

C. S. Lewis once wrote, “The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.” He understood that deep within, we all yearn for life but live in a world that seems to extinguish it. And yet, Lewis also understood that if we can get still, there is another perspective on this world; this new perspective offers us hope of salvation.

Christ died for our sins as payment for our wrongdoing. We don’t have to pay for something He already purchased! He rose from the dead as a promise of revival. We don’t have to live in shame. Instead, we can believe in the past work Jesus did, and we can act with hope for the future. The Gospel, the good news that Jesus died for our shortcomings and rose from the dead, is ultimately about hope.

The hope of the resurrection is that Jesus will rule over all things. Jesus’ resurrected body is evidence of His victory over death and sin. What’s more is there is a cloud of witnesses—past, present, and future—who have declared this good news for the world to believe.



John 3:16–17 NLT
For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

At Shoreline City Church, we believe and declare the gospel every chance we get. We preach the gospel in our songs, at our services, with our words and with our lives. We celebrate and share the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in a way people can understand. Most importantly, we understand that Christ’s mission was to save the world, and so that is our mission.

We believe it is an honor and privilege to join with the global church to declare and proclaim Jesus Christ. We see ourselves as one lifeboat among many lifeboats, pulling people out of the water. Ultimately, we want everyone in a lifeboat and if it means we can help someone into another lifeboat, or build more lifeboats, we want to make sure there is room for everyone in the water to get rescued by being in relationship with Jesus.

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As we pray for the global church, let us remember that we are a part of a community of faith, a family of God, a body of Christ, that spans the entire earth and has existed for thousands of years. This body includes every believer who believes and proclaims the same good news that Christ died for our sins and rose from the grave. In Christ, we have new life.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the good news of the resurrection. Help us to stay true to the Gospel. Give our leaders wisdom and inspire our members to rise up to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus wherever they are. Give us strength in our suffering and humility as we work for Your glory. Unify us in purpose and vision.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures :

John 13:35 | Ephesians 4:11–12 | 2 Timothy 4:1–4

1 John 4:11–12 NLT

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

We regularly follow unconscious routines. We don't think about them. They can be quite complex, and they account for about 40% of our actions per day. Everyone has them. They ensure people make good decisions without constantly asking for permission. Habits make it easier to work with others, even if you don't like them.

The brain creates routines (habits) to conserve willpower, which create an autonomous sense of control. It does this because we have a limited supply of willpower, and this is the brain's way of ensuring we have enough for dealing with difficult things. The brain, unfortunately, can't distinguish between good and bad habits.

Toxic patterns emerge when habits aren't planned. Habits can be ignored, changed, or replaced. Changing habits requires renewing the mind through hope for a new routine; love of God, ourselves, and others; and knowledge of next steps. The source of hope, love, and knowledge is God. The means of receiving hope, love, and knowledge is Christian community. To renew your mind, replace your current routine with Christian community.

This is why we love people at Shoreline City Church—all backgrounds, shapes, colors, sizes, education, salaries, single, married, young, old, churched, dechurched, and unchurchd. We understand that experiencing God's love from others and giving God's love to others transforms us and helps us experience freedom. As we pray and fast, we should remember those whose willpower is insufficient to achieve permanent freedom and ask God to give them the love and community they need to break free.

SC: THE POWER OF HABIT 02



Prayer:

Father God, thank You for freedom. You can empathize with our struggles because You sent Jesus who suffered the same temptations. You have offered us grace and mercy to help us in our time of need. Give us the strength through Your Holy Spirit to stand strong and receive community so that we may live lives of self-control and purpose according to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 50:15 | John 3:16–17 | Hebrews 4:15–16

Ephesians 5:29–32 NLT

No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

In *The Meaning of Marriage* by Timothy and Kathy Keller, the authors point out that in every culture in the world, in all recorded history, marriage has existed. For some reason, marriage has remained important to humans all over the globe, across time and space. While some would ask “why,” I suggest that an equally important question is “how?” How is it that despite age, gender differences, societal pressures, marriage is one of the few things that societies have universally stated as valuable? How have we managed to maintain marriages despite the barriers? One thing we know for certain: God created marriage as a picture of the relationship He wants with us. In the letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul reminds us that in the very beginning, God took two things which were separate and bound them together as one, calling them to work in unity and togetherness. The secret behind marriage, according to Paul, is that every marriage is supposed to show us how Jesus interacts with us. In doing so, we demonstrate how we should relate to one another—with humility, gentleness, patience, unity, and peace (Ephesians 4:1–3).

To be fair, we have sometimes painted this picture poorly. Therefore, we fight so hard to maintain unity at Shoreline City Church. The poisons of gossip, complaining, backbiting, discord, and division are not welcome here. Nor will they be tolerated. We understand that our relationships speak loudly about who Jesus is and who we are.



We want to live in a world that looks and feels like heaven, as much as we are able to make it so. As you pray, consider how to make your relationships feel as if they are a portrait and example of what heaven will be.

Prayer:

Father God, You have created marriage and relationships to help us tell your story. We pray that you would help us to remove the poisons of gossip, complaining, backbiting, discord, and division from our midst. Empower us by Your Holy Spirit to reflect Jesus' love and tell Your story.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures: Genesis 2:21–24 |
John 13:34–35 | Ephesians 4:1–3

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

We are not meant to do life alone. We were never designed that way. We were created to be in community. It's in community our flaws are on display and refined. When we surround ourselves with people walking with the Lord and have godly character, our sharp edges are smoothed and we are challenged to become the man or woman God has created us to be. We all stumble; it's a part of our humanity. But in community, we are picked back up, not left on our own to struggle and figure it out.

What can be tricky is people are people and we can miss the mark and hurt someone (either intentionally or unintentionally). No one likes getting hurt, and our default can be to isolate ourselves when we are. Many have been hurt by people in the church and because of it, have a hard time trusting people in church and either leave or refuse to get planted. It's easier to stay on the fringes because at any sign of disagreement or potential hurt, we can remove ourselves from the equation. It's easier that way.

But what if it's not God's design? What if His design is for us to work through our disagreements, hurt, and pain together? Having the hard conversations, wrestling with the pain, and choosing forgiveness refines us and makes us more like Christ and less like the world. When this is the path we choose, it shows those around us it is possible to disagree and still love one another.

The enemy would love nothing more than for us to live and do life alone. Doing so is a very dangerous place to be. When predatory animals hunt, they will isolate their prey because when in packs they are less likely to get caught. We find protection and strength in numbers, and that is found in community. If you have been hurt, we challenge you to try community one more time. Get plugged into a Connect Group. Join a serve team. After one year you won't even recognize yourself because of how God will shape and mold you due to the community you are planted in.

Prayer

Father God, thank You that You did not create us to do life alone. Give us the grace to work through the hard conversations and any hurt we may feel. Grace us with the ability to have thick skin and a soft heart. Help us to be quick to forgive and move forward. We rebuke the spirit of offense, as it has no hold over our heart or life. Surround us with godly men and women who challenge us to become everything You have created us to be.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 | 1 Corinthians 1:10 | Colossians 3:13

In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus shares a story of a son who decided he no longer wanted to live under his father's roof. The son asked for his inheritance then left. The son wasted his inheritance on scandalous things until nothing remained. He got a job feeding pigs and ate what the pigs ate. Soon, the son began to curate an apology and terms that he would suggest to his father if he would take him back. The son was willing to become a servant. He just wanted to go home. As he made his way home, he may have felt ashamed and afraid of how he would be received. As he was "a long way off," his father saw him coming and was moved with compassion. His father ran to meet his son. Upon being reunited, the son began his speech, but the father had predetermined how he would respond in this moment. His response would be full of grace and joy because his son who was once lost was now home. We have all been the son in this story in some capacity. Maybe we didn't squander our inheritance, but perhaps our hearts drifted from God's path and were enticed by what we thought the world had to offer us. It breaks God's heart when we choose to walk away from Him or when any of His kids are lost. But what is so beautiful is God is ALWAYS waiting for us to come home!

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We don't have to approach Him with a posture of fear and shame because He has already predetermined how He would respond and that is with grace and mercy. He shows us this by what He was willing to pay to get us back, and that was His very own Son. We are worth Jesus to the Father. We shouldn't be surprised when people in the world act like the world. Rather, we should look at them with mercy and grace because that is how God sees them. Instead of criticizing them and mocking them for their choices, our response should be prayer and compassion. May we

never become so saved that we forget that at one point we were all lost and God found us and brought us back home. There is a world in need of hope and that hope is only found in Jesus because He is the only way to the Father.

Maybe you are wrestling with shame and feel like decisions you have made are too bad for God to accept you. Maybe you don't feel like there is a place at His table for you anymore. Psalm 139 lets us know wherever we find ourselves, God is there. We can't work our way back into God's good graces because it's by His grace we are saved through faith. There is nothing else in all creation that will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. He has removed our sin from us as far as the east is from the west. You don't have to wait, and you don't have to have it figured out. Today can be your day to come back home. God is waiting for you with open arms. He loves you. He is for you. He forgives you. While we are here on earth, may our goal be to populate heaven.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Your unending grace and mercy. That while we were still sinners, You gave Your son for us so we could be saved. We ask for salvations to break out across the globe. May Your message spread to the darkest places where Your name has never been heard. We ask that this is the season Your lost sons and daughters would come home. May we be faithful stewards with every “one” you place in our care. Continue to draw hearts to Yours. We thank You in advance for the names that will be added to the books of heaven.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 139:1-18 | Ephesians 2:8 | Romans 8:39 | Psalm
103:12

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Luke 15:22-24 NIV

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

MARK 15:42–45 NLT

AS EVENING APPROACHED, JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA TOOK A RISK AND WENT TO PILATE AND ASKED FOR JESUS' BODY. (JOSEPH WAS AN HONORED MEMBER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL, AND HE WAS WAITING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO COME.) PILATE COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS ALREADY DEAD, SO HE CALLED FOR THE ROMAN OFFICER AND ASKED IF HE HAD DIED YET. THE OFFICER CONFIRMED THAT JESUS WAS DEAD, SO PILATE TOLD JOSEPH HE COULD HAVE THE BODY.

According to the gospel narrative, Jesus spends about three days in the tomb before His resurrection. It's not three whole 24-hour days, but rather Jesus spent the latter part of Friday (which ends at sunset), all day Saturday (which ends at sunset), and most of Sunday in the tomb before rising from the dead. Most of the action in the story takes place on Friday and Sunday. On Friday, Jesus is on the cross and He dies. And on Sunday, His disciples, the women first and then the men, discover that Jesus has risen from the dead. The longest day is Saturday and that's the day we know the least about what happened.

Most of us live in Saturday. Friday is the day we get the news: the cancer diagnosis; the phone call letting us know about the accident; the day they walked out the door; the time we found out we didn't get the job. Most of us remember Sunday: the day we found out we're in remission; we got to the hospital and discovered that they just have bruises; the moment when they moved back in; the first paycheck from our new job. What about the in-between time? What happens between the incident and the relief?

The answer is hope. God's final word is always good. If it's not good, then it's not final. That's why we see with eyes of hope at Shoreline City Church. We know that God works things out in the end, but we know that the longest day is the space between what is and what will be.

SC: THE LONGEST DAY 05



As we await physical healing, remember that Jesus, the disciples, His family, His followers—all of them!—lived through Saturday. Eventually, they all experienced Resurrection Sunday.

Prayer:

Father God, we pray and praise You for healing. As we await restoration and wholeness, we pray for Your sufficient strength and Your sustaining power. Let us reflect Your glory and beauty at all times.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Jeremiah 17:14 | Proverbs 17:22 | James 5:14–15

Purpose (noun) - the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.

So many of us at one point or another struggle with the question, “what is my purpose?” or, “Why am I here?” At our core we desire the peace that comes with clarity on why we are here on earth.

We sense we are here for a reason but oftentimes we can't quite grasp why. This may be why there is so much confusion plaguing our world. People are searching for answers but the world is insisting the answers can't be found in the church. So, we medicate ourselves to numb the need for our lives to have purpose and meaning. The answer is much simpler than we believe it should be. We were created to be sons and daughters of God and as such we have been given a mandate by Jesus to make disciples. This is no small purpose. We weren't designed to wander through our lives as orphans because He claims us as His children. He knows us by name and He wrote every day of our existence in His book of life. He knows every hair on our head; we were no accident. Even if our earthly family told you you were, God doesn't make mistakes. From the beginning of time He has been intentional with every breath He has given to every human. The very breath we breathe is there to glorify His name. He has a place at His table for us and He claims us as His own. As His children, we have permission to act on the behalf of our Father.

The verse in Matthew tells us to, “teach them to obey all that I have commanded you.” So, what about the question, “where am I supposed to walk this out?” This could be done in many different occupations throughout your lifetime. This mandate applies when we are around our friends, when we are raising our kids, playing sports, when we are doing the mundane. We teach those in our world by first being obedient. They will do what we do. The way we live our lives, no matter the season we are in, should reflect a life surrendered to God. We should be quick to have a word in season and out of season. We should speak words of life when everyone around us is speaking words of death. We should be the first people to display generosity. We should forgive those who don't deserve forgiveness. We should mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who are rejoicing.

God knows where we are, when it's time to move on He will reposition us. Stay consistent and faithful. We need to walk through life holding things loosely so when our assignment changes, we haven't found our identity in the job we have. Our identity needs to be found in Him and Him alone. We were each created with greatness inside of us, but it is not our job to force change. It's our job to be obedient and God will order our steps.

When we lay our head down at night, we should have peace knowing God holds our world in His hands. He hasn't forgotten about us. He has great things in store for our life.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for calling us Your son or daughter. Give us a revelation about what that means and how to operate in that identity. Remove any thoughts or beliefs that we are an orphan. Thank You that You do not make mistakes. Give us clarity on those in our

sphere of influence You are calling us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to. Give our spirit peace when we feel anxious and contentment with the assignment You currently have us in. May we find purpose and joy even in the mundane because You are tangibly present even in those seasons. Bless our coming and going. Continue to lead us and guide us. May we be quick to say “yes” to everything You call us to do.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Additional Scriptures:

1 Peter 2:9 | Jeremiah 29:11 | Proverbs 19:21

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Shoreline City Church

“PURPOSE”

07



The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

There is a story in Daniel 6 many of us have probably heard. It's the story of Daniel being thrown into the lions' den. He found himself there because he refused to stop worshipping God. A plan was devised by those who hated him that whoever worships any other God than the king, they would be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel refused to obey this new decree and prayed to God three times a day. When he was caught, he was thrown into the den of lions.

Someone who was faithful to worship only God, was punished for it. How many of us have found ourselves in this position? We have done all of the "right" things yet find ourselves in the middle of a trial being unfairly accused, losing relationships we cared for, or being taken advantage of. Perhaps we have an unrealistic expectation of what it means to be a follower of Christ. When we give our lives to the Lord we assume we won't face trials or pain until the day we die. And if we do, it won't last long.

This couldn't be further from the truth.

We can count on facing difficulties throughout our lifetime and sometimes they don't end the way we would like them to. This isn't because we are being punished by God or we didn't pray enough or serve enough. Daniel was faithful and thrown in with lions and he knew death was a very likely outcome, but he refused to dishonor God. He trusted no matter what the outcome would be because he believed that God was in control. We find out a little later in the story that at sunrise the king ran to the den and called out to Daniel, hoping he survived the night. And sure enough, Daniel answered. Daniel trusted in God, even if this was going to be the way he left this earth.

Our lives have to be built on a firm foundation of trust in God. We can't trust what our eyes see or ears hear. We can't trust our emotions because they are fickle. God is worthy of our trust. The Bible is filled with stories of how God proves to His people and even to an unbelieving world, He is who He says He is. He is a God that keeps His word. We can be slow to trust because people's actions don't always line up with what they say. People break our trust so we can be guilty of placing that same filter on God. When we live our lives with being skeptical of God, we will be less likely to pray bold and audacious prayers. We will be timid in our approach to Him. We can approach God with boldness because we trust He loves us and hears us. To take it one step further, even if our prayers aren't answered the way we had hoped, we can still trust that God is on the throne and in control and whatever the outcome, it will bring glory to God.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for being trustworthy. When our eyes don't see the evidence of You working and moving, give our spirit peace because Your word says You are moving on our behalf. Help us to be strong and faithful to serve You no matter what the world has to say. Our life is available for Your glory. Work in and through us in a mighty and powerful way. May our life be remembered like that of Daniel, faithful even if You don't.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

John 16:33 | Hebrews 4:16 | Proverbs 3:5-6

SC: HEAVENLY TREASURES

Matthew 6:19-21 NASB

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Since Shoreline City launched in 2012, there has been an annual Heaven to Earth offering. This is a time set aside for us to give above and beyond our tithes. It is an opportunity for our global



church family to pray and ask God what He wants us to give and trust Him for provision. Like Pastor Earl reminds us, tithing and giving is a trust test.

It's an opportunity for us to make sure our faith and trust remain in God, not in what we were currently experiencing or seeing with our natural eyes.

A treasure is anything that takes priority in our heart. It doesn't always have to mean money, it could be power, status, accolades, or anything that has control over our heart. However, money oftentimes is the treasure we will allow to dictate the condition of our heart. If we are in desperate need of it, we can make our own hustle a god to obtain it.

If we have an excess of it, we can create a comfortable life we don't really "need" God for. It's a tricky balance. I believe this all boils down to our surrender with all areas of our life, finances being one of them. When we live a life of surrender we have unusual faith in the areas we have a need.

Our heart posture should not be to give to get. We should give because everything we have belongs to God anyway! It is our responsibility to be faithful. Oftentimes when we experience difficult circumstances, the first place we tighten our grip is on our

finances. If our spending is out of control, we make a budget and use wisdom on how to use our resources. But when we say our finances are no longer available to God, we remove His ability to work in miraculous ways in that area.

Perhaps finances is an area you have experienced lack. Maybe you have been crying out for a miracle. We encourage you to surrender your finances into God's hands. If you have made your finances a treasure, we ask that you pray and ask God to give you the faith to release it into His hands. We are not saying to be irresponsible but instead obedient. It's about surrender and obedience.

Perhaps you are experiencing great success and are not lacking in your finances. Maybe you have created a life you haven't needed God because your finances have provided for your every need. Know that God has entrusted you with finances to help push His mission and vision to make it on earth as it is in heaven. Pray about the way God wants you to be faithful with what He has blessed you with. We are all called to play our part, what's yours?

Prayer:

Father God, thank You that You own the cattle on a thousand hills and every dollar received is a gift from You. Give us the ability to be a faithful steward of it all. Give us wisdom and self-control to use the money You've blessed us with and not waste it on frivolous things. In the areas we are lacking, would you breathe on it. We ask for favor on our jobs, promotions, increase, and multiplication. Bless the work of our hands. We surrender this area into Your hands. Give us the faith we lack to believe You will do what You said You would do. Give us a heart of generosity and the desire to sow into what You are building here on earth.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 9:7 | Luke 21:3-4 | Luke 6:38

I URGE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE. ASK GOD TO HELP THEM; INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF, AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM. PRAY THIS WAY FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY SO THAT WE CAN LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES MARKED BY GODLINESS AND DIGNITY.

In the HBO Series *Band of Brothers*, the main character, Lieutenant Richard Winters, trains under cruel and hard-hearted Captain Herbert Sobel to lead one of the first Airborne Infantry platoons in the United States Army. Fast-forward many episodes and battles later, Richard Winters is now a Major and superior officer. Captain Sobel is walking by and first tries to ignore Winters, forgoing the salute due as differences in authority. Winters responds saying, “You salute the rank, not the man.”

Honor is easy when we know and like someone. When it’s our spouse, our child, our friend, our colleague, our pastor, or anyone who sees things the way we do, it’s natural to see them as a part of the family and “worth” the honor we give. Admittedly, when we disagree with those same people, it becomes more difficult to give the honor, but we often “justify” honor because we want to maintain the relationship. What do we do when we don’t have relationship with the person, or if we fundamentally disagree with them even though we have to follow them because they hold a position of authority or power?

The biblical writers instruct us to honor all leaders—and really every person—regardless of how we feel. We should show respect to everyone (1 Peter 2:17), and subject to authorities since all authority that exists comes from God (Romans 13:1). Even as a people in exile, we should seek the peace and prosperity of the places we live (Jeremiah 29:7). Why?

SC: SALUTE 10



Practically, so that we can live in peace but ultimately, because they, too, bear God’s image (Genesis 1:26). In the words of one of our 12 Stones, we give honor to those we lead, we work beside, and those we follow. The Cross gives every human being immeasurable worth. And we will treat people with the honor the Cross displays and demands they deserve.

Prayer:

Father God, we know that You channel the hearts of leaders like rivers. Turn our ears to wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding. Keep our leaders upright and blameless so that we would honor and love the way You have called us to do.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Genesis 1:26 | Jeremiah 29:7 | Romans 13:1 | 1 Peter 2:17

Matthew 5:6 NLT

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Loiuse Bevan tells the following fable: An unfortunate man found himself lost in the desert, nearly starving and desperately thirsty for water. Eventually, he came across a small, abandoned tent. There was a water pump in front of the tent, but tragically, no water. Overwhelmed by despair, the lost man couldn't help but notice a kettle beside the water pump. The lid of the kettle was fashioned from a piece of wood and there was a note affixed to its side. It was an instruction.

“First, pour the water from the kettle into the pump—only then can you pump the water out to drink. Take your fill. Be sure to refill the kettle with water before leaving here.” Hesitating briefly, he finally decided to follow the instructions written on the mysterious note. It was not his kettle, or his pump, after all, and the note was explicit. Mercifully, after feeding the water pump, the water flowed freely and he was able to drink the cool liquid to his heart's content, satisfying his desperate thirst.

In the broadest sense, righteousness means “right-ness.” Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness seek the satisfaction of correct thinking, correct action, and correct feeling. They seek contentment in virtue, integrity, and purity of life. More narrowly, God promises satisfaction to seekers because when heaven comes to earth, it will be a place of justice and fulfilled hope. Righteousness requires us to look outside of ourselves and our own needs for answers and to submit to serving others in order to help ourselves.

Seeking right-ness means we understand our true state, which is something short of righteous. But in Christ, we can stand before God without fear. Because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, we seek to agree fully with everything God says about us. False humility and overbearing pride can cripple the Church.

As we pray for hunger and thirst for righteousness, we should consider how

our homes, businesses, and other spaces we frequent would be different if they were characterized by right-ness. What if God made us righteous and gave us the influence to spread His righteousness to other people and places? How would our world be different? And what if we had the humility to seek after God to pursue the right-ness he has called us to?

Prayer:

Father God, help us to focus on what is true, honorable, and worthy of respect. Let us remain righteous people, doing things that are acceptable in

In Jesus' name, Amen

Additional Scriptures

Proverbs 21:3

Micah 6:8

Acts 10:34–35

2 Timothy 2:22



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Shoreline City Church
11 “FEED THE PUMP”

MARK 5:19-20 NIV

Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

An interesting story we read in the Bible is in Mark 5:1-20. This is the story of a man who has been possessed and lived among the tombs. It says night and day he would scream, cut himself and was naked. The people in the area would try and contain him with chains, but he would break free from them. This man was the definition of not only possessed but oppressed. In Mark 4, Jesus and His disciples get into a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee. On the other side, they meet the possessed man. The place they land is a Gentile town. We know this because they herd pigs and in Jewish culture, pigs are unclean. Jesus has a quick interaction with this man and heals him. The people who saw this unfold ran and told the people in the town and when they arrived, the man who they knew as the one who lived among the tombs was sitting dressed and completely free. It says the people were afraid. Because of what Jesus did, those people begged Him to leave the region. The man who had the miraculous encounter with Jesus begged Him to take him with them. Jesus told this man “no” but to go and tell the people in that region what Jesus had done for him. This story ends with, “and all the people were amazed.” This man predates the apostle Paul in sharing the good news with the Gentiles.

We don't have to look very hard to find people who are oppressed. They wander around dead places that do not breed freedom or life. The world will try to contain them with their chains; they cry out day and night for hope and freedom. Their spirits are looking for rest. At some point in our lives, we've all searched for freedom and hope. We may have jumped from one party to the next, one unhealthy relationship to the next, one addiction to the next. We've filled ourselves on things the world has to offer only to leave us more depleted. Then Jesus entered the picture and we found peace, purpose, and freedom. We found the 'thing' our souls were longing for!

Jesus is still the kind of Savior who crosses seas, goes to dark places, walks into areas religion says He shouldn't walk, simply to set the captive free. There is no form of oppression Jesus

can't set us free from. There is nothing too hard for our God. 2 Corinthians 2:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." His Spirit is still moving and active here on earth. He hasn't forgotten about you. He hasn't left you to your fate. If you are feeling oppressed and in need of freedom and peace, Jesus is your answer.

Jesus has knighted His church to serve the hurting. Those who are oppressed will come into contact with us, the church. Will we share with them the freedom we found? Will we tell them how we were once lost and are now found? Will we share with them about a Savior who loves them? Will we tell them about a life-giving church that will love and accept them? May our spirits be sensitive and our eyes be open to those around us. May we walk into each day on mission to set the captive free.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for being close. Thank You for going to the darkest places to find us when we wander away and kindly bringing us back home. We ask that You would come in any area of our lives and break every chain to set us free. May we live a life that tells those we encounter all that You have done and be a walking example of what grace and mercy look like. Use us to share with the world Your love for them. Continue to do great and mighty works here on earth and go to the darkest corners of the world to set the captives free. You are the only one who can. Would you work in and through Your church in this season to bring heaven to earth.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Mark 5:1-20 | Mark 4:35-41 | 2 Corinthians 2:17



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

God is who He says He is. He is our provider. He is kind. He is faithful. He is our shield. He is our peace. He is our source of joy. He can do all things and nothing is impossible for Him. When we choose gratitude even in the midst of uncertainty, it fixes our attention on what we do have and removes it from what we lack. This is not an easy practice to master, but it needs to be a choice we make in all seasons at all times. Life is a rollercoaster and if we allow our emotions to be dictated by our circumstances, we will always feel like we are in a state of chaos instead of remaining steadfast and at peace. We don't downplay the stress that can surround work, whether working in a toxic environment, in need of a job, or lead a business that isn't currently flourishing. When we don't know what to do, when doors aren't opening, when it seems like the well has dried up, the best thing we can do is pray and read scripture over ourselves.

Take some time today to read through the additional scriptures below and allow your heart and mind to find rest and assurance in Jesus and His word.

Prayer:

Father God, thank You for being our provider. Give us a spirit of joy and gratitude regardless of the season we are in. With You, we lack nothing. Would You provide us with a healthy work environment and give us creative ideas and strategies to fix broken things and bring value to our work. We pray for open doors and may Your favor go before us wherever we go. We pray for bonuses and financial prosperity. Give us the grace to see spiritually when our eyes don't see in the natural that You are working behind the scenes on our behalf. Give us a peace that surpasses all understanding and move the mountains that stand in the way.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Colossians 3:18

Luke 12:24

2 Corinthians 9:8

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Matthew 19:13–15 NLT

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

One day, 9-year-old Joshua Lipshaw realized that he had never seen ice cream trucks operating in his hometown. Curious, he first asked his mother and then spent time doing research, discovering a 50-year-old law banning ice cream trucks in his town. Several letters and 165 signatures later, Joshua stood before the town’s board of trustees and watched as they unanimously voted to overturn the ban, bringing ice cream trucks back to the town.

We’re sometimes tempted to see children as obstacles or nuisances that we should set aside so that we can get on with the “real” work. In reality, children are leaders—inexperienced and in need of guidance—with fresh vision, trusting hearts, and nimble minds. That’s why Jesus often refers to His followers as children. We need to carry that same heart and attitude when we approach God.

The gospel writers understood this. Tucked in the middle of Matthew 19 between Jesus’ teachings on divorce and Jesus’ admonishment that people who have everything have the most difficulty entering God’s kingdom, we find the story of little children. Parents commonly brought their children to great teachers for blessings, and yet the disciples wanted to stop them from approaching Jesus. Instead, Jesus rebuked His own disciples and took the opportunity to hold the children up as examples of how we should lead and act in God’s family.

Our confidence and competence is not based on our skill and talent, but on the glorious victory of our Savior Jesus Christ, who through His death, burial and resurrection, defeated darkness and redeemed the world. His victory is now our victory. Since it is Christ’s victory, we can come to Him like children and bring our children to Him. We can lead like champions because we understand, like children, our hope and salvation rests in Jesus.

SC: LOOKING FOR ICE CREAM 14



As we pray for the next generation, we want to remember they are not just our responsibility—they are our reminder and example of how we need to approach God. We are surrendered, hopeful, trusting, and encouraging to one another, knowing that the God of the universe has our best interests in mind.

Prayer:

Father God, we pray that our children would come to faith early and live lives dedicated to You. Let them be healthy and wise, knowing that respecting and following You is the beginning of wisdom. Help us to raise them up in the way they should go so that they would not depart from it when they are older. Give us the insight to prepare them for their future relationships and callings and direct their path so they can walk according to Your plans and purpose.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Additional Scriptures:

Proverbs 9:10 | Proverbs 22:6 | Ephesians 6:4