

**MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.**



## **Daily Devotions**

**Monday May 8 to Sunday June 30**

We'll learn how to **Serve God And People**. We will grow in our ability to serve with God's compassion according to our God given S.H.A.P.E. Spend about 20 minutes each day with God in your personal daily devotion.

We thank You Version for allowing us to share their daily devotions with us.

For each day:



**Pray** that God will speak to you.



**Learn** what God is saying to you.



**Apply** in love what God wants you to do.

**MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.**

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Monday May 8      A Mother's Love      Psalm 19

- <sup>1</sup> *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.*  
<sup>2</sup> *Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*  
<sup>3</sup> *They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*  
<sup>4</sup> *Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.*  
<sup>5</sup> *It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*  
<sup>6</sup> *It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.*  
<sup>7</sup> *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*  
<sup>8</sup> *The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*  
<sup>9</sup> *The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.*  
<sup>10</sup> *They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.*  
<sup>11</sup> *By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*  
<sup>12</sup> *But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.*  
<sup>13</sup> *Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.*  
<sup>14</sup> *May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

God wants us to experience His love in a genuine friendship. So often our prayers can be giving God a “To Do” list rather than genuine conversation. Sometimes we rush into God’s presence with our requests. We don’t appreciate it when our children or friends do that. Neither does God. And it keeps us from being blessed by our heavenly Father’s presence.

The wise person comes to God without saying a word and stands in awe of Him. God tells us in Romans 1:20 that when we look at the world around us that God created, we can see God’s “invisible qualities” and “divine nature.”

When we look at God’s creation, we are inspired to worship God. Let’s take time to deepen our relationship with God and enjoy God’s love by taking time to admire God’s creation. Then let’s praise the Lord for creating all this so that we can know God and enjoy His love for us.

1. How long has it been since you have merely meditated on the greatness and majesty of God?
2. Talk with the Lord about what you will do to make this reverence a part of your daily life.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Tuesday May 9      A Mother's Love      Proverbs 21:1-31**

- 1 In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that He channels toward all who please Him.*
- 2 A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.*
- 3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.*
- 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the unplowed field of the wicked—produce sin.*
- 5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.*
- 6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.*
- 7 The violence of the wicked will drag them away, for they refuse to do what is right.*
- 8 The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.*
- 19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.*
- 20 The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down.*
- 21 Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.*
- 23 Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.*
- 24 The proud and arrogant person—"Mocker" is his name—behaves with insolent fury.*
- 25 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.*
- 26 All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.*
- 28 A false witness will perish, but a careful listener will testify successfully.*
- 29 The wicked put up a bold front, but the upright give thought to their ways.*
- 30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.*

It is important to tell our children that the Lord will do what He wants to do. He is almighty. He is sovereign. Proverbs 21:30 tells us that no plan of ours will succeed against God—even if we think we are right and He is wrong.

It's difficult to accept that our plans will not succeed if they go against God's will. This is because we can't understand how bad things can happen with when God is supposed to be good. We ask why. Yet after all of Job's trials, God never told him *why* he was suffering. The Lord doesn't have to answer to us or explain anything.

As we learn to accept that our plans will not succeed if they go against God's will, we need to teach it to our children. We teach our children to accept this truth by accepting it ourselves and modeling complete submission to God.

Sometimes we will need to say, "I can't explain that. But I know from experience that the will of God will always prevail." We can pray to Him for understanding and guidance through all the "what ifs" and "whys" of life.

God is God and I am not! But in the end, His way is not our way. Accepting this truth will be to the benefit of your family.

1. What examples of submission to God do your children see in your life?
2. What plan have you created that you now see was not necessarily God's plan?
3. How can you learn to accept God's plan more readily in the future and to teach your children this skill?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday May 10

A Mother's Love

Proverbs 3:1-35

*1 My son, do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart,  
2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.  
3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.  
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.  
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.  
8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.  
9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;  
11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent His rebuke,  
12 because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son He delights in.  
13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,  
14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.  
16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.  
17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.  
21 My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion;  
22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck..  
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.  
30 Do not accuse anyone for no reason—when they have done you no harm.*

We want our children to develop godly character. We all know how easy it is to point out the flaws in our children in the hope they will stop that behaviour. Focusing on the negative is easier than the positive. However, focusing on the negative behaviour that we want our children to stop can reinforce that behaviour and alienate them from us.

It is much more constructive to focus on the positives in our children. Let's give credit where it's due. Even if our child is disobedient most of the time, we can celebrate and reward those times when they do obey and their attitude is positive.

Our homes need a little bit of celebration. If we often focus on the negative, our children will react accordingly. Taking time to focus on their positive actions will build your relationship with them and inspire more frequent positive behaviour that is motivated from within them.

Maintain a healthy balance between celebrating the positive and needing to point out the negative when it's helpful. The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

1. How do you acknowledge negative behavior without building animosity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you celebrate positive behavior?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How could you do a better job of celebrating accomplishments?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday May 11    A Mother's Love    *Proverbs 12:1-28*

- 2 *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, whoever hates correction is stupid.*  
2 *Good people obtain favor from the Lord, but He condemns those who devise wicked schemes.*  
3 *No one can be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.*  
4 *A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.*  
5 *The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.*  
6 *The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.*  
7 *The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm.*  
8 *A person is praised according to their prudence, and one with a warped mind is despised.*  
13 *Evildoers are trapped by their sinful talk, so the innocent escape trouble.*  
15 *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*  
16 *Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.*  
17 *An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies.*  
18 *The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*  
19 *Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.*  
20 *Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.*  
21 *No harm overtakes the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble.*  
22 *The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.*  
23 *The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves, but a fool's heart blurts out folly.*  
24 *Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.*  
25 *Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.*  
26 *The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*  
28 *In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.*

We want our children to choose friends with good character because we know their friends can have major influence over our children. *The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray (Proverbs 12:26).*

However, think about how you chose friends in high school. Was righteousness high on your checklist? We need to be patient as we see our children choosing their friends. Help them see the pitfalls of having friends who don't make wise choices.

It is important that we do not blame ourselves if they make some poor choices about friends. decisions. It's part of growing up. We need to share with our children our experiences in making friends – both good and bad experience s– and what we learned from God about making friends. Then we need to pray they will own these beliefs as they align their lives with God's Word and God's will.

The key words in that last sentence are "God's will." We can often set our agenda and goals for our children ahead of God's will even in this area of friendship. Be careful not to judge your children's choices based on the choices you made at their age. This is an easy pitfall for parents—so be careful! Choose good friends and your children will benefit from your example. What have you learned about making good choices in friends?

1. What type of choices in friends are your children making?
2. What are some things you can do to continue to guide your children in this area?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Friday May 12      A Mother's Love      Proverbs 18:1-24**

- 1 An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels.*
- 2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.*
- 3 When wickedness comes, so does contempt, and with shame comes reproach.*
- 4 The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream.*
- 5 It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice.*
- 7 The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives.*
- 8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.*
- 9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.*
- 10 The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*
- 11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.*
- 12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.*
- 13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.*
- 14 The human spirit can endure in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?*
- 15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.*
- 16 A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.*
- 17 In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.*
- 18 Casting the lot settles disputes and keeps strong opponents apart.*
- 19 A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city; are like the barred gates of a citadel.*
- 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, those who love it will eat its fruit.*
- 22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.*
- 24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

In verse 19 God reminds us of the importance of teaching our children to love each other and be understanding. We can demand this behavior for the first few years, but in time they will have to make their own decision to be kind and not wrong each other. We cannot expect our children to be completely free from conflict. However, we can expect our children to forgive each other and not allow disagreements to destroy or harm their relationship.

When our children are young, we need to help them resolve their disputes. As they get older then we can equip them with skills to handle conflict on their own. Help them understand each other's personalities and how to treat one another with compassion. Model that. We need to be careful not to label our children with descriptive terms that put them in a box and make reconciliation difficult. If you notice walls being built up against each other, ask if they want your help to remove these barriers.

Siblings will have many opportunities to disagree. Our goal as parents is to teach our children resolution skills. Then as they become adults we need to let them work it out on their own.

1. How capable are you at resolving conflict between siblings?
2. How did you learn the skills you have?
3. Are there differences now that you need to resolve?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Saturday May 13    A Mother's Love    Read Proverbs 27:1-27**

- 27 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.*
- 2 Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.*
- 3 Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.*
- 4 Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*
- 5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.*
- 6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*
- 7 One who is full loathes honey from the comb, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.*
- 9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.*
- 10 Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you-- better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.*
- 11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.*
- 12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.*
- 17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*
- 19 As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.*
- 20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.*
- 23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;*
- 24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.*

Most parents discover that there will be a time when we wonder what's going on with your child. Both the good things they and the bad things can make us wonder this. We might notice them showing another person kindness or sacrifice and we can be amazed as to where that came from. Verse 19 above gives us insight that their loving action came from their heart. When we see our children doing this, we will experience great joy.

There can also be times when we are disappointed with our child's actions. They don't realize what they did wrong or don't seem to care. We can feel like failures as parents. This too is a reflection of their heart. What is inside a person's heart will always come out.

This reminds us of our chief task of helping our children to grow in their friendship with Jesus Christ. Their heart needs to seek first God's kingdom so that their actions will follow God's leading. It is key that we do all we can to help them grow their heart toward God because one day they will be on their own. We can make our child look good, but only God can help them to be good. We want them to fear and revere the Lord more and more in their life. It's important that we model that reverence of God in our lives.

1. What does your own life reflect?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does your child's life reflect as an indication of what is in their heart?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can you pray for their heart?



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Sunday May 14

A Mother's Love

Proverbs 19:1-29

- 1 Better the poor whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse.  
2 Desire without knowledge is not good—how much more will hasty feet miss the way!  
3 A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the Lord.  
5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free.  
6 Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts.  
7 The poor are shunned by all their relatives—how much more do their friends avoid them!  
    *Though the poor pursue them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.*  
8 The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper.  
9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will perish.  
11 A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.  
13 A foolish child is a father's ruin. A quarrelsome wife is like the constant dripping of a leaky roof.  
14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.  
16 Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.  
17 Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.  
18 Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.  
20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.  
21 Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.  
22 What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar.  
23 The fear of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.  
26 Whoever robs their father and drives out their mother is a child who brings shame and disgrace.  
27 Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.  
28 A corrupt witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil.*

It is dangerous to think that the Christian's life will not be touched by trouble. It is important that when we read Proverbs 19:23 that we realize that “untouched by trouble” does not mean that we won't be touched by trouble. The phrase “untouched by trouble” means that we won't don't need to be overwhelmed and defeated by trouble.

When we hear the phrase “fear the Lord” we might think that we need to be careful of everything we do for fear that God will punish any wrong action. This is a serious misunderstanding of what it means to fear the Lord. To fear the Lord is to revere Him as Lord and fear hurting Him by our disobedience. Consider this analogy: If we were told to fear a hot stove burner, then it means we won't put our hand down on that hot burner. We respect it and treat it wisely.

When we model a healthy fear of God to our family, we help them live a life that God blesses. That life might still have hardship but they can realize that God loves them and will help them grow through those difficulties.

1. How have you come through a time of trouble, yet are untouched by trouble in the long-term?
2. Are your children learning to rest content? How?
3. What is one way you can help your children develop a proper fear for the Lord?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Monday May 15**    **Serve With God's Compassion**    *Philippians 1:1-11*

*1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,*

*To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:*

*2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

*9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

Paul writes from prison to Christians in Philippi telling them how they can be joyful even in suffering.

1. Describe Paul's special relationship with the believers at Philippi. How did this relationship develop?
2. What is the "good work" that was begun in these believers (verse 6)?
3. How do love and knowledge work together to produce growth in the life of a believer (verse 9)?
4. Reflect on your growth in faith over the years. Who encouraged you most and brought out the best in you? How did they do this? Thank him or her for that encouragement in a visit, phone call or letter.
5. Identify someone around you who needs encouragement today. Ask God to help you understand his or her circumstances and needs. What can you do to show that you care and want to help that person grow?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Tuesday May 16**    **Serve With God's Compassion**    *Philippians 1:12-30*

<sup>2</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

1. How did Paul's prison chains actually advance the gospel? How could that knowledge help Him in His ministry? Verses 13-20? Verses 27-28?
2. What were Paul's underlying motivations in life? Verses 18 -21? Verses 23-26
3. How do your motivations compare to Paul's motivations in question 2 above? Which of Paul's motivations would the Lord like you to develop? Pray to the Lord about how you will develop these motivations with His help.
4. In order for you to say "For me to live is Christ" what would have to change:
  - In the way you spend your time?
  - In the way you deal with hardships?
  - In your relationships at home?
  - In your relationships at work or school or with neighbours?
  - Pray to the Lord about how you will live for Christ more in one of these areas of your life.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday May 17

Serve With God's Compassion

Philippians 2:1-11

*2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

*<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Paul encourages us to imitate Christ's humility in serving.

1. What are the marks of a healthy church family? Why are they so beneficial to genuine community  
In verses 1- 4?
2. Describe what God has done to motivate and help you to love others (verse 1)? How have you experienced this in your own life? Sincerely thank God for that.
3. What do verses 5-11 tell us about who Christ is and what he did? What did Jesus Christ give up to become a human? What is the significance of Jesus dying a criminal's death on a cross? Thank Jesus in prayer for what His sacrificial service means to you.
4. Pray that the Lord would help you and the people at Cheyne live out the dimensions of love described in verses 1-4?
5. How would God rate your level of sacrificial service? What sacrifice is God asking you to make to serve Him and others? What holds you back? How can you work with Christ to walk closer to Him in a life of sacrificial service?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday May 18    Serve With God's Compassion    *Philippians 2:12-30*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. <sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. <sup>21</sup> For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup> But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, <sup>30</sup> because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

Paul challenges us to shine as stars by following the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus.

1. What does it mean to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (verses 12-13)? What is God's responsibility? What is your responsibility?
2. How well are you doing at working out your own salvation with fear and trembling? Why is that? Where is God leading you to grow at this? Talk with God about how you will grow at this.
3. Write out a character reference for Timothy (verses 19-24). For each of his positive character traits, rank yourself and decide how you will personally improve at this.

verse	Positive character trait	I rank myself	How I will improve at this trait
20		1 2 3 4 5	
21		1 2 3 4 5	
22		1 2 3 4 5	

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday May 19

Serve With God's Compassion

Philippians 3:1-11

**3** Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. **2** Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. **7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

{Note: In verse 2, “dogs” is a derogatory term used by Jews in the first century to describe Gentiles. Here Paul flings this curse back at false Jewish teachers because they pervert God’s truth.}

{Note: In verse 2, Paul uses “mutilators of the flesh” to indicate that the Jewish religious leaders’ emphasis on circumcision of the flesh is of no value and goes against God’s will.}

{Note: In verse 3, Paul uses “circumcision” to indicate that Israel lost sight of the spiritual significance of circumcision of the heart by focusing on physical circumcision. The Christian had become the true circumcision, being circumcised in the heart when he or she was baptized by the Holy Spirit.}

Paul puts his confidence in Christ rather than in his own abilities.

1. What does Paul consider worthless in comparison with knowing Christ (verses 2-7)? Why?
2. What was Paul’s goal in life (verses 7-11)?
3. What does it mean to “put no confidence in human effort” (3:3)? Why is that important?
4. What role does personal effort play in our Christian growth?
5. Drawing from this whole chapter, what does Paul mean by the phrase “know Christ” (verses 8, 10)? What more is involved than simply believing in Jesus as God’s Son? Talk with the Lord Jesus Christ about your desire and plan to know Him.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Saturday May 20    Serve With God’s Compassion    *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.

1. 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)?
2. Contrast the lifestyles that distinguish true Christians from false teachers (verses 17-21).
3. In what ways is a race an appropriate metaphor for illustrating what it means to live for Christ?
4. 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			

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Sunday May 21

Serve With God's Compassion

*Philippians 4:1-9*

*<sup>4</sup> 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!*

*<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

*<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Paul gives us God's prescription for overcoming anxiety.

1. What steps does Paul recommend for dealing with anxiety? How do they help?

Verses 4-5

Verses 6-7

Verses 8-9

2. How does prayer work? What are some common traps we fall into in our prayer life? How can we avoid these pitfalls?

3. How is being full of joy in the Lord different from trying to have a positive outlook on life? What would it take to change you into a joyful Christian? Ask the Lord to help you with this.

4. Consider a problem that you are currently facing. Ask God to help you brainstorm all the possible solutions that you can think of. Ask the Lord to show you which solution He wants you to take as you test each possible solution against the criteria of verses 8-9:

- Is it true?
- Is it noble?
- Is it right?
- Is it pure?
- Is it lovely?
- Is it admirable?
- Is it excellent or praiseworthy?
- Is it something Jesus would do?



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Monday May 22      Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.      Matthew 25:14-30**

<sup>14</sup>. Jesus said, "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup>. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup>. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup>. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' <sup>21</sup>. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' <sup>22</sup>. "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' <sup>23</sup>. "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' <sup>24</sup>. "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' <sup>26</sup>. "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?' <sup>27</sup>. Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. <sup>28</sup>. "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>30</sup>. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

1. How would Jesus describe success in verse 21?
2. What would Jesus say is the way to success?
3. Why do you suppose Jesus describes success this way?
4. God wants us to experience the success of serving according to our God-given S.H.A.P.E.

S	Spiritual Gifts
H	Heart
A	Abilities
P	Personality
E	Experiences

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Tuesday May 23

Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.

*Ephesians 4:11-16*

**S**      **Spiritual Gifts**      God wants us to serve with our spiritual gifts.

*<sup>11</sup> It was Christ who gifted people . <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's 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>15</sup> Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into 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*

## **1. What does God want us to do?**

God wants us to use our gifts to build up the Body of Christ so that all Christians live out God's 5 purposes.

## **2. Unpacking your gifts**

For the following list of spiritual gifts, check the ones that you seem to do frequently; you do well; you enjoy; you see results from; and others appreciate. Prayerfully consider the following spiritual gifts and check the ones that you believe that the Lord has given you based upon your personal experience. Ask close friend what spiritual gifts they have seen in you.

### **Gifts That Communicate God's Word**

#### ☐ **Prophecy**

(1 Corinthians 14:3)

The ability to publicly or personally communicate God's word regarding a specific situation with challenge, comfort, and conviction so as to point people toward Jesus Christ and His will.

#### ☐ **Evangelism**

(Acts 8:26-40)

The ability to communicate the good news about Jesus Christ easily and naturally to unbelievers so that they respond with faith.

#### ☐ **Missions**

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 13:2-3)

The ability and flexibility to bring Jesus to a culture or people other than your own.

#### ☐ **Apostle**

(Romans 15:20)

The ability to start new churches and ministries and oversee their development.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday May 24

Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.

**S Spiritual Gifts** God Wants Us To Serve with our spiritual gifts.

Prayerfully consider the following spiritual gifts and check the ones that you believe that the Lord has given you based upon your personal experience. Ask close friend what spiritual gifts they have seen in you.

## **Gifts That Educate God's People**

- ☐ **Teaching** (Ephesians 4:12-13)  
The ability to teach the Bible or train others in a way that causes them to learn and implement life-change.
- ☐ **Encouragement** (Acts 14:22)  
The ability to care for others in a way that builds their courage and motivates them to follow Jesus. The ability to bring out the best in others.
- ☐ **Wisdom** (1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16)  
The ability to understand God's perspective and apply it in life situations and share these insights in a simple, understandable way.
- ☐ **Discernment** (1 Corinthians 2:14)  
The ability to know whether one is following the Spirit of God or the spirit of error in a given situation.

## **Gifts That Demonstrate God's Love**

- ☐ **Service** (Acts 6:1-7)  
The ability to give practical assistance in a way that makes people feel cared for and loved. The ability to see opportunities to serve without being asked.
- ☐ **Mercy** (Romans 12:8)  
The ability to show practical compassion toward suffering persons; the ability to sense people's thoughts and emotions in order to care for them.
- ☐ **Hospitality** (1 Peter 4:9-10)  
The ability to make strangers feel welcomed and comfortable.
- ☐ **Shepherding (Pastoring)** (1 Peter 5:2-4)  
The ability to walk with others through life in a caring way that helps them grow in faith. The ability to care for people's spiritual needs and equip them for service. This gift can be exercised in small groups.
- ☐ **Giving** (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)  
The ability to give of your resources without feeling put out.
- ☐ **Miracles** (Mark 11:23-24)  
The ability to pray in faith for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray like this.
- ☐ **Craftsmanship** (Exodus 35:31-35)  
The ability to creatively design and/or construct items to be used for ministry.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday May 25    Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.

**S                      Spiritual Gifts                      God Wants Us To Serve with our spiritual gifts.**

Prayerfully consider the following spiritual gifts and check the ones that you believe that the Lord has given you based upon your personal experience. Ask close friend what spiritual gifts they have seen in you.

## **Gifts That Celebrate God's Presence (Worship / Prayer related Gifts)**

- ☐ **Intercession** (Colossians 1:9-12)  
The ability to pray persistently for others.
- ☐ **Healing** (James 5:14-16)  
The ability to bring physical or emotional healing into another's life through prayer.
- ☐ **Tongues or Interpretation** (1 Corinthians 14:13-15)  
The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or an interpreter.
- ☐ **Music and Arts** (Psalm 150)  
The ability to create art that elevates people into God's presence (artwork, singing, playing an instrument, drama, writing)

## **Gifts That Support All Four Purposes**

- ☐ **Leadership**  
The ability to bring out the best in others in their service to God; the ability to set vision, motivate, equip, train, or set an example of service in order to draw a group to reach a goal.
- ☐ **Administration (Organization)** (1 Corinthians 14:40)  
The ability to manage people well and organize programs and ministries effectively.
- ☐ **Faith** (Romans 4:18-21)  
The ability to trust God and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate; the willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday May 26

Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.

Matthew 22:37

## H Heart

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)*

*As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart (Proverbs 27:19)*

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it (Proverbs 4:23)*

*So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul— (Deuteronomy 11:13)*

*Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. (Ephesians 6:6)*

God uses the term “heart” to describe the seat of our desires, passions, interests, dreams, and affections. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations—what you love to do and what you care about most. Even today, we still use the word in this way when we say, “I love you with all my heart.”

The Bible says what is in your heart reveals what you really are: *“As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart”* (Proverbs 27:19 NIV). Your heart is the real you. It determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do.

Physically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. It’s incredible that out of all the billions of people who’ve ever lived, no one has ever had a heartbeat exactly like yours.

In the same way, God has given each of us a unique emotional heartbeat that races when we think about the subjects, activities, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively care about some things and not about others. These are clues to where you should be serving.

Another word for heart is passion. There are certain subjects that you feel deeply passionate about and others that you couldn’t care less about. Some experiences turn you on and capture your attention, while others turn you off or bore you to tears. When you were growing up, you may have discovered that you were intensely interested in some subjects that no one else in your family cared about.

Where did those interests come from? They came from God! He gave them to you for a reason, and He wants you to use them to serve others.

1. What subjects, activities, or causes are you passionate about?
2. How are you making an investment in those things for God’s glory?
3. Consider the things that consume much of your time and energy. How do they align with your emotional heartbeat?
4. Why would God want you to be passionate about the ways you are serving Him?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Saturday May 27     Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.**

**A     Abilities**                      Serve with your God-given abilities.

Check where you've demonstrated some confidence and competence.

## **Professional Services**

- ☐ Social work
- ☐ Nursing
- ☐ Medical / Dental
- ☐ Paramedic
- ☐ Legal
- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Taxes
- ☐ Landscaping
- ☐ Carpet Cleaning
- ☐ Window Washing
- ☐ Career Counseling
- ☐ Counselling
- ☐ Day Care Director
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Television / Radio
- ☐ Computer programmer
- ☐ Website design
- ☐ Journalist / writer

## **Art**

- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Videography
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Multimedia
- ☐ Crafts
- ☐ Artist
- ☐ Decorating

## **Theatrical**

- ☐ Drama director
- ☐ Actor / actress
- ☐ Make up
- ☐ Set design / build
- ☐ Audio / Visual
- ☐ Powerpoint operator

## **Mechanical**

- ☐ Auto Mechanic
  - ☐ Computer repair
- ## **Office Skills**
- ☐ Typing (40 wpm)
  - ☐ Word processing
  - ☐ Powerpoint creation
  - ☐ Receptionist
  - ☐ Filing
  - ☐ Library

## **Construction**

- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Drafting
- ☐ General contractor
- ☐ Carpenter: general
- ☐ Carpenter: finish
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Heating / Air Cond.
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Papering
- ☐ Flooring
- ☐ Roofing
- ☐ Drywall
- ☐ Telephones
- ☐ Concrete
- ☐ Interior design

## **Musical**

- ☐ Choir director
- ☐ Group singer
- ☐ Soloist
- ☐ Instrument
- ☐ Composer

## **Teaching / Assisting**

- ☐ Preschool
- ☐ Elementary
- ☐ Junior High
- ☐ High School
- ☐ Single Adults
- ☐ Couples group
- ☐ Women's group
- ☐ Men's group
- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Learning Disabled
- ☐ Aerobics / Fitness

## **General Help**

- ☐ Child care
- ☐ Cooking
- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Building maintenance
- ☐ Grounds maintenance
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Snow removal

## **Working With**

- ☐ Handicapped
- ☐ Hearing impaired
- ☐ Nursing homes
- ☐ Shut-ins
- ☐ Hospital visitation
- ☐ Meals on wheels
- ☐ Learning disabilities

## **Other**

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

## Use Your Talents To Serve in Ministry Opportunities

Ask the Lord to show you in what ministry that the Lord would like you to serve:

### Worship

- ☐ Choir Director
- ☐ Worship teams
- ☐ Audio / Visual team
- ☐ Powerpoint creation
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Sanctuary decoration
- ☐ Ushers / greeters

### Evangelism

- ☐ ALPHA
- ☐ Parenting Seminar
- ☐ Mom's Connect
- ☐ Ladies Night Out
- ☐ Men's night out
- ☐ Divorce Care
- ☐ Grief Share

### Instruction for Discipleship

#### **Children age 1 to grade 5**

- ☐ Nursery
- ☐ Kidz Worship- Teachers
- ☐ Fusion - Leaders
- ☐ Fusion - Electives
- ☐ Children Ministry Music

### Service

- ☐ Benevolent Ministry

### Board Of Managers

- ☐ Working Retired Cheyne Saints  
(Retirees who maintain facilities)
- ☐ Grounds maintenance

### **Youth**

- ☐ High Voltage Jr High Leaders
- ☐ Edge High School Leaders

### **Office**

- ☐ Receptionist
- ☐ Copying

### **Adult**

- ☐ Young Adults
- ☐ Small Groups Coordinator
- ☐ Small group Leaders
- ☐ Golden Friendship executive
- ☐ Golden Friendship kitchen
- ☐ Membership class
- ☐ Marriage Preparation Class

### Fellowship

- ☐ Lay pastors
- ☐ Coffee Time
- ☐ Welcome Team
- ☐ Nursing Home services
- ☐ Shut-in visitation
- ☐ Funeral receptions
- ☐ Prayer meetings
- ☐ Prayer Cheyne

### Missions

- ☐ Pray for missionaries
- ☐ Letters to missionaries

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Sunday May 28      Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.      *1 Corinthians 12:6*

## **P      Personality**

*There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.  
(1 Corinthians 12:6)*

God uses a variety of personalities to achieve a variety of ministries. Moses was introverted and task oriented. Barnabas was extroverted and loved to be around people. Paul was a leader. Peter was self-expressive. King David was competitive. Timothy was cooperative.

Circle one or the other “I tend to...”

### **Be Extroverted**

I prefer interacting with many people and gain energy from being part of a variety of activities  
OR

### **Be Introverted**

I prefer interacting with only a few people and gain energy from quiet reflective time. I am a good listener.

### **Be Self-expressive**

I am more open and verbal about my thoughts and opinions. I enjoy sharing these with other people.  
OR

### **Be Self-controlled**

I tend to keep my thoughts and opinions to myself.

### **Prefer Routine**

I am more comfortable being involved in activities where I clearly know what is expected of me. I like closure and completion before starting something new.  
OR

### **Prefer Variety**

I am more fulfilled by tasks that change and maybe even have some surprises. Finishing one task before starting another is not crucial.

### **Be Cooperative**

As I work with others, I easily see their point of view. I like being part of a team effort.  
OR

### **Be Competitive**

I like a sense of challenge. It increases my effort and helps me overcome the obstacles.

Ask God to show you how He wants you to use your God-given personality to serve God and His church.



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Monday May 29      Serve According To Your S.H.A.P.E.      Romans 8:28**

## **E      Experiences**

*“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)*

You have been shaped by your experiences in life, most of which were beyond your control. God allowed them for His purpose of molding you. In determining your shape for serving God, you should examine at least five kinds of experiences from your past.

1. Ministry experiences: How have you served God in the past?
2. Work experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
3. Educational experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
4. Spiritual experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
5. Painful experiences: From what problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned?

It is this last category, painful experiences, that God uses the most to prepare you for ministry. God never wastes a hurt! In fact, your greatest ministry will most likely come out of your greatest hurt. Who could better minister to the parents of a Down syndrome child than another couple who have a child afflicted in the same way? Who could better help an alcoholic recover than someone who fought that demon and found freedom? Who could better comfort a wife whose husband has left her for an affair than a woman who went through that agony herself? God can use people who have gone through painful experiences to equip them for ministry to others.

The Bible says, “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us” (2 Corinthians 1:4). If you really desire to be used by God, you must understand a powerful truth: The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life—the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget—are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They are your ministry!

Consider the five experience areas of your life listed above.

Ask God to show you how He might be using those five experience areas of your life to prepare you for ministry.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Tuesday May 30

Generosity

Matthew 6:19--33

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.

<sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Our love for God is shown by our use of money.

1. How are you tempted to store up treasures on earth (verses 19-21)? Why are you tempted? What needs are you trying to meet?
2. What reasons does Christ give you for not storing treasures on earth (verses 19-24)? Which ones motivate you the most? Why?
3. Ask God what your use of money says about your love and devotion to God (verses 21, 24). Who or what would the Lord say is your God? Why? Talk with the Lord about how you will respond to what He is saying here about your relationship with Him and with money.
4. Ask the Lord to show you what goal He has for your financial health over the next month.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday May 31

Generosity *Matthew 25:14-30*

<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> “‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

<sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

God eternally rewards us for the faithful stewardship of His money.

1. How did the first two servants feel about working for the master (verses 16-17, 20-22)? How did the master respond to the first two servants (verses 21, 23)? How does that affect how you want to manage God’s money? Why?
2. How did the third servant feel about working for the master (verses 18, 24-25)? How did the Master respond to the third servant (verses 24-30)? Why? How does that affect how you want to manage God’s money?
3. If the Master (God) returned today, what would He say about how you’ve used what He gave you? Talk with God about how this parable affects the way that you will manage God’s money for God’s purposes. What will you specifically do? Thank God that He wants to say to you what He said in verses 21 and 23.
4. Pray to the Lord about your financial health goal. Thank Him for the progress that you are making. Ask Him what He wants you to work on today. Tell Him how you will work on that with His help.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday June 1

Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

<sup>1</sup> 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!

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

1. How does giving money generously actually benefit us (verses 6-14)? Which of those benefits means the most to you? Thank God for promising to bless your generosity like this.
2. How can your giving impact other people (verses 2, 12-14)? How does that affect you?
3. What is God saying to you in this passage about your cheerful giving; your compassion for needy people; and your faith in God's provision? What is God urging you to do? Talk with God about how you will work on this.
4. Talk to the Lord about your financial health goal. Thank Him for the progress that you are making. Ask Him what He wants you to work on today. Tell Him how you will work on that with His help

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday June 2

Generosity 1 Timothy 6:1-19

<sup>1</sup> All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. <sup>2</sup> Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves.

These are the things you are to teach and insist on. <sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup> they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions <sup>5</sup> and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in His own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

God calls us to the eternal life of godliness and generosity.

1. How is contentment defined and explained in this passage (verses 6-8)? What is the “great gain” in “godliness with contentment”?
2. What is dangerous about wanting to be rich (verses 9-10)? What do you rely on money to do for you and what do you rely on God for? How do you think that the desire for wealth could cause you to fall into “temptation and a trap”?
3. Two times Paul calls us to “take hold of eternal life” (verses 11-12, 17-19)? What do these verses teach us about how we can take hold of eternal life? What is the connection between taking hold of eternal life and how we use money? Talk with God about what He is saying to you about those two activities in your own life.
4. Talk to the Lord about your financial health goal. Thank Him for the progress that you are making. Ask Him what He wants you to work on today. Tell Him how you will work on that with His help.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Saturday June 3

Generosity *Jeremiah 29:11-13; Romans 12:1-2; Luke 14:28-30*

## Jeremiah 29:11-13

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your heart.

## Romans 12:1-2

<sup>1</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.

## Luke 14:28-30

<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

Seek God’s plan for your life and His finances.

1. What is the Lord promising you in Jeremiah 29:11-13? How can you receive those promises?
2. What do we learn from Romans 12:1-2 about how to find God’s will?
3. Take time to prayerfully seek God’s plan for your life regarding your career, your family life, your ministry, and your standard of living.
4. What is the Lord saying to you in Luke 14:28-30 about the financial implications of achieving God’s plan for your life? How could a spending plan help you to achieve the Lord’s purposes for your life in the different areas that you listed in question # 3 above?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Sunday June 4

Generosity

*Proverbs 6:6-11 and Genesis 41:33-40*

## Proverbs 6:6-11

<sup>6</sup> Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! <sup>7</sup> It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, <sup>8</sup> yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. <sup>9</sup> How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

## Genesis 41:33-40

<sup>33</sup> Joseph said, “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. <sup>35</sup> They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. <sup>36</sup> This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”

<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup> You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

Spend money wisely and save.

1. What can we learn from an ant (Proverbs 6:6-11)?
2. What can we learn from Joseph in Genesis 41:33-40? Why is this important?
3. Talk with God about which of the following things that He would like you to save for and how much He would like you to save. Ask for His guidance in developing a spending plan to achieve this.
  - Emergencies
  - Downpayment for a home
  - Downpayment for a replacement vehicle
  - Children’s education
  - Retirement
  - Other important goals.
4. Talk to the Lord about your financial health goal. Thank Him for the progress that you are making. Ask Him what He wants you to work on today. Tell Him how you will work on that with His help.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Monday June 5

Generosity

Luke 12:13-21

<sup>13</sup> *Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”*

<sup>14</sup> *Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”* <sup>15</sup> *Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”*

<sup>16</sup> *And He told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’*

<sup>18</sup> *“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’*

<sup>20</sup> *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’*

<sup>21</sup> *“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

Save regularly for emergencies and important goals but don’t hoard.

1. What warning does God give us regarding saving for the future? What does hoarding say about our relationship with God? Why is this warning so important?
2. What does it mean to be rich towards God (verse 21)? Ask God to help you see how rich towards God that you are.
3. Ask God to help you determine the healthy balance between saving and hoarding in your life.
4. How have you made progress in living out your financial health goal this week? What has God been teaching you? Thank Him for both the progress and the lessons learned. Pray about the areas in which you need to continue to improve.



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Tuesday June 6

Generosity

Proverbs 22:1-16

<sup>1</sup> A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup> Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

<sup>3</sup> The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

<sup>4</sup> Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.

<sup>5</sup> In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them.

<sup>6</sup> Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

<sup>7</sup> The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. <sup>9</sup> The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. <sup>10</sup> Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended. <sup>11</sup> One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend. <sup>12</sup> The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but He frustrates the words of the unfaithful. <sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, “There’s a lion outside! I’ll be killed in the public square!” <sup>14</sup> The mouth of an adulterous woman is a deep pit; a man who is under the LORD’s wrath falls into it. <sup>15</sup> Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away. <sup>16</sup> One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.

Avoid debt and repay debt quickly.

1. What is God saying about money and our relationship to it in verses 1-2? How can a good name be more valuable than riches? How can our use of money affect our reputation?
2. What is God saying about debt in verse 7? What are some negative consequences of debt emotionally and relationally? How have you experienced these consequences personally?
3. What financial debt (including credit card) do you have? How are you personally affected by it? How does it impact your ability to generously give to people in need and to God’s work?
4. Ask God to show you what steps He wants you to take to reduce debt. Tell Him how you will act on this. Some possible ideas could be:
  - Develop a budget and track your expenses.
  - Don’t take on any new debt.
  - Cut back on expenses wherever possible.
  - Look for cheaper options for items such as insurance, telephones, internet, cable, clothing, etc.
  - Reduce non-essentials such as eating out and entertainment.
  - Take on extra part time work for a season until debt is reduced to a more manageable level.
  - Seek out coupons to save on food costs.
  - Other?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday June 7 Generosity

Malachi 3:6-18.

<sup>6</sup>“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup> Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from My decrees and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

<sup>8</sup> “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob Me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing You?’

“In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing Me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test Me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>13</sup> “You have spoken arrogantly against Me,” says the LORD. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against You?’

<sup>14</sup> “You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out His requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? <sup>15</sup> But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it.’”

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored His name.

<sup>17</sup> “On the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty, “they will be My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup> And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Cheerfully give ten per cent of your income to God’s work

1. What stewardship does God desire (verses 8-12)? What consequences result from their current stewardship? What does God promise will result if they manage His finances His way?
2. What was at the heart of their poor financial stewardship (verses 13-15)?
3. Ask God to show you ways that you could be robbing God and how your life is affected because of that.
4. If you are currently not giving God 10 percent of the money that He gives you, talk with Him about how you plan to move towards that over the next five years. If you are already tithing, talk with God about how you would like to move beyond tithing to cheerful and generous offerings as He leads you.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday June 8

Generosity Acts 20:35 and Acts 2:42-47

## Acts 20:35

<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.'* ”

## Acts 2: 42-47

<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 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.*

Cheerfully give beyond the tithe as God leads you to build his kingdom.

1. In what ways have you experienced Acts 20:35 in your life? Thank the Lord for that.
2. Reflect upon Acts 2:42-47. What qualities mark the believers here? Why do you think that these Christians developed these qualities? How do you suppose they were able to develop these qualities?  
Pray for God's help at growing in generosity like the believers in this passage.
3. Who do you know who is in need? What will you do to show Christian generosity to that person this week?  
Write down your plan here.
4. Ask God to help you see how you have been doing at living out your financial health goal this week. What is God teaching you? Pray that the Lord will help you live out your financial health goal today.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday June 9

Generosity *Luke 16:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus told His disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

<sup>3</sup> “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— <sup>4</sup> I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

<sup>5</sup> “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

<sup>6</sup> “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

<sup>7</sup> “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

<sup>8</sup> “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup> Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

<sup>13</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

God rewards trustworthy service in this life with important responsibility in the next life.

1. Why does the master commend the dishonest manager of his possessions (verses 1-12)? What does our Master, Jesus Christ, want you to learn about managing His possessions today so that He will trust you with true riches in heaven (verse 10)?
2. How can you use worldly wealth to gain friends so that you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings (verse 9)? For example, how can you use money to be a friend who serves people in need so that they can find Christ and go to heaven’s eternal dwellings?
3. Read verse 13. To which of these ways that money can be a person’s god are you susceptible:
  - I think and worry about money frequently.
  - I give up time with family and friends to make more money.
  - I spend a lot of time caring for my possessions.
  - It’s hard to give money away.
  - I buy things that I don’t really need.

Ask God to help you to live as a servant of God and not a servant of Money so that you can enjoy peace of mind and security, now and forever.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Saturday June 10

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

Galatians 2:11-21

<sup>11</sup> When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup> For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup> The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. <sup>14</sup> When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?” <sup>15</sup> “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles <sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. <sup>17</sup> “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! <sup>18</sup> If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker. <sup>19</sup> “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Christ-centred disciples let Christ live through them.

1. Why did Paul have to oppose Peter publicly (verses 11-16)? How do you feel that Paul handled this situation? How would you have advised him to handle it?
2. Think about a situation that you look at differently than another person. How do you think that the Lord wants you to address that person and situation? Pray about it and seek to follow God’s guidance in it.
3. What does the concept of justification mean (verses 15-21)? How is a person justified in Christ?
4. What is the role of God’s law in a Christian’s life (verses 15-21)? How has God’s law been helpful in your growth in righteousness? Ask God to show you what role He wants His law to play in your life. How will you act on that?
5. What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ” (verse 20)? What does it mean to have “died to the law” (verse 19)? How will Paul’s example in verse 20 affect how you live?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Sunday June 11      Moving Towards Christ      Galatians 5:1-15

*5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. <sup>2</sup> Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup> Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

*<sup>7</sup> You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. <sup>9</sup> “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” <sup>10</sup> I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. <sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. <sup>12</sup> As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!*

*<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

True freedom comes from serving Christ and people.

1. What does it mean to be “free” in Christ (verse 1)?
2. Since our own efforts and achievements aren’t the way to God, what is the way to God (verses 5-6)? Why? How does this work in practical terms?
3. Although we have been liberated from spiritual slavery, how does God call us to live out our freedom (verses 13-15)? Talk with God about how you will live out your freedom this week.
4. How have you seen Christian freedom abused? How do verses 6 and 13-15 help us to avoid that abuse?
5. When have you gotten off the track in the good race of the Christ-centred life (verse 7)? Who or what sidetracked you? Talk with the Lord about how you will deal with that when it happens again.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Monday June 12     Moving Towards Christ     Galatians 5:16-26**

*<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

The Christ-centred disciple grows in Christlike character by letting the Holy Spirit produce his fruit in their life.

1. Explain in your own words what Paul means by "living by the Spirit" (verse 16) and "keeping in step with the Spirit" (verse 25). Since we are made alive by the Spirit, why do we still struggle with sin (verses 16-18)?
2. Think about acts of the sinful nature that you give into (verses 19-21)? Why do you give into them? What is the Lord saying to you personally through His warning? How do you respond to Him?
3. How does the Holy Spirit produce spiritual fruit in a believer's life (verses 22-25)? What is the Holy Spirit's role? What is our role? In practical terms what does it mean to "crucify the sinful nature" (verse 24).
4. Which fruit of the Spirit are blossoming for you? Thank God for how He is helping you to grow in these areas of your character.
5. Which fruit of the Spirit need some work in your life? Why? What will you do with the Spirit's help to see more of these Christlike characteristics in your life?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Tuesday June 13     A Father's Love     Proverbs 25:14-28**

- 14 Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given.*
- 15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.*
- 16 If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit.*
- 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house—too much of you, and they will hate you.*
- 18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.*
- 19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.*
- 20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.*
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*
- 22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.*
- 23 Like a north wind that brings unexpected rain is a sly tongue—which provokes a horrified look.*
- 24 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*
- 25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.*
- 26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked.*
- 27 It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep.*
- 28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.*

At first glance, Proverbs 25:27 seems to say that shallow thinking is wise. But a closer look reveals a much more significant thought. The matters referred to are those things that, when sought out and uncovered, accomplish nothing.

The best way to illustrate this is to think about those times when you disagree on an issue with either your children or your spouse. Nobody is necessarily wrong but everybody is frustrated. When you spend all your time trying to get the other person to think your way, you are wasting everyone's time and causing division in the home.

Often one person will just want to be understood, which is beneficial. However, forcing another person to think like them is detrimental to the relationship. In that situation, they are delving too deep and it's not productive for anyone. Regarding these issues, it's more gracious to search deep enough to understand each other's point of view and then let it go! That is a depth everyone can share and doesn't dig at the matters that should be left alone. Dig deep enough to hit water but don't keep digging and ruin the well.

1. What do you want to discuss too often and too deep? How could you back off a bit in a particular situation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How can you help your family see and appreciate each other and your differences?



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Wednesday June 14 A Father's Love      Read Proverbs 20:1-30**

- 3 It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.  
4 Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing.  
5 The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.  
6 Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?  
7 The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.  
9 Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?  
10 Differing weights and differing measures—the Lord detests them both.  
11 Even small children are known by their actions, so is their conduct really pure and upright?  
12 Ears that hear and eyes that see—the Lord has made them both.  
13 Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.  
14 "It's no good, it's no good!" says the buyer—then goes off and boasts about the purchase.  
15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.  
16 Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if it is done for an outsider.  
18 Plans are established by seeking advice; so if you wage war, obtain guidance.  
19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.  
20 If someone curses their father or mother, their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.  
21 An inheritance claimed too soon will not be blessed at the end.  
22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord, and He will avenge you.  
23 The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.  
24 A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?  
27 The human spirit is a lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being.  
28 Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.*

We can't build a strong family by acting on our own! Looking to God for advice and then encouraging family members to follow that advice with us can foster a healthy family.

Set some guidelines that everyone in the family can follow. Communicate these early on in your children's lives so they have a clear understanding of your expectations. This should help eliminate surprises or claims by your children that you are inconsistent or that rules are constantly changing. By setting these unswerving, basic rules from the very beginning, you have laid a foundation that can be built upon. Remind your children of this when they try to dodge compliance by asserting unfairness. That won't happen if you are reliable in your application.

The advice you seek for creating these guidelines is crucial. Seek wise people and wise principles that are supported by the Bible, not opinions. It's not necessary to reinvent the wheel when solid instruction is already available. The most respected parents are the ones who stick to their standards when the going gets tough. Plan today to prevent issues tomorrow! Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

1. How do you go about seeking advice?
2. Who can help you establish a good family plan?
3. How and when will you communicate this plan to your children?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday June 15

A Father's Love

Hebrews 3:1-19

*3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our Apostle and High Priest. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. 7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear His voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested and tried Me, though for forty years they saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known My ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' " 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts you did in the rebellion." 16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.*

A parent's dream is that their children have soft hearts. When our children show a teachable spirit, we can celebrate as parents. If their heart begins to harden, our home can become very stressful.

When your child develops a hard heart, first try to find out the reason. Often, you'll discover that it's some negative behaviour that they are hiding that's causing this shut down. If they won't talk to you, then seek the advice of a pastor or professional counselor.

Dealing with hard hearts is to be expected. It's part of family life. You simply don't want to see it grow into a deeper issue and then cause more problems in the house.

One of the keys to getting our children to soften their hearts is by displaying a soft heart ourselves. Even if at some point if they do develop a little hardness in their heart, it will hopefully soften again if they see that in you.

Notice Hebrews 3:7–8 says "If you hear His voice." This means we must be listening to Christ for direction in our lives. Teach your children to seek Christ as they face issues, and He will keep them soft and teachable. When God speaks, listening is learning.

1. How have you made your heart soft and teachable?
2. What causes your heart to harden?
3. How are you helping your children develop soft hearts? Pray that the Lord will help you with this.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday June 16

A Father's Love

James 1:1-18

*1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. 9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. 12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.*

It is very encouraging to know that God does not base His giving of wisdom on our perfection. He assures us that if we need wisdom, He will be faithful to give it to us. In fact, He emphasizes it will be provided with great generosity.

This helps us make a shift from not knowing what to do with an issue our child is experiencing to knowing that God wants us to bring Him our issues. He created us so He knows exactly the counsel we need. As we seek Him in prayer, we will find peace and a sense of direction. There may be times when you seek God and don't feel anything, but don't give up. God will be faithful.

Just as we want to meet the needs of our children, God wants to meet our needs and exceed our expectations! We need to focus on an area where we need wisdom and pursue it like we would air if we were drowning. Our relentless seeking and asking will result in His relentless guidance and direction. Where there is a will there is a way.

1. What is an area you lack wisdom because you have failed to ask God?
2. Are you quick to want an answer or quick to give up asking? Why?
3. Ask the Lord how He wants you to address this with His help.
4. How have you taught your children to seek God for wisdom

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Saturday June 17    A Father's Love    Titus 3:1-15

*3 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. 9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. 12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. 13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. 15 Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.*

There are usually two types of people in every family. Those who like to hash everything out and those who like to let things pass. Although there are times when discussion and a deeper understanding will be profitable, there will be other times when the “let it go” philosophy will be best.

How often has something trivial in your family grown into something huge? Your children have witnessed this and have learned from that example. Use discernment to determine when an issue is really big enough to take center stage. Otherwise, know when it's profitable to say you're sorry and learn to let it go. If you ask older people what they wish they would have done more of in their life, they will often say “let things go.”

Everyone should learn this early on in their family life because of how it will benefit their home. Teach your children to forgive each other and to not bring those issues back up later after they've been resolved. Be willing to grow if this is your weakness as a parent. You might be frustrating your children to no end with your constant bombardment of an area you always focus on. Know when to let things go.

1. What is the useless area you “beat like a drum”? How can you change this? Ask God to help you with this.

2. How are your children at letting things go?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Sunday June 18      A Father's Love      James 1:19-27**

*19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. 26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

An important key to a good relationship with your child is to be quick to listen. It is so valuable to listen when your child is old enough to talk about their life or issues with which they are struggling. It is essential that we realize that we might need to respond to their issue. We need to avoid our tendency to feel that we need to supply all their answers. It is always helpful to simply listen and learn.

If step two is needed, it is wise to be slow to speak. Measure your response. If it's defensive or attacking, reconsider what you plan to say. When your child listens to you, make it worth their while. If you develop this type of relationship, they will probably pursue you often with issues.

Third, don't allow your conversation to take an angry tone. The moment this happens, you have lost any chance of making a point or making a difference. Sadly it happens too often.

Determine today that you will begin to improve your ability to converse with your child by practicing these three steps—steps that are Biblical and thus have the very foundation of truth. Just be there for your children. Wise parents open their ears more than their mouths.

1. How would you rate yourself as a listener?

2. How can you prevent your conversations from turning angry?

3. How can you improve communication with your children overall? Ask the Lord to assist you with this.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Monday June 19      A Father's Love      1 Peter 2:1-12**

*2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.*

You are Special. With six plus billion people on earth, it’s easy to think we might not be very special as individuals. But because of Christ’s love for us, we are exceptional. He makes us unique and important in light of eternity.

Teaching your children their importance in Christ will have a lasting purpose. When their best skills are all they rely on, it won’t be enough. There will always be someone who can perform better than they can in most areas of life. While it’s important to teach children to strive for their best performance, their reason for significance must rest in Christ alone.

When their human successes fall away, their value will be sure and secure in Christ. Let this principle guide you as you parent. Then after you’ve passed away, your legacy will live on. Remember, God called you out of darkness into a great light. This light will guide your way, guard your heart and keep the dark roads visible. Rely on God for all things including your self-worth. We are special to Christ for no special reason except that He created us.

1. When don’t you feel special to Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do you help your children know they are special to Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How has God’s light kept you on track as a parent?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Tuesday June 20

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

Galatians 6:1-18

*6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load. <sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.*

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

*<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!*

*<sup>12</sup> Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. <sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.*

*<sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.*

*<sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.*

A Christ-centred disciple lives to please Christ all throughout the day.

1. What burdens (verse 2) do your friends or family members carry? Talk with the Lord about how you could help them with their burdens. Pray for them and follow God's leading to help them.
2. What is Paul teaching about the Spirit-filled life in verses 7-10? Where are you sowing to please the sinful nature? How is this affecting you and your relationship with God? Why do you sow to please the sinful nature?
3. Talk with the Lord about how you will work with His Spirit to stop sowing to please your sinful nature in this area of your life but rather sow to please the Spirit.
4. Explain in your own words what Paul means in verse 14. What would it mean to have the cross as your model in everyday life? How would that be a good thing? Talk with God about how you will follow Christ's example and Paul's example regarding this. You can write that prayer down here.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday June 21

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 1:1-14*

*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,*

*To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love 5 He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. 7 In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

*11 In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.*

The Christ-centred disciple regularly thanks God for His many blessings in a relationship with Christ.

1. Explain in your own way the spiritual blessings in this passage and what they mean to you personally.

Verse	Explain in your own way the spiritual blessing	Describe what this spiritual blessing means to you personally.
4		
5-6		
7-8		
13		
14		

2. Take time to sincerely thank God for each of these spiritual blessings and how they have enriched your life.



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday June 22

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

*<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, <sup>19</sup> and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.*

A Christ-centred disciple prays often that other people can know Christ personally and experience His love.

1. Explain the things that Paul is praying for. How do these things benefit the person that is being prayed for?

Verse	Explain what Paul is praying for	How does this request benefit the person that is being prayed for?
15-16		
17		
18		
19-20		
21-23		

2. Take time to slowly and genuinely pray this prayer in verses 15-23 for your family members or friends.

3. Take time to pray this prayer in verses 15-23 for yourself.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday June 23

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

*2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Christ-centred disciples do good works out of gratitude for Christ's salvation.

1. How does Paul describe the human condition before God in verses 1-3? What does it mean to be "dead in sin" (verse 1)? What caused this death? Why are we susceptible? What are the results of being "dead in sin"?
2. What is God willing to do for us in verses 4-9? What does this mean in practical everyday life? How important is it that God do this for you? Why?

Verse	What is God willing to do for us?	What does this mean in practical everyday life	How important is it that God does this for you? Why?
4			
5			
6-7			
8-9			

3. What is the relationship between grace and works (Verses 4-10)? From these verses, how would you explain what "grace" means? What does it cost God to show us this grace?
4. Have you received God's gracious gift of eternal life through faith in Christ?
  - If you haven't yet, then pray to ask Jesus to forgive your sins. Thank Him for dying on the cross to forgive your sins. Invite Him into your life by His Holy Spirit to be your Lord.
  - If you already have, then praise God for finding you and saving you by grace through faith. Tell Him how your life has improved through His salvation.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Saturday June 24    Moving To Be Christ-Centred    Ephesians 3:1-21**

*3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—*

*2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.*

*7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power.*

*8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.*

*14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

*20 Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

A Christ-centred disciple often prays that Christ lives in their heart and in other Christians' hearts by faith.

1. What was Paul's view of the mission that the Lord had given him (verses 7-13)? How committed was he to fulfill that mission? Why do you think that he viewed the mission that way?
2. How would you compare your passion to share the gospel with Paul's passion? Ask the Lord in prayer what He would like you to do about this.
3. Describe in your own words what Paul is asking for from the Lord in verses 14-21?
  - Verses 16-17
  - Verses 17-18
  - Verse 19
4. Slowly and thoughtfully pray this prayer (verses 14-21) for some friends.
5. Pray this prayer (verses 14-21) for yourself. Thank God for His promises in verses 20-21.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

**Sunday June 25      Moving To Be Christ-Centred      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.*

A Christ-centred disciple lives out God’s five W-I-F-E-S purposes.

1. Paul refers to God’s five W-I-F-E-S purposes for Christ’s disciples. What do these verses say about those five W-I-F-E-S purposes:

God’s five W-I-F-E-S Purposes	How it shows love for God	Verses	What does this verse say about this purpose?
W Worship	Wholeheartedly loving the God who loves us	13 a	
I Instruction for discipleship	Loving God by obeying God	13 b	
F Fellowship	Loving God by loving His family	15	
E Evangelism	Loving God by introducing others to Christ	16	
S Service	Loving God by serving God and others	16	

2. For each of the five W-I-F-E-S purposes, how are you living it out? Thank the Lord for helping you grow in those ways of loving God.
3. Ask the Lord to show you one of the five W-I-F-E-S purposes that He wants you to work at with His assistance. How will you work on that this month? You can write your plan here.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Monday June 26

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 4:17-32*

*<sup>7</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 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. What do you learn about anger in verses 26-32?
  - (verses 26-27) When is anger sinful?
  - (verses 27, 30) What are the risks of anger?
  - (verse 31) What are the different types of anger? Which ones are you susceptible to?
4. Consider someone who has treated you unfairly. How can God motivate and help you to let go of anger and to forgive them (verses 29-32)?
5. Ask God what things in your life would He like you to put off. How will you work with God to put them off? How will you put on the new self – created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness?

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Tuesday June 27

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 5:1-21*

*5* <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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

1. In verse 1, how does Paul call us to live and what motivation does he give us to live like that?
2. What do we need to avoid and why (verses 3-7)?
3. In verses 8-14, how does Paul call us to live? How does God enable us to do this? What is our responsibility?
4. From verses 18-21, what qualities should be exhibited in the Spirit-filled life?
5. 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. You might like to record that prayer here.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Wednesday June 28

Moving To Be Christ-Centred

*Ephesians 5:21-33*

<sup>21</sup> *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

A Christ-centred couple serve each other out of reverence to Christ.

1. What other relationship does marriage symbolize (verses 22-25)? What can marriages learn from that other relationship?
2. What does it mean to say that the husband is head of the wife (verses 23, 25-30)?
3. How are wives to submit to their husbands (verses 21, 22, 24, 33)? Why is this important in marriage? What makes this challenging?
4. How are husbands to submit to their wives (verses 21, 25-30)? Why is this important in marriage? What makes this challenging?
5. If you are dating or married, ask the Lord to show you how well you are serving your partner out of reverence to Christ. Ask God to show you ways that you can improve.

# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Thursday June 29

Moving forward With God

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.*

Christ calls us to usher His kingdom into the world by being His witnesses in the power of His Holy Spirit. The key to reaching people for Christ is urgent united prayer.

1. What did Jesus do for His disciples in verses 1-5? Why was this important? Why was it necessary for Jesus to stop giving direct instructions to His disciples and to ascend to be with His Father in heaven?
2. In verses 6-8, explain in your own words what the disciples’ role would be in building God’s kingdom. What encouragement does Jesus give them? Why would this have been encouraging?
3. How does verse 8 apply to you? What are some of the attitudes, priorities, or actions that this verse suggests for your life?
4. The apostles and others in the young church all gave themselves single-heartedly to prayer (verse 14). What do you think drove them to intense prayer at this time? What is the Lord saying to you through this passage about what He wants to do in your prayer life for the salvation of lost family and friends?
5. Considering the mission that Jesus had given His disciples (verses 4-8), what do you think that the first Christians prayed for in the upstairs room (verse 14). Pray your own similar prayer regarding Christ’s mission for you in building His kingdom. You might like to write that prayer here.



# MADE FOR MORE – Share. Serve. Go.

Friday June 30

Moving Forward With God

Acts 20:17-38

<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.

1. What is Paul’s goal in life (verses 19-25)? How committed is he to that goal? Why?
2. What things does Paul do to achieve his goal in life (verses 19-32)? Why are these things important?
3. What does it mean to keep watch over the flock (verses 28-31)?
4. Who makes up the “flock” for whom you are responsible? Talk with the Lord about specific ways that you will shepherd them.
5. Ask the Lord to help you finish this life goal sentence: “The one thing that I must accomplish at any cost is \_\_\_\_\_.”