

# LIVING GOD'S VISION



## Daily Devotions

**Monday February 11 to Sunday March 3**

God's vision for your life is to be a devoted disciple of Christ. This daily devotion can help us connect with God each day so that He can achieve His vision for our lives.

Spend about 15 minutes each day with God doing that day's study. Focus on the questions that are most important to you. Don't worry if you don't answer all the questions. The important thing is that you meet with the Lord and that He helps you grow in your relationship with Him.

As you read each day's Bible passage:



**READ.** Pray before you read, asking God to speak to you. Read slowly through the passage.



**REFLECT.** What is God saying to you? Is God asking you to:

- Trust His promise?
- Receive His encouragement?
- Obey His command?
- Stop a bad habit?
- Serve another person?

In a few sentences write what you think God is saying to you.



**RESPOND**

Write a short prayer to God thanking Him for ministering to you through this passage and expressing what you will do in response.

# LIVING GOD'S VISION





**WORSHIP**  
**Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us**



**WORSHIP**  
**Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us**

**Tuesday February 12**

**John 1:1-18**

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*

*<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.*

John describes how the God who created everything became a human being in Jesus Christ.

*{Note: In verse 18, the word "glory" when used to describe God in other parts of the Bible can refer to His beauty and perfection of character, His visible and active presence with His oppressed people, good reputation, high praise, honour,; and heavenly state of eternal bliss}.*

The "Word" is Jesus Christ (verse 14). Just as God revealed Himself in the Old Testament through His spoken word, now in the New Testament He reveals Himself as the living Word, Jesus Christ.



# WORSHIP

## Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us



Wednesday February 13

John 10:1-33

*10 Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. <sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. <sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."*

*<sup>19</sup> The Jews who heard these words were again divided. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?" <sup>21</sup> But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"*

*<sup>22</sup> Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>24</sup> The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."*

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."*

*<sup>31</sup> Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup> but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"*

*<sup>33</sup> "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."*

Jesus claims to be the Good Shepherd who is the Lord described in Psalm 23.

**WORSHIP**  
**Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us**



1. What are the characteristics of the good Shepherd Jesus? What does He do for His sheep (verses 2-18)?
2. How do you distinguish the Good Shepherd's voice from that of imposters, including the devil, who promise a good life? How will you improve at distinguishing Jesus' voice from other voices? How will you improve at following Jesus' voice when you're tempted otherwise?
3. In verses 22-33, what claims does Jesus make about Himself? How can Jesus' claims improve our lives?
4. Talk with Jesus about Who He is to you and what that means to your life.

# WORSHIP

## Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us



Thursday February 14

John 14:1-27

*14 Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.”*

*<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.”*

*<sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”*

*<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. <sup>11</sup> Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.*

*<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, keep My commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

*<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show Yourself to us and not to the world?”*

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.*

*<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

*<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Jesus shows that He is the Way to life now and forever. Jesus promises to be with believers through the Holy Spirit so that they can always live in God’s presence and experience His love.

## WORSHIP

### Wholeheartedly love the God who loves us



*{Note: In verses 13-14, to pray in Jesus' name does not mean to tack a formula onto a prayer request. Jesus means that prayer is to be in accordance with all that the Name of Jesus stands for. Prayer must be for God's glory; proceed from faith in Christ; and be consistent with His character, His priorities, and His mission}.*

*{Note: In verse 16, the "Counselor" can mean an advocate or one who is called alongside to help in a legal trial. It can mean an intercessor or mediator. It can mean a comforter. The Holy Spirit comforts, teaches, guides, helps, counsels, and encourages us}.*

1. Put Jesus' statement in verses 6-7 in your own words. How is Jesus the Way? How is He the Truth? How is He the Life?
2. According to this passage, how does God show us His love for us?
3. How are we to show our love to Jesus (verses 15, 21, 23, 24)? How does that actually show that we love Christ?
4. Thank God for the ways that He shows you His love.
5. Talk with God about how you will show your love for Him.



# INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God By Obeying God To Grow Like Christ



# INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God By Obeying God To Grow Like Christ

**Saturday February 16      Romans 5: 1-11**

*5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

*<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.*

*<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

In Romans chapter 5, Paul describes the results of being declared righteous by faith alone. Believers have been reconciled to God; we have peace with God. Our suffering is not a sign of God's wrath but our suffering can result in God's glory if we endure it and remain open to what God wants to teach us.

1. Explain in your own words how God helps us experience peace and joy, even in the midst of suffering (verses 1-5)



# INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God By Obeying God To Grow Like Christ



Sunday February 17

Ephesians 4:17-32

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Paul teaches us how to live as God's children. We grow to be like Christ by putting off our old sinful self and putting on Christ's character with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1. What does Paul teach us about the cause of our sinful tendencies (verses 17-19)?
2. What does it mean to put off your old self and to put on the new self (verses 22-24)?
3. Ask God what things in your life that God would like you to put off? How will you work with God to put them off?
4. Talk with the Lord about how will you put on the new self that is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

# INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God By Obeying God To Grow Like Christ



Monday February 18

Ephesians 5:1-21

*<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.*

*<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.*

*<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

We grow as Christ's disciple by letting the Holy Spirit fill us with Christ's life.

1. In verses 8-14, how does Paul call us to live?
2. How does God enable us to live like this? What is our responsibility?
3. From verses 18-21, what qualities should be exhibited in the Spirit-filled life?
4. Pray through this passage of Scripture slowly meditating on each sentence. Ask God to show you how you are doing at living out what God desires for you in that sentence. Thank Him for your progress in Christ-like character that He points out. Sincerely commit to work at anything that needs change.

# INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God By Obeying God To Grow Like Christ



**Tuesday February 19**

**Philippians 3:12 – 4:1**

*<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.*

*<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

*4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!*

Paul encourages us to press on toward the goal of knowing Christ intimately.

(a) What is Paul’s one consuming goal (verse 12)? What is Paul’s motivation to pursue this goal (verse 14)? How does Paul pursue this goal (verse 13, 16)?

(b) How are you doing in the race? Pray to the Lord about your plans to run better at the race.

Aspect of the race	Ways that I’m doing well here. Thank the Lord.	Ways that I need to improve here.	Pray to the Lord about your plans to run better at this aspect of the race.
Pressing on to reach the goal			
Forgetting things from the past			
Living up to what I’ve attained			
Show my citizenship is in heaven			
Eagerly await our Saviour			

**FELLOWSHIP**  
**Love God By Loving God's Family**



**FELLOWSHIP**

**Love God By Loving God's Family**

**Wednesday February 20     Matthew 22:34-46**

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

<sup>41</sup> While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, <sup>42</sup> "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

<sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

<sup>44</sup> "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." "

<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

1. What does it mean in practical terms to love God as Jesus describes in verse 37?

2. What does it mean in practical terms to love people as Jesus describes in verse 39?

3. Ask God to show you someone in your life (family, workmate, school mate, neighbour) towards whom God wants you to grow in love. How will you do that this week? Pray that the Lord will empower you to do this and use you to show that person His love.





# FELLOWSHIP

## Love God By Loving God's Family



Saturday February 23

Colossians 3:1-17

*3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

1. Pray to God about the things in verses 5-9 that you are tempted to do. Ask God to help you put those behaviours off and to put on the new self that is being renewed in the image of God.

2. With what are we to clothe ourselves (verses 12-17)?

- In what way is our human will involved?
- To what extent is a supernatural work of God required? How does God help you?

3. Ask God to help you with the attitude or action that you find hardest to put on.

**EVANGELISM**  
**Love God By Introducing People To Christ**



**EVANGELISM**  
**Love God By Introducing People To Christ**

**Sunday February 24**

**Acts 1:1-26**

*1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

*<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*

*<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

*<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

*<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

*<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

*<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)*

*<sup>16</sup> and said, “Brothers and sisters the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”*

*<sup>18</sup> (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)*

*<sup>20</sup> “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, “‘May another take his place of leadership.’*

*<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”*

*<sup>23</sup> So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” <sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.*



# EVANGELISM

## Love God By Introducing People To Christ



Monday February 25

Acts 2:14-47

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.””

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke

## EVANGELISM

### Love God By Introducing People To Christ



*bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,<sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

In the first part of Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit came with a visible manifestation on Pentecost so that the disciples would know that the Holy Spirit had come as Jesus had promised. A crowd of God-worshippers gathered to hear what this supernatural event was all about.

In Acts 2:14-47, Peter's message leads many people to trust in Christ. The young church lives out God's five purposes to build Christ's kingdom on earth.

1. How does Peter's use of Joel's prophecy (verses 14-21) explain:
  - What was happening and who was behind it?
  - What God wants to do by His Holy Spirit?
  - What people need to do in order to live in God's kingdom?
  
2. What is Peter teaching the people about Jesus in verses 22-28 and verses 32-36?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How do Peter's hearers respond to his words (verses 37-41)? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When and how did you first respond to the urgent message to "let God save you"? Why? Praise God for all the things from which God has saved you.

## EVANGELISM

### Love God By Introducing People To Christ



Tuesday February 26

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

In Acts 8:26-40, the Holy Spirit guides Philip to share the good news of Christ with a non-Jew who is searching for the truth.

*{Note: The first non-Jew to come to faith and baptism in Acts is a black man from Africa. The Ethiopian eunuch was chief finance minister to the queen Candace. It is virtually impossible that he was Jewish or a proselyte to Judaism. He was an outsider to the Jewish system, but there was something about the Jewish God and the Jewish way of life that attracted him}.*

1. How does God guide Philip in the process of sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch (verses 26-31, 35)?



# EVANGELISM

## Love God By Introducing People To Christ



Wednesday February 27

Acts 20:13-38

In Acts chapter 20 verses 13-38, Paul says an emotional farewell to the Ephesian elders after describing how the Lord had used him in serving their Christian growth. Paul inspires them to shepherd God's people.

<sup>13</sup> We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. <sup>14</sup> When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. <sup>16</sup> Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. <sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

<sup>25</sup> "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. <sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing.

<sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

<sup>36</sup> When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. <sup>37</sup> They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

**EVANGELISM**  
**Love God By Introducing People To Christ**



1. What are the ways that Paul has served the people in Ephesus in verses 18-35?
2. How could the ways that Paul served them help to connect them to a relationship with Jesus Christ?
3. How do the Ephesian elders react to Paul's departure (verses 36-38)? Why? What does this communicate about the character of his ministry and the kind of person Paul was? How will this affect your Christian service?
4. Talk with the Lord about how you want to serve people as Paul did.



**SERVICE**  
**Love God By Serving God and People**



**Friday March 1      2 Timothy 1:1-18**

When Paul wrote 2 Timothy, he was facing death. Convicted as a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, Paul lay in a cold Roman prison, knowing that he would soon be executed (4:6). He wrote his final words to his “son” in the faith, Timothy, passing to him the torch of leadership. He challenged Timothy to be faithful to God’s work and to trust in the Lord. This is the most intimate and moving of all Paul’s letters, and his last.

*I Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

*<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. <sup>8</sup> So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. <sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*

*<sup>13</sup> What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*

*<sup>15</sup> You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.*

*<sup>16</sup> May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.*



**SERVICE**  
**Love God By Serving God and People**



**Saturday March 2**

**Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:1-8**

God created us to experience the greatest joy by serving God and other people with the spiritual gifts that He has given us.

Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

<sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Romans 12:1-8

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

# SERVICE

## Love God By Serving God and People



1. You have been given at least one spiritual gift by God to be used in serving people so that they can experience God's love and grow in their relationship with God. Below is a chart that explains the spiritual gifts that we read about today in Ephesians 4:1-16 and Romans 12:1-8.

Look at the spiritual gifts in the left hand column in the chart below and check off the ones that you think that you might have. For the spiritual gifts that you have, answer the following questions:

- In what ways have you used this gift to serve others?
- How did serving people with that gift help the other person? Praise God for that.
- How did serving with that gift benefit you? Praise God for that.

Check off the Spiritual Gifts that you think that you have.	In what ways did you use this gift to serve others?	How did serving people with that gift help the other person? Praise God for that.	How did serving with that gift benefit you? Praise God for that.
Apostleship is starting a new ministry to meet a need.			
Prophecy is speaking out against injustice and to trying to change it.			
Evangelism is sharing the gospel so that people can accept Christ.			
Pastoring is caring for peoples' spiritual, emotional, and relational needs.			
Teaching is communicating God's truth so people can apply it.			
Serving is meeting peoples' needs in practical ways without having to get the credit.			

# SERVICE

## Love God By Serving God and People



Spiritual Gift	In what ways did you use this gift to serve others?	How did serving people with that gift help the other person? Praise God for that.	How did serving with that gift benefit you? Praise God for that.
Encouraging is helping others to trust that the Lord will help them to do His will and to do important work for Him.			
Giving is giving finances generously and sacrificially to serve peoples' needs and to build Christ's church.			
Leadership is seeing God's vision and guiding people to achieve it through motivation and equipping.			
Mercy is being sensitive to peoples' needs by listening, showing compassion, affirming, and helping any way that you can.			

- Which spiritual gifts did you serve with the most? Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to develop those gifts in ministry.

**SERVICE**  
**Love God By Serving God and People**



**Sunday March 3     2 Corinthians 9:1-15**

God blesses both us and the recipients when we give generously in Christ's name for their salvation.

*9 There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people. <sup>2</sup> For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. <sup>3</sup> But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. <sup>4</sup> For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. <sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. <sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

1. Paul tells the Corinthians about the benefits that we receive when we give generously to the Lord's work. What are the benefits in verses 2-14?

