	Psalm 69 - 87	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Hosea 12	Matthew 27-28	Psalm 88 - 107	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Hosea 13	Luke 1	Psalm 108-119	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Hosea 14	Luke 2-3	Psalm 120 -140	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Ruth 1	Luke 4-5	Psalm 141 - Prov. 5	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Ruth 2	Luke 6-7	Proverbs 6 - 19	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Ruth 3, 4	Luke 8-9	Proverbs 20 - 31	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	2 Sam. 1	Luke 10-11	Ecc. & Song of S.	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	2 Sam. 2	Luke 12-13	Isaiah 1 - 12	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	2 Sam. 3	Luke 14-16	Isaiah 13 - 28	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	2 Sam. 4	Luke 17-18	Isaiah 29 - 41	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	2 Sam. 5	Luke 19-20	Isaiah 42 - 51	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	2 Sam. 6	Luke 21-22	Isaiah 52 - 66	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	2 Sam. 7	Luke 23-24	Jeremiah 1 - 9	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	2 Sam. 8	Ephesians 1-3	Jeremiah 10 - 22	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	2 Sam. 9	Ephesians 4-6	Jeremiah 23 - 32	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	2 Sam. 10	Colo. & Philemon	Jeremiah 33 - 46	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	2 Sam. 11	Philippians	Jer.47 - Lam 5	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	2 Sam. 12	Acts 1-3	Ezekiel. I-14	John 13-16; I John 1-5
30	2 Sam. 13	Acts 4-6	Ezekiel 15 - 25	John 17-21; Books of 2nd & 3rd John & Jude

Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony…. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

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Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

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Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."

Week One

Week One Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	**Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.**
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	**People I am praying for their salvation.**

November 1
The Undying Love of Jesus
Today's Bible Reading - Mark 15-16

> *Mark 15:17-19, "They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to Him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck Him on the head with a staff and spit on Him. Falling on their knees they paid homage to Him." NIV*

When I read Scripture that talks about the crucifixion, I try to wrap my head around the greatest love of all. His love. But I can't. My mind doesn't have the capacity.

Will you try, for just a moment, to think about the brutal beatings, the torn flesh, the crown of thorns that was placed on his head and violently beaten into it? Think about that excruciating pain He endured. In other parts of Scripture, the Word says He was beaten so badly He was unrecognizable.

Imagine with me for a minute what it might have looked like if you were trailing behind Him that day as an onlooker. I can picture Him embracing and clinging to the cross as He was growing weaker and becoming more and more exhausted. I can imagine the puddles and stains of his love-filled, selfless blood that dripped off the cross. Imagine the long journey He had to make before the nails would be pounded into His hands and feet. A completely innocent man going through all of this. I weep because He did it all for love. Unconditional love.

I, personally, try to envision every detail of how Jesus may have looked that day. It is hard to do, but I do it because it is essential that I never forget the price He paid for us (for me). Including the ones who crucified Him. Can you imagine loving someone that much?

Most of us have heard someone say to us, at least once, "I love you so much, I would give up my life for you." Maybe you have said something like that yourself. I know I have. It's easy to say to someone when everything feels right. But let me ask you, what about the time that very same person has hurt you so deeply that it hurts to look at them? What if they have betrayed your trust somehow? Maybe they've abandoned you? Are you still as willing to lay your life down for them? Most of us would likely say "no" to those questions.

Thankfully, Jesus didn't say no! This shows me how conditional our love as human beings can be. I love that when Jesus made up his mind to love me, he looked at me and said, "I love you so much, I would give up my life for you." And he did. Nothing I could have said, done, or thought would have changed his mind. When He died for us, he didn't just tell us with words, He showed us with action and 'follow-through'. Jesus is the literal meaning of undying love. He died for our sins and rose again!

Putting the Word to Work

The next time you feel unloved I pray that the Holy Spirit would bring to your remembrance the thoughts you had earlier in this devotional. And that you would dwell a little longer on it next time. Get it into your spirit how much you mean to him. It will change your life.

November 2
The Arrival of Jesus
Scripture Study: Matthew 1-4

> *Matthew 2:2, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*

The author of this gospel, Matthew (also called Levi), was a tax collector, despised by his fellow Jews because of his occupation which demanded he levy the heavy tax burden that the Roman occupiers laid upon the children of Israel. When Jesus called him, he left his job and immediately entertained and hosted Jesus at a meal. The Pharisees questioned His disciples: *"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"* On hearing this, Jesus said, *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Matthew 9:11-13)

As a tax collector, Matthew was required to keep accurate records. Jesus used Matthew as a chronicler of the details of His ministry for the benefit of all who read the gospel that bears Matthew's name.

The first four chapters of the gospel of Matthew chronicle in detail the arrival of Jesus: His genealogy; His miraculous conception; the visit of the Magi (wise men) to Jerusalem to inquire of King Herod, "*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."* Matthew 2:2; their visit with Joseph, Mary and Jesus (who was not a newborn babe lying in a manger, but a young child living in a house with His parents in Nazareth) (Matthew 2:11); the young family's flight to exile in Egypt; the massacre of all the children two-years old and younger, ordered by King Herod, (BTW – you have never seen a Christmas Pageant that featured that part of the story); the family's safe return to Israel after Herod's death and their settling in Nazareth; the ministry and message of John the Baptist including his baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and His baptism with the Holy Spirit; His forty days of fasting in the wilderness and His victory over Satan's temptations; and the beginning of His fulfillment of prophecy as He began His ministry in the region of Galilee; His calling Peter, Andrew, James and John as His disciples; and the multitudes who were drawn to Him as He preached the gospel and healed *"all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments"*; and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics, (Matthew 4:24); and great multitudes who were drawn to Him from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. (Matthew 4:25)

The details provided by Matthew give some of the facts that are the basis of our faith in Jesus Christ. Like the testimony of Peter, the apostle: *"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty."* (2 Peter 1:16)

Putting the Word to Work

Q: Describe how your faith is based on facts:

Q: Describe the arrival of Jesus in your life:

November 3
Don't worry about it.
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 5-7

> *Matthew 6:33-34, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

Some theologians believe that these three chapters in the Book of Matthew hold the basic design of a Christian life. All other scriptures simply amplify the premises put forth here by the Lord Jesus. The chapters lead off with the beatitudes. *"Blessed are……"* He then goes on to teach about many of the basic tenets of the faith. We are salt & light, Christ fulfilled the law, sin is in the heart, marriage is sacred and binding, love your enemies.

At the end of chapter seven, Matthew states that the people were astonished at His teaching. He taught with authority. They were used to the scribes whose teachings were simply a recitation of the law and the prophets.

Let's look at one particular passage of scripture from this group. Matthew 6:25-34. *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life…"* We are commanded by the Lord not to worry about our life. There are two things in the life of the average person in this modern world that tap their strength and often lead to health issues and sometimes early death. The first is guilt, and the second is worry. Psychiatrists say that more than 90% of the problems faced by today's society could be eliminated if we could get rid of guilt and anxiety.

What is Jesus trying to get across to these people? Your Heavenly Father knows what you have need of and will provide for you just as He provides for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. So, why do we often seem to lack the basic necessities? Because we are not relying on the Father to provide for us, but we are relying on our abilities, (or the government) to provide for us. The apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:6, *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."*

Quite often we find ourselves anxiously going to God to plead for relief from a particular situation. We often forget to be thankful for what we have and what He has already done for us, because of the circumstances we are currently facing. Too often, we do not approach God with a thankful heart, but with a fearful one. We need to concentrate on our relationship with Him, and not on the circumstances before us. God already knows what you need before you ask. The asking brings us closer to Him and puts us in the position of a child to his father. Try to approach the Lord with a heart of thanksgiving rather than one of worry and anxiety.

Putting the Word to Work

When you enter your prayer closet to ask for something from the Father, begin your request with a time of praise and thanksgiving for what He has already done in your life.

November 4
The Compassion of Jesus
Today's Bible Reading – Matthew 8-9

> *Matthew 9:35, "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."*

After hearing such powerful truth on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 5 through 7) a great many followed Jesus seeking miracles for impossible situations. Our study today tells many stories of the power, wisdom and compassion of our Lord. They are worth reviewing often.

As you read about these miracles, you may recall sermons or lessons from them. Each one carries faith building awe. From the leper, the mute man, the centurion's servant, and Peter's mother-in-law, to the demon possessed, Jesus met every one's desperate need and healed them all.

Then, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat and *"crossed to the other side."* The Sea of Galilee is known for abrupt temperature shifts that can cause sudden and violent storms with strong winds. The disciples became alarmed, but Jesus, the Lord of all creation, simply spoke to the wind and the sea to be calm.

On the other side, He encountered two demon possessed men who cried out saying, *"What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?"* At their request, Jesus sent the demons into a nearby herd of swine, which ran into the sea and perished. Strangely, the fearful people *"begged Him to depart"* from them.

So He got into the boat, crossed over, and came to *"His own city."* Chapter 9:1, when healing a paralytic there, Jesus said, *"Your sins are forgiven you."* The scribes accused Him of blasphemy. Verse 5 was His answer: *" For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?"* He demonstrated that *"the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins…"*

Matthew 9:9, tells of when Jesus saw Matthew sitting at the tax office and said to him, *"Follow Me." "So, he arose and followed Him."* So simple and compelling. As a tax collector, he was rich and educated, and therefore had more to leave behind than most. I recently read that "A great debt of gratitude is owed to this Disciple, for it was Matthew who preserved the exact words of Jesus."

Chapter 9 continues with many more healings and a treasure trove of compassion.

Our opening Scripture above concludes chapter 9 with the compassion that moved the heart of Jesus. *"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* Matthew 9:37-38

Putting the Word to Work

Consider the variety of labor that is needed for "His harvest." Find your simple but special skill.

The "harvest" may look different from our preconceived ideas. Recognize the 'crop' in your field.

November 5
Are your words enough?
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 10-12

> *Matthew 10:7-10, "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."* KJV

Luke 12:12, "*For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say*."

Luke 21:14, "*Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer. 15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."*

Exodus 4:12, "*Now therefore go and I will be with your mouth and teach you what to say."*

There are moments in life when all of us come to a place where we work hard trying to figure out the best words to use, but never feel quite adequate enough. Probably one of the most famous moments to illustrate this would have been on the 28th of August 1963, during the march on Washington, for jobs and freedom, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stepped up to the Lincoln Memorial, and midway through his address, Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson shouted from the crowd, "TELL 'EM ABOUT THE DREAM, MARTIN!" The life changing impact, setting aside his prepared notes, he improvised the legendary message, "I Have a Dream." His words crystalized the moral urgency of the Civil Rights Movement, galvanizing the entire nation and accelerating the political will that passed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and voting rights of 1965.

If you ever feel the pressure of a moment, not knowing what to say or how to say it. Trust the Word and the promise of the Holy Spirit. God promised us He will show us what we should say in the moment we need the inspiration and wisdom.

Putting the Word to Work

Have you ever been in a situation where you did not know what to say?

Is it better to say nothing at all?

November 6
Do not be afraid
Today's Bible Reading - Mathew 13-14

> *Matthew 14:25–33, Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I, do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

Matthew 14:25–33 gives us an amazing picture of what it means to trust Jesus when life becomes difficult. The disciples were exactly where Jesus told them to be, yet they still found themselves in the middle of a storm. This reminds us that being obedient to God does not mean we will never face problems. Sometimes, the storm comes while we are right where God wants us.

While the disciples fought against the wind and waves Jesus was on the mountain praying. He knew what they were facing, and He had not forgotten about them. In the darkest part of the night, Jesus came walking on the water toward them. When the disciples became afraid, Jesus said, *"Be of good cheer it is I do not be afraid."* Before Jesus changed their circumstances, He spoke peace into their fear. Sometimes we want God to immediately remove the storm, but God first wants us to recognize that He is with us in the middle of it.

Peter then said, "Lord, if it is you command me to come to you on the water." Jesus just said, "Come." Peter stepped out of the boat and began walking toward Jesus. What an incredible act of faith. Peter was doing something seen as impossible because his eyes were fixed on Jesus.

But then Peter got distracted by the wind. His focus left from Jesus and was on the storm. Fear began to take him over. As he began to sink, Peter cried, "Lord, save me" Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.

Peter's story teaches us that faith does not mean we never become afraid. Faith means knowing where to turn when fear comes. Peter took his eyes off Jesus, but Jesus never took His eyes off Peter.

Maybe you are facing a storm right now. You may feel overwhelmed, uncertain, or afraid of what will happen next. Remember the storm does not mean Jesus has abandoned you. He sees you, He knows where you are, and He is able to reach you even when you feel like you are sinking.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. Don't let the size of the storm become greater in your mind than the greatness of our Lord. When your faith feels weak, cry out to Him just as Peter did. Jesus is still reaching out His hand.

Putting the Word to Work

What is an area that you should trust God more?

If you're fearful, find Scriptures that will help you overcome that fear.

November 7
Thankfulness is the key to *everything*
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 15-17

> *Matthew 15:35-38, "And He took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children."* KJV

There are many incredible lessons to be gleaned from Matthew chapters 15 through 17. In Matthew 15, Jesus displays the importance of purity, tradition and compassion. Throughout Matthew 16, Jesus communicates the value of divine revelation, the church and the cost of discipleship. Then in Matthew 17, you get to experience a glimpse of heavenly glory where you learn of the transfiguration and ascension of Jesus Himself. Hallelujah!

What the Holy Spirit is leading me to dive into today is something different. Something that I had not even really thought about, until something quite drastic happened to me. It was last Thanksgiving morning at 12:33 am. As I lay sleeping in my bed, I heard a voice that sounded like a massive waterfall, and thunder at the same time. Then Jesus said my name, and my eyes opened. As I laid there absolutely terrified, I remembered something our Pastor Kami had told me.

Three years before that, I had heard the angel of the Lord call my name in my RV where I was living at the time. It scared me so bad that I froze and never responded. When I asked Pastor Kami how to respond, she simply said,'Just ask Him what He wants.' That immediately entered my mind on this occasion. So as I lay there thinking of how to kindly ask the Lord what He wants, He said, *"Just say it."* The fact that we do not have to display false bravado with our Lord always makes me smile.

I responded with, "What do you want, Lord?" in the nicest voice I could muster. He told me of amazing things He will do in my future for Him, but at the end He said the most important thing of all. When I asked Him why He came to me on Thanksgiving morning, He said because *"Thankfulness is the key to everything."* Do you know what the exact opposite word(s) for complaining are? Yes, thankfulness, praise and gratitude.

Even Jesus Himself gave thanks to our Father before the miracle of loaves and fishes occurred. What does that show us today? That gratitude precedes the miracle. And two, that gratefulness is essential to breaking our mindset of scarcity and lack. So, this Thanksgiving and throughout the new year, do not forget that we serve a great God. One who is able, if we simply appreciate what we already have.

Putting the Word to Work

In what areas in your life can you be more thankful?

How can you begin this today?

Week One Sermon Notes

Week One Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week One Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two

Week Two Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	**Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.**
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	**People I am praying for their salvation.**

November 8
Bring Them to Jesus
Today's Bible Reading – Matthew 18-20

> Matthew 19:13–14, *"Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them, but the disciples rebuked them." 14* "*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

The disciples tried to stop them. We aren't told exactly why, but children did not have the same status or importance in society that adults did. Perhaps the disciples thought Jesus was too busy or that these children weren't important enough to take His time. But Jesus corrected them. Jesus wasn't pushing them away. Jesus was inviting them closer.

And that message is still important today. Who feels like they don't belong? There are people who feel like they aren't good enough to come to Jesus. Maybe they think: "I've made too many mistakes." "I don't fit in." "I'm not good enough." "People won't accept me."

But Jesus never said, "Get yourself together, then come to Me." He said, *"Let them come to Me."* You don't have to have the perfect background, the perfect testimony, or everything figured out. You just have to come. Jesus wants you right where you are, and He can meet you there. Don't let anything keep anyone from Jesus.

Jesus also said, "Do not hinder them." We need to be careful that we don't become the reason someone feels like they can't come to Jesus. Instead, we should be the people saying: "Come on. You can come with me." "Jesus loves you." "You belong here." "Let's bring it to Jesus."

We can't fix everyone's problems or change anyone's heart, but we can pray, encourage, love, and point people toward Jesus. Sometimes the greatest thing we can do is simply stand beside someone and keep pointing them to Him. Maybe you are the one who needs to come.

This message isn't only about bringing others to Jesus. Maybe you are the one who needs to come. Maybe you've made mistakes that you are ashamed of. Maybe you feel rejected, insecure, or feel like you don't belong. Listen to Jesus*: "Let them come to Me."* That includes you.

Bring your questions. Bring your mistakes. Bring your broken heart. Bring your family, children, and friends.

Putting the Word to Work

Ask yourself: Who is God putting on your heart to bring to Jesus?

What part of your own life do you need to bring to Jesus?
Nobody is too young, too old, too broken, too different, or too far gone to come to Jesus.

So let's never be the ones standing in the way. Let's be the ones opening the door, extending a hand, and saying: "Come. Bring your whole heart. Bring your whole story. Let's go to Jesus."

Bring them to Jesus. And don't forget to bring yourself, too.

November 9
Choose the Word over the World
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 21-22

> *Matthew 21:12-13, "Then Jesus went into the temple of God… and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "*

God desires us to seek spiritual riches. When we ask Jesus, our Lord and Savior, into our lives, we begin a transformation that drives us deeper into the Word. We begin to shed our worldly views and wants. We begin to crave a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. This is what He wants for us.

In this passage we find one thing in particular that Jesus said the church He is building shall be, and that is a "house of prayer." Prayer and the Word of God are the anchor to our lives in the midst of a chaotic world. The world will try to bring us back into sin, but God wants us to resist that temptation and choose Him. Those that choose Him can commune with Him daily through prayer, establish a deeper relationship with God. He wants to bestow gifts on us and help us through our daily lives.

Those who establish a daily pattern of prayer, develop their gifts. God loves His people, and we are His people. With these gifts, He wants us to use them to sow His seed into the world and tend to His garden so that the harvest may be plentiful. The greatest gift we receive is the gift of entering the Kingdom. It is an immeasurable treasure to us.

Putting the Word to Work

Are you using and growing in the gifts that God has placed in you?

Learn to recognize the gifts you have not yet explored. There is always more with God.

November 10
Great Joy or Great Sorrow – You Choose
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 23-24

> *Matthew 24:30, "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."*

Back in the 60's and 70's, the medical field really started to impress and encourage people to become proactive in "preventative medicine." Up until that time, people pretty much took their health for granted. If you came down with a disease, it was pretty much taken for granted that "Uncle Eddy or Aunt Sally" had it, so you would probably have something similar.

The medical field woke up and discovered a lot of what they were treating could be avoided by taking preventative action early on. As a result, people started living longer with better quality of life. If you should get a prognosis of eminent death and you could have done something about it… Oh, the sorrow one must feel upon hearing of it. The feeling of regret would be overwhelming. If only… if only I had done things differently!

All throughout the world, God has defined, time after time, what we should do to avoid the sorrow of that day of His return. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus as the Son of God, repent and obey."* It is described and defined in countless ways.

In chapter 23:37-38, God declares, *"How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate."*

Thank you, Jesus! We still have time to do what is right before the time comes. "Believe," "Repent," and "Obey." Three simple words, only they are lived out in a world of evil and darkness. But we can become the light that will show others the way. We can become the doctor prescribing the way out of a sick world.

Our assignment is Matthew 24:42-43, *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into."*

Take preventative action now, so joy may fill your heart in the day of His coming!

Putting the Word to Work

1 What is He revealing to you that requires your obedience?

2 Is your faith being tested?

3 Are you ready?

November 11
Whatever you do for the Least of These....
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 25-26

> *Matthew 25: 35-36, "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in; naked and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me."*

We have a ministry at the Father's House that brings Jesus to the homeless in our area. If you drop into the church kitchen on Thursday morning you may find workers preparing soup and packing styrofoam containers into an insulated bag. There are also cookies on the counter that will go into their packaging.

These workers visit a homeless camp in Roseburg called "The Point," and arrive in the early afternoon. Folks from Adapt also come bringing medical aid, and there are showers available that day.

Our encouragers also bring along hygiene gift bags containing personal items such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, and socks.

There are hundreds of homeless individuals in this camp… our servants from the Father's House offer to pray for anyone receiving a cup of soup, a blanket, or a warm coat… they seldom turn down prayer.

Matthew 25:40 says: *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."*

Putting the Word to Work

If you would like to be part of this outreach there are ways you could help: bring vegetables, potatoes, onions, celery, cabbage,carrots as well as rice and pasta to the church kitchen, leaving it with a note to designate it for this outreach.

Another suggested gift would be Walmart's 10 pound bag of chicken thighs and legs… there's just something healing about chicken soup!

If you would like to help with the hygiene bags, besides those items mentioned, at the Dollar Store you could get shampoo, lip balm, wipes, soap, deodorant, small tissues, foot powder, first aid kits, gloves and hats.

God bless you as you help us Walk out the Word!

November 12
He Yielded, for Me and You
Today's Bible Reading - Matthew 27 & 28

> *Matthew 27:12-14, 28-31. "12 But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He gave no answer. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, 'do you not hear how many things they testify against you?' 14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed'. "28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified."*

This is Jesus, the Creator of the universe! The Way, the Truth and the Life! (John 14:6). 1 John 1:1 & 14 reads, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." 14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Jesus carried all authority and all power. How could He allow this? Why would He allow this? Hebrews 12:2b says, *"… who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* He did this for you and me. He emptied Himself, humbling Himself by being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phillipians 2:7-8). He yielded for me and you.

Jesus gave up His rights. He did so willingly. In Hebrews 2:9, we read, *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."* Jesus had you and me in mind during His life and at His death.

I cannot comprehend with my mind what Jesus did for me. He carried not only my sin, but the sins of the whole world, upon that cross. He remained on the cross, having full power to come down at any time, yet, because of His Love, He yielded His all for me and you.

When I saw the Grand Canyon for the first time I was struck with awe at the incredible canyons and sheer rock walls. I stood on the edge of one of those incredible sheer canyons and glorified God for His Power displayed before me. That is some kind of power! Yet, knowing that the 'All Powerful Creator of the Universe', yielded Himself for me and you in death on a tree, speaks of a love deeper than the deepest canyon.

Putting the Word to Work

What right or privilege have you yielded to God for the building of the Kingdom?

November 13
The Announcement of John's Birth
Today's Bible Reading - Luke Chapter 1

> *Luke 1:13, 20, "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; you're your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."*
> *John 1:20 "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."*

Luke sets this narrative during the reign of Herod the Great, a bleak political era. Zacharias and Elizabeth are portrayed as righteous, but suffering from the deep social and spiritual stigma of barrenness in Israel. Zacharias is executing a once-in-a-lifetime duty: burning incense inside the Holy Place of the Jerusalem Temple. The appearance of the angel Gabriel breaks roughly 400 years of prophetic silence since Malachi, signaling that God is moving dynamically once again.

Zacharias and Elizabeth had spent decades begging for a child. While they had likely given up due to old age, God demonstrates that delayed timing does not mean a denied request.

When we pray for things, keep believing. Don't stop praying.

When the angel came to Zacharias, he said, *"How can I know, for we are old?"* Because of his unbelief God made him mute till the child was born.

When we pray, even when it seems that it's not going to get answered, keep praying & believing!

Putting the Word to Work

What have you been praying for?

Have you given up because the answer hasn't come yet. Trust and believe.

November 14
It's All About Jesus
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 2-3, KJV

> *John 3:16, "John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."*

Luke chapters 2 and 3 are some of the most exciting in the whole Bible. In Luke 2, you will read of our Savior's miraculous birth in Bethlehem; then His presentation in the temple, where Simeon and Anna recognize Him as being the Redeemer. You will continue on to see Him wise enough to teach others in that same temple just 12 years later.

Luke 3 brings Jesus' cousin, John, back into account, who was a miracle in his own right. Afterall, he too was born in a miraculous conception to his parents (Luke 1), and also grew into a strong man of God with his own ministry. Many people were in awe of John wondering if he was the prophesied Elijah who was to return, or Jeremiah, or one of the other great prophets. (Matthew 16)

Did John entertain any of this admiration? Absolutely not. Of all of John's qualities, strengths and miracles in which he was a part, there is one that far surpasses everything as the most beautiful. This was the humility that he displayed time after time. In fact, John built a whole ministry around pointing people to the Lord, as he prepared the way for the Lord.

I'm so glad God brought me here to The Father's House. One of the ministries that God has developed in my time here, has been the opportunity to travel and share my story of how God performed the miracle of raising me from the dead. As I travel and am contacted by many people, I sometimes get attention that doesn't belong to me, but to God. I will never forget this one time: I told my testimony and a young woman came up and bowed at my feet. This great fear came upon me, as only Jesus deserves that kind of submission. I told her, "Get up now!" I did not know it was Scripture then, but even the angels rejected John bowing at their feet. (Revelation 22:8)

Do people admire you for any special attributes God has given you? How do you respond when people point to you as the miracle instead of to the *Way Maker*, Himself? Never forget to point all of the recognition of the miracle to Whom it belongs–Jesus Himself.

> *"I am a wonder unto many; but Thou art my strong refuge." Psalm 71:7*

Putting the Word to Work

What is something that many admire you for?

Is there a way you could offer this gift or talent to our church as a way to thank God?

Week Two Sermon Notes

Week Two Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three

Week Three Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	**Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.**
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	**People I am praying for their salvation.**

November 15
More Than Bread
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 4-5

Luke 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone."

In Luke 4:1–13, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, where He is tempted by the devil for forty days. The central point of this passage is that Jesus was genuinely tempted, yet remained obedient and dependent upon God. This is especially clear in His response to the first temptation: *"Man shall not live by bread alone." (Luke 4:4).* KJV

After fasting for forty days, Jesus was hungry. The devil challenged Him, saying, *"If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread"* (Luke 4:3). Jesus had a legitimate physical need, but He refused to satisfy that need outside of God's will. Instead, He responded with Scripture.

Jesus' response comes from Deuteronomy 8:3, where Moses reminds Israel that God allowed them to hunger and then provided manna to teach them that people do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. Jesus demonstrates this same dependence upon the Father. His response shows that physical needs are important, but they are not the foundation of life. Our relationship with God and obedience to His Word are more important than immediate satisfaction.

This passage tells me something important about God: God is the source and sustainer of life. He knows and cares about our needs, but He wants us to trust Him rather than allowing our circumstances or desires to control us.

The passage also tells me something about man. Human beings have legitimate physical and emotional desires, but those desires can become opportunities for temptation. We can easily begin believing that money, food, comfort, success, or security will give us everything we need. Luke 4:4 reminds us that our deepest need is not simply what we can obtain, but our dependence upon God.

For my life today, this passage challenges me to put dependence upon God ahead of immediate gratification. When I experience pressure, uncertainty, or strong desires, I can choose to trust God and follow His Word rather than simply doing what feels right in the moment. Jesus shows me that temptation itself is not sin; the important question is how I respond to it.

Putting the Word to Work

What are you depending on to sustain you when life becomes difficult?

When your immediate desires compete with God's Word, will you choose what feels good in the moment, or will you choose to trust God?

November 16
You Shall Laugh
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 6-7

> *Luke 6:17-21, Jesus Heals a Great Multitude, "And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, (vs18) as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. (vs19) And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*
> *The Beatitudes, (vs20) Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. (vs21) Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now , for <u>you shall laugh</u>."*
>
> The last half of verse 21 in the Amplified says, *"Blessed (happy-with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, apart from your outward condition-and to be envied) are you who hunger and seek with eager desire now, for you shall be filled and completely satisfied! Blessed (happy-with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, apart from your outward condition-and to be envied) are you who weep and sob now, for <u>you shall laugh!</u>"*

I remember getting to experience this verse when I received a phone call from my son, and he told me how God answered our hearts cry for his situation. I began to weep and sob. Then it turned into laughter as I was overwhelmed with joy!

I am sure there were plenty of joyous people in the crowd that day as Jesus healed them all!
There is always hope. Hebrews 6:19 says, *"Hope is the anchor of the soul."*

Today we can be healed by reading His Word. Psalm 107:20 says, *"He sends forth His word and heals them from the pit and destruction."*

Have you ever experienced joy that you couldn't contain and it turned into laughter at what the enemy meant for destruction or to harm you?

What great work was done that day! Jesus lavished (poured out generously, overflowing and extravagant) His love and grace on the people, without holding back. Ephesians 1:7-8; 1 John 3:1

Putting the Word to Work

Do you realize how much God loves you? …and that He wants to supply your every need?

November 17
Who Do You Say I Am
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 8-9

> *Luke 9:18-20, "Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am? They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."*

In this passage, Jesus asks His disciples, *"Who do the crowds say I am?"* The disciples answer with what they have heard from other people. They knew what people were saying about Jesus, but knowing about someone is different from actually knowing them.

In our everyday life, it is easy to rely on what our family, friends, or pastor have told us about Jesus. We can know what they have taught us, know what they believe about Him, and even quote Scripture. But knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him. Jesus desires for us to know Him personally.

Jesus then asks, *"Who do you say that I am?"* This is where the question becomes personal. He is asking us to stop and look into our hearts. Who do we say Jesus is? This is not a question someone else can answer for us.

When Peter answers, *"The Messiah,"* he is recognizing who Jesus truly is. He is saying that Jesus is his Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer, and Rescuer. Peter is not just giving an answer, he is recognizing who Jesus is and responding with worship and praise.

We cannot rely on someone else's faith to know Him. We have to seek Him for ourselves. He calls us to read Scripture, pray, worship, and follow Him in obedience. There are so many things around us that can influence the way we see Jesus. What other people say, what we hear, what we go through, and even our own feelings can shape the way we see Him. That is why we need to keep going back to Scripture and spending time with Him. The more time we spend with Him, the more we learn His voice and His character.

Knowing Jesus is more than knowing the right answer. It should change the way we live. If we truly believe Jesus is Lord, then that should affect our choices, our priorities, and how we respond when life does not go the way we expected. We may not always understand what He is doing, but we can still choose to trust Him and follow Him.

The question Jesus asked His disciples still echoes today. *"Who do you say I am?"* We can know what our family believes, what our pastor teaches, and what our friends say, but we have to decide who Jesus is to us. So when Jesus asks you, *"Who do you say I am?,"* your answer should come from a heart that knows Him, seeks Him, and chooses to follow Him.

Putting the Word to Work

Search your heart, and life. Do you truly have a relationship with Jesus?

Or are you always speaking and never listening?

November 18
Faith Through Actions
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 10-11

> *Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. Also, "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself." (ICB)*

Luke chapters 10 and 11 remind us what it really means to follow Jesus. Faith isn't just about knowing the Bible, going to church, or saying the right things. It's about how we live, how we treat people, and whether we put God's teachings into practice.

In Luke 10, Jesus sends 72 followers out to prepare people for His coming. He tells them to share God's message, heal the sick, and trust God to provide what they need. Jesus reminds them that their greatest reason to celebrate isn't what they accomplish, but that their names are written in heaven.

Then a teacher of the law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus points him to two essential commandments: love God with everything you've got and love your neighbor as yourself. But the man wants to know who counts as his neighbor. Jesus answers with the story of the Good Samaritan.

In the story, a wounded man is left on the road. Two religious men pass him by, but a Samaritan stops, cares for him, and makes sure he gets help. The surprising part is that the Samaritan belongs to a group that many people looked down on. Jesus makes it clear that loving our neighbor isn't about picking and choosing who to help. It's about showing compassion when someone needs us, regardless of who they are.

Later, Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Martha is busy getting everything ready, while Mary sits and listens to Jesus. Martha isn't wrong to serve, but Jesus reminds her that sometimes we get so caught up in being busy that we forget what's most important: spending time with God.

In Luke 11, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. He encourages them to trust God, ask for what they need, seek His guidance, forgive others, and keep praying. He also warns against hypocrisy and religious pride. Looking good on the outside doesn't mean much if our hearts aren't right with God.

Together, these chapters give us a straightforward message: Love God with all you've got, treat others with compassion, make time for God, and let your faith show through your actions. At the end of the day, it's not just about what we say we believe, it's about how we live it out.

Putting the Word to Work

Ask yourself: Am I loving God wholeheartedly and showing His love through my daily actions, especially toward those who need my compassion most?

November 19
The Kingdom of God is at Hand
Today's Bible Reading – Luke 12-13

> *Luke 12:31-32, "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

Chapter 12 begins with Jesus speaking to *"His disciples first of all,"* to beware of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. *"2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known."* Whatever the disciples have spoken will be proclaimed from the housetops."

As Jesus' reputation quickly spread, a multitude gathered from all over the region, 'as though called.' An appropriate scripture in Isaiah 55:6-7 says, *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."*

Jesus taught the principles of God's Kingdom throughout the Book of Luke by using well known parables. [Side note: Luke shares more parables than the other gospels: Luke has 27, Matthew has 22, and Mark has 9. The Book of John has allegories, but not parables. An allegory is a symbolic narrative that conveys deeper meanings through characters and events, often representing abstract ideas; but, a parable is a simple story that teaches a moral lesson, typically using human characters.]

Everyone would benefit from a study of the parables. Many are repeated in other gospels, but some are unique to each gospel. I found a chart that harmonizes the parables between gospels. The rich 'life lessons' are why they are the subjects of many teachings and sermons… straight from Jesus.

And remember, Luke 12:8-10, *"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven."*

Luke, being a Hellenist (Greek) and an educated doctor, became a Christian after the resurrection of Jesus. He researched the life and teachings of Jesus to provide an accurate and detailed account of the events. He traveled with Paul for several years. It is believed that Luke also wrote the Book of Acts… much of it firsthand.

Luke 9 concludes with Jesus' lament over Jerusalem. Verse 35b says, *"and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "*

Putting the Word to Work

Make a list to expand the sources that help -explore the Kingdom of God.

Need help with resources and/or plans of study? Ask anyone in leadership at the church.

Or join any one of the ongoing studies in progress. You are always welcome.

November 20
He came to seek and to save, that which was lost
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 14-16

> *Luke 15:7, 9-10, 32, " 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. 9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. 32 It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."*

As you read through Luke 15 you will find a trio of parables describing the joy in the kingdom of heaven over the return of the lost. The lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost (prodigal) son. In this era it was common for the sheep to free range during the day, and then be brought into a pen of some sort at night. A shepherd knew the sheep that belonged in the fold and at night if one was missing, a good shepherd would go back into the wild to find the lost sheep. This describes the heart of God to go out into the wild in order to seek out and find the lost sheep and bring them into the fold. We have an assignment as representatives of the kingdom of heaven to go out into the world, find the lost sheep, and bring them to the fold. All of heaven rejoices when one lost sheep comes home.

The second story describes a woman who has 10 coins but has lost one. She doesn't leave to go look for it, but she turns the light on and searches the house to discover what was missing. This is the assignment of everyone who is a part of the local church. You should know those who are a part of the local church body. When one is missing, it is our duty to turn the light on, search and look for the one who is missing. When they returned, Jesus taught that she celebrated and rejoiced over the return of what was lost.

The third parable describes the lost son, commonly called the 'parable of the prodigal son.' It is a son who rejected his Father, because he was frustrated that his father was taking too long to die to leave him his inheritance. So, he convinces his father to give him his inheritance early and leaves. His Father allows him to leave. He doesn't chase him down, but waits for him to 'come to himself', to repent and return. Upon the return, he celebrates and declares, *"Let us rejoice! My son who was dead has returned and is alive again."* What I love about the three parables together is the heart of God towards all who return to Him: He rejoices. Don't run from God, run to Him.

Putting the Word to Work

Is there a lost sheep you can begin to pray for?

Is there a lost coin, you need to shine the light on and go after?

We all have a part to play in seeking that which is lost.

November 21
Jesus Deals with Misperceptions
Today's Bible Reading – Luke 17-18

> *Luke 18:16-17, "But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."*

Have you ever been misunderstood? Have people's perceptions of you always been accurate? In these two chapters of Luke's gospel, we see how Jesus dealt with misperceptions.

Twice in these two chapters He dealt with the misperception about His love and care for children. He dealt with the misperception regarding the role of His servants. He dealt with the lepers' misperception about the difference between religious purification and genuine wholeness and healing. He dealt with the misperception of the coming of His Kingdom. He dealt with the misperception about the vengeance of God in the parable He spoke about the persistent widow. He dealt with the misperception of true righteousness when He spoke the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. He dealt with the misperception about the path to eternal life when He spoke to the rich young ruler and commented about the difficulty for anyone clinging to material wealth to be saved. He dealt with Peter's misperception about the rewards of leaving all and following Jesus. Lastly, He dealt with the people's misperception about His willingness to be interrupted by a blind beggar's cry for help.

Where had these misperceptions originated? Jesus identified their source when He quoted Isaiah as He rebuked the scribes and Pharisees: *"Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "* (Matthew 15:7-9)

In every instance the remedy for people's misperceptions was what Jesus said and what Jesus did. No wonder Jesus said to those who believed: *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (John 8:31-32)

He also promised His disciples: *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."* (John 14:26)

He also said: *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth."* (John 16:12-13)

Sadly, many today have misperceptions about God. Many worship God as they imagine Him to be rather than worship Him as He has revealed Himself to be. That is why it is essential to read the bible and to abide in His word every day. The apostle Paul warned us: *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."* (Colossians 2:8)

Putting the Word to Work

Q: Has the Holy Spirit ever revealed a misperception you had about God? Please explain:

Q: Have you ever fallen prey to a false teaching? Please explain:

Week Three Sermon Notes

Week Three Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three Sermon Notes **Date: _____**

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of the Month

Final 10 Days of the month Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	**Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.**
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	**People I am praying for their salvation.**

November 22
Trust in the Cornerstone
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 19-20

> *Luke 20:17-18, "Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone'? 18 Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."*

A cornerstone sets the entire symmetry of a building. It can be an actual stone that all other components must line up with; or it can be a person, the one who has a vision of the finished project. It is the most important part of any great work.

How do we interpret this? How does this apply to us? Jesus is the cornerstone that was rejected by man, but was chosen by God to set the symmetry of our lives.

1 Peter 2:21-23 describes what Jesus did… He committed Himself to Him Who judges righteously. He surrendered His will to His Father. When we surrender our will to His, it actually leaves us broken as we give over fleshly love and desires to Him, trusting that He knows best. Where we run into trouble is when we try to put our will above His.

He will deal with us, while in the meantime, we are living a miserable life, believing the lies satan tells us. How can we justify our thinking and wrong doings, even telling ourselves that we are okay and doing good?

1 Samuel 15:23 says, *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."*

The stone fell on Saul and it crushed him. This can happen to us if we continue to oppose God and walk in our own willfulness. As children of God, we are called to walk not the course of this world, but rather to walk in the will of our Heavenly Father. Gently He breaks us. But with our opposition He crushes us. Without God in our lives, life will crush us.

Putting the Word to Work

1 Has God revealed things in your life that you need to let go of?

2 Is"letting go" hard? And how are you handling it?

3 Remember that Jesus had to let go while He was on the cross. Luke 22:43, *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."* Pray the same prayer that Jesus prayed.

November 23
Learning to be a Generous Giver
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 21-22

> *Luke 21:1-4, "1 And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow cast in her two mites. And He said, "Truly I say unto you, that this poor widow has cast in more than all of these. For these all have given out of their abundance, but she has given all that she has."*

Giving is just a part of the Christian life. Following in the footsteps of our Father in Heaven, who loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. We have a variety of ways in which we are called to be generous givers in this life. Giving is not just about money, here are three areas I would encourage you to consider.

First, give God your talents…
What are some of the skills, abilities, knowledge, wisdom, etc., that God has deposited within you?
What are one or two ways you could bring God an offering of your talents?

Secondly, give God your time. Often, when we think of giving our time to God we think in the form of: study your Bible, pray, and be committed to the House of the Lord at least once a week. These are all absolutely essential. But I want to challenge you to go deeper in your thinking about your time. You see, all three of those, while important offerings to the Lord, are also highly beneficial to yourself. You don't study the Word, pray, and participate in church because God needs you to, you do them to be a healthy Christ-follower. So what are a few ways you could bring God an offering of your time that is not about what you can receive, but is a gift to advance His kingdom.

Thirdly, give God out of your treasures. When you bring a tithe to the church, it is not a gift, it is a 'returning' to the Lord what belongs to Him already. When you go beyond the tithe you are bringing and offering that which goes beyond… it is sacrificial. Do you tithe? Great! Keep it up! If not, learn to be a tither. But don't limit yourself to the tithe. Learn and plan how you can go beyond that.

Putting the Word to Work

Review the three ways of giving above. Explore how you can expand your opportunities.

November 24
The Road to Emmaus
Today's Bible Reading - Luke 23-24

> *Luke 24:44-45, "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."*

What a marvelous passage of Scripture. The story of the 'resurrection from the dead' of our Lord Jesus is by far one of the most important passages in the New Testament. Without the resurrection of our Lord, we are just like every other religion in the world. Mohammed is dead, Budda is dead, all the gods of Hinduism are dead, but our God, Jesus Christ is alive and sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. Hallelujah!

These two men were walking down the road to Emmaus and talking about the events of the past few days. They had believed, like many of the disciples, that Jesus was going to physically deliver Israel out of the hands of the Roman empire and make it an independent nation once again. All their hopes had been devastated when Jesus died on the cross. You can probably imagine how they were feeling at the time.

Jesus suddenly appears and joins them on their journey. He asks what they are talking about. He then begins to expound on the scriptures and how the entire Old Testament shows God's plan of redemption through the death and resurrection of the Lord. These men did not understand what Jesus was really about. He came to die on the cross. *Hebrews 12:2 – "…who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* That was the purpose for His entire life.

Verse 31 is vital to the understanding of this passage of scripture. *"Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him…"* They were not blind men or they wouldn't be walking down the road to Emmaus, so what pair of eyes were opened for them? We sing a song during worship that says, "Open the eyes of my heart Lord" These men were seeing Jesus with their natural eyes, but they were not seeing Him with their hearts. Often, we will find that we have a great deal of head knowledge about the scriptures and the stories in the Bible, but what we really need is to get the Word down into our heart (spirit).

When you go into your study mode, do what you do when you pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart to what God would have you see in the Scripture that you are reading at the time. We all want to see Jesus as clearly as possible. He will be glad to reveal Himself to anyone who is willing to have their eyes opened.

Putting the Word to Work

When you pray and/or read the Word, ask the Lord to reveal to you what He wants you to know at that time.

November 25
Do you hope beyond your reach?
Today's Bible Reading - Ephesians 1-3

> *Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

What kind of prayers are we praying? Are they prayers that match our human limitations? Are we only asking for what we think might be possible? Right here Paul takes limits off of our prayers by stating in the end of Ephesians 3:20-21 that God is able to do infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Infinitely means without boundaries: extending past limitations or measures. (Merriam-Webster)
We might have heard this, read this, or even heard sermons on this previously. But do we live as if we actually believe it?

Is there something right now that you're praying over? And even though you're praying over it, you feel restrained, overwhelmed, or held back? Will you take some time to think about whether you're praying to allow God to have freedom to do what only He can? This could completely flip the situation. Or it might change your perspective to see things through God's lens.

I am a walking example of how praying without limits, literally everyday, can change a dire situation that had no earthly solution. With the boundaries removed, faith that God will move, and that he will do whatever he chooses at any moment, completely transformed my life. Where there was no hope because of our earthly constraints, someone had the courage to reach outside of our personal perceptions. He is Jehovah RAFA!

Putting the Word to Work

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you 'how' to pray without limits. God is ready to bless you.

November 26
We Are One Body
Today's Bible Reading - Ephesians 4-6

> *Ephesians 4: 2-6, "...with all humility [forsaking self-righteousness], and gentleness [maintaining self-control], with patience, bearing with one another in [unselfish] love. Make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace [each individual working together to make the whole successful]. There is one body [of believers] and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when called [to salvation]— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all who is [sovereign] over all and [working] through all and [living] in all."*

In verse two we are called to bear one another with all humility and gentleness. Not everyone struggles the same and sometimes someone else's struggle may look real ugly to us and keep us from reaching out. However we should be reminded that ALL sin is the same in God's eyes. (except blaspheming the Spirit)

I am drawn to focusing on the beginning of chapter 4 because it speaks to how we as believers should treat other members of the body. I believe this is especially true when we see struggles in the brethren.

Regardless of how it looks to us, we need to make every effort to keep the bond and make the whole (the body) successful. As the word says, We have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father, and we are one body. That body is the whole and we are told to help keep it that way.

I remember I had gout once and the pain was just in my big toe, yet that pain ended up controlling how I walked, how I slept, and how I treated those around me. Sometimes the whole is affected by just a little part of the body.

I don't know many who have not yet, or are not now struggling with something in some way. Many struggle with fear, doubt, or rejection. I personally have found that as a believer one of the best ways to deal with a situation that may be bothering you is to help someone deal with a situation that they are dealing with. If we are the body and if we reach out to others then in a way we are reaching out to ourselves to make the body whole. In Philippians 2:4 the word says, (it is written) *"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

When Jesus said *"no greater love hath a man but that he lay down his life for a brother,"* He was talking about putting others' needs ahead of your own out of love for one another.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Pray for others
2. Help those in need
3. Reach out even when uncomfortable

November 27
Set it
Today's Bible Reading - The Books of Colossians and Philemon

> *Colossians 3:1-2, "If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*

The mind is such a wonderful gift from the Lord. The ability to think, imagine, dream, make connections, etc. As wonderful as the gift the mind is, it can also be a place of great frustration, pain, and for some, even torment. We have been blessed as believers with the ability and authority to lead our mind and not be controlled by our mind running in any direction it wants. We have the ability to "set" our mind on the things above.

Here Paul urges the Colossians to "set," which carries with it the idea of intentionally elevating the content of our thought life to a higher plane than we naturally would. It carries with it the ability and authority to decide the direction of our mental energies, not just be subject to them. He would write of the same principle in a more graphic manner in 2 Corinthians 10 that the believer should take *"every thought captive"* at spear point and bring it into captivity and obedience to the Word of God.

Your mind is not out of control. You have the capacity to choose the direction of your thoughts.

Putting the Word to Work

The words that you speak are powerful 'mind setters.' Try this exercise right now.
Silently count in your mind from 1 to 50…. 1, 2, 3, 4…. Now before you get to 50, out loud say your name.

Everytime I have a crowd in the room do this, virtually everyone will confirm that the counting stopped when they spoke their name. Why? Because the mind will stop to see what the mouth is going to say. When you put the word of God in front of your eyes, and speak it out your mouth, your mind begins to change.

November 28
From Prison to Praise!
Today's Bible Reading - Philippians

> *Nehemiah 8:10b, "… for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

As you study this powerful epistle, Paul will inspire you, encourage you, exhort you to *"rejoice in the Lord always."* (Philippians 4:4) "You will discover that joy is God's antidote for anxiety. There is so much anxiety today…stress and strain…fear and frustration. So, what do we do? We pop a pill! Americans are the most medicated people on the planet… infected with a moaning, groaning, complaining, attitude while we are the most blessed country on earth! We are prosperous but perplexed, powerful yet impotent, and we think that pills are the answer!

It was to the proud, prosperous, privileged city of Philippi that Paul and Silas brought the gospel of Jesus Christ. But while chained and in stocks in the lowest part of the prison, at midnight, Paul and Silas were praising the Lord – and an earthquake unlocked not only their chains, but every door in the prison. Now, years later, Paul was once again in prison – this time under house arrest in Rome and chained day and night to a Roman soldier from Nero's own elite palace guard when he wrote this letter to his friends, the believers in Philippi.

It was James, the apostle, who wrote: *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* (James 1:2) In order to encourage his people during the struggle to rebuild their ruined capital city, Jerusalem, Nehemiah told them *"…the joy of the Lord is your strength."* (Nehemiah 8:10) Joy is not the result of religion. It is the result of a relationship, and Paul used the name and title of Jesus fifty-one times in the 104 verses of this epistle.

Paul expressed that joy was his personal experience despite his circumstances, because of his memories of his friends and his expectations of what his current circumstances would produce in the furtherance of the gospel.

He reminded them that Jesus Christ humbled Himself and admonished them to be like-minded. The acronym is unmistakable and provides the recipe for joy:

J – Jesus first
O – others second
Y – yourself last

And he provided the antidote for anxiety: *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)

Putting the Word to Work

Q: Have you ever felt like you were in prison or in bondage? Describe how Jesus set you free:

Q: Describe how you have found joy in your journey with Jesus:

November 29
You shall receive Power
Today's Bible Reading - Acts 1-3

> *Acts 2:33, 38-39 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear… 38 Then Peter said to them, "repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

These three chapters bring a precise overview of events that shaped the world. Jesus appeared to His disciples and many others for forty days speaking of the kingdom of God. In Chapter 2, the Feast of Pentecost arrived and the message of the Holy Spirit was manifested to all in attendance. Peter boldly spoke out a powerful message for understanding the significance for everyone.

In Acts 2:41 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers…47b And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

In chapter 3, as the disciples were sent into the world, Peter and John went to the Temple to pray, and they came across a lame man, "*6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God."* They continued to minister to the people as Jesus had taught them.

This was the beginning of the church. It was a "change" in man's access to the righteousness that comes only through the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Walking in the righteousness of Jesus provides the ability to walk out what God has called us to do. It's the Spirit of God coming on the believer who is covered by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. We are his hands and feet to bring His message to the world.

Putting the Word to Work

What are some ways you can effectively demonstrate the Love of God to those you interact with?

How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to do things you could not do on your own?

November 30
Stand Your Ground
Today's Bible Reading - Acts 4-6

> *Acts 4:19-20, "But Peter & John replied to them, whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you and obey you rather than God, you may decide. But we cannot help telling what we have seen and heard."*

When I was in the 5th grade, our science teacher was teaching us about evolution and the 'Big Bang' theory. He had taken a strong stance on the 'Big Bang' theory and was adamant that he was correct. With me being a Christian and believing in creation, we did not see eye to eye. In class that day, I held my ground that God created the heavens and the earth.

He became angrier and angrier. He started yelling about how I was wrong and "how could that be?" Every student in that room that day was dead quiet, watching and listening to how this was going to end. I knew even as a 5th grader that the Holy Spirit was with me. Just as the bell rang I spoke. "Haven't you heard of miracles?" He was red faced and turned away from me. One little girl asked her friend, "What did she say?" And I heard her repeat what I had just said.

That evening our phone rang off the hook with parents calling and talking about the events of the day and how it had affected their children. That same spirit, The Holy Spirit, is still alive and active today. He is living in us. We can still stand confident in our convictions and do it respectfully, even in the presence of an opposing opinion. Our 'witness' speaks louder than we even realize. Stand your ground!

Putting the Word to Work

If placed in that position, would you have spoken up? …or remained quiet?

If you were the students' parents, what would you have said to them?

Week Four Sermon Notes

Final 10 Days of November Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of November Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of November Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable):* _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

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For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website: thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
	5:30 pm - Family dinner at 5:30
	6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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