

 **CHURCH**

I BELIEVE

4 WEEK CLASS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

NL CHURCH

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MY NEXT STEPS

Getting Started: **WORD of G.O.D.**

As you take the first steps in your new life as a Christian, we want to help you develop the habit of spending time with God each day. This little booklet will have five short readings for each week and a guide for discussing what you've read. The intentional rhythm of spending time with God is a key part of the Christian life. You may or may not be familiar with the Bible at this point, but think of it as a conversation with God. There's no time limit. There's no expert knowledge required. This is not "studying." You are simply getting to know Him. You're learning to listen and hear His voice. The Bible is the Word of God, meaning it is one of the main ways He speaks to us. And He wants you to know Him.

A simple way to read the Bible for yourself and to discuss it with others is an acronym: **WORD of G.O.D.** After each day you'll be asked to think about the following four things (and preferably to write down your thoughts):

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of the Scripture?

Keeping the main point in mind helps you better understand the next three questions. So, in your own words, what is the selected reading about?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

The daily reading may explicitly describe the character or actions of God, or it may imply things about Him. Your first goal when reading Scripture is to know God—Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

The daily reading may describe something about human beings in general, or you may feel something very personal and specific. Allow God to speak to you through His Word.

D—What should you **Do** to respond?

Finally, devotional reading is not about studying information—it's about life transformation. Did you read a command, warning, or promise? Was it a story with examples to learn from? Whatever God reveals is worthy of a response. This may simply be expressing awe, gratitude, or even praying for help to even better know Him. Or it may be more tangible actions like asking God or someone else for forgiveness, changing a behavior, or intentional acts of generosity. Whatever it is, be sure to pray about what God would have you do with what He's revealed in your time together through His Word.

Daily Devotion 1: The Love of a Father

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “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. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:11-24

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



No matter what your life has been like, God celebrates you turning back to Him (this is called repentance). Thank God for His love and forgiveness as your perfect Father.

Daily Devotion 2: The Faith of a Woman

24 A large crowd followed and pressed around [Jesus]. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” 31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”
Mark 5:24–34

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Tell God “the whole truth” about ways you are struggling or suffering. Ask for His peace and freedom.

Daily Devotion 3: The Help of Friends

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

Luke 5:17-26

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for the people who helped you meet Jesus. Ask for the courage and creativity to be a friend who helps others meet Jesus too.

Daily Devotion 4: The (Un)Belief of a Disciple

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came [after His death and resurrection]. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 20:24–29

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



You probably have a lot of questions about faith in Jesus—and maybe even some doubts. Be honest about those in prayer. Ask Jesus to make Himself known to you so that you will truly believe and worship Him as your Lord and God.

Daily Devotion 5: You Must Be Born Again

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:1-7, 16-21

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for the new life that the Spirit has begun in you and the eternal life that you will enjoy forever in His kingdom. Pray that you will continue walking in the light of His goodness and truth.

Week 1 Discussion: Abide in Christ

Introductions

- Share your name, where you live or work, and something you enjoy.
- When and where did you hear the gospel? Why did you say “I Believe!”

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:1-8

Notes:

NEXT WEEK: We will discuss **The Christian Story**, understanding the gospel.

Daily Devotion 6: The Gospel is Good News

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 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. 3 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. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 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. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:1-10

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Gospel literally means good news—and it truly is the best news ever. You don’t have to earn God’s love, prove your worthiness, or carry the burden of past sin. Thank God that your old life is dead and He has given you new life through faith in Jesus.

Daily Devotion 7: In the Beginning (God Made It)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 1:1, 26–31

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for making you (and all people) in His image, unique among His “very good” creation. Pray for a sense of awe and respect for everything and everyone around you.

Daily Devotion 8: Everything is Broken (We Broke It)

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Genesis 3:1-10

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



At its core, sin is when we deny the goodness of God and try to take control of our own lives, choosing what we believe is best instead of trusting our Creator. No matter how good, pleasing, or desirable temptation may appear, the result of sin is always guilt, shame, and broken relationships—with God, other people, and even the world around us. Confess any sin you may be trying to hide. Thank God for calling you back into relationship with Him.

Daily Devotion 9: The Curse Reversed (Jesus Fixes It)

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned . . . 15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 5:12, 15; 10:9-13

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



What an amazing gift—Jesus has saved us from our sin! Thank God that He graciously forgives and blesses everyone who truly believes in Jesus as Lord (divine authority), regardless of their culture or background.

Daily Devotion 10: The Great Commission (The Church Shares It)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Spend a moment in awe of this glorious reality. Thank God for the hope you have knowing that you will spend eternity with Him.

Week 2 Discussion: Our Theology

LAST WEEK we heard a little bit about each other's stories. **THIS WEEK** we're looking at Our Theology and how the Bible is ultimately about the gospel.

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:1-7, 16-21

Notes:

NEXT WEEK: How does the gospel reorient your life as part of a new community?

Daily Devotion 11: The Church is Born

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

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

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

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

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:36-47

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Think back a few weeks to whenever you responded to the gospel message with “I believe!” Ask God to show you the next steps for becoming an active part of your local church.

Daily Devotion 12: The Bible is the Word of God

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for the people in your life who teach and model the truth of Scripture. Ask for His help responding to correction and living by His wisdom and righteousness.

Daily Devotion 13: Life in the Family of God

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

James 2:14–20

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



You are saved by grace through faith—not by your own works. But true faith will express itself in tangible ways. Ask God to help you not only believe that He’s real, but to live like He’s really your heavenly Father. Pray for eyes to see others as “brothers and sisters” in Christ, caring for them as family.

Daily Devotion 14: A Body has Many Parts

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ [in the Church].

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for a church community that is united by Christ but made up of many diverse parts. Even when a church has problems, we seek to grow, heal, and find spiritual health. Pray for ways that you can play your part in the life of your local church.

Daily Devotion 15: Spiritual Growth

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

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.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Pray for godly people to surround you in your life and help your spiritual growth.

Week 3 Discussion: Belong in Community

LAST WEEK we discussed the Our Theology revealed in the Bible. **THIS WEEK** we're looking at the Christian community—the church.

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

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

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

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:36-47

Notes:

NEXT WEEK: So, you've responded to the gospel and you see your need for the church—now what does the rest of your life look like?

Daily Devotion 16: The Great Commandment (Love)

35 One of [the religious leaders], an expert in the law, tested [Jesus] with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:35-40

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



This sums up the Christian life—love God and love people. Ask for God’s help in recognizing any area of your life that isn’t loving.

Daily Devotion 17: Loving God in Worship

1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

7 The Lord reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.

8 He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.

9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

10 Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:1-2, 7-10

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Express your love for God with your own words of worship.

Daily Devotion 18: Loving God with Obedience

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

1 John 4:16–5:4

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God that since He loves you, you have nothing to fear. Express your love for Him, starting with the fact that He loved you first. Ask for God's help in expressing your love by trusting and obeying Him.

Daily Devotion 19: Loving Your Neighbor

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:25–37

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Confess any excuses you’ve made to avoid loving other people. Ask for Christlike mercy and generosity to love your neighbors the way you’d want to be cared for.

Daily Devotion 20: Let Your Light Shine

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Acknowledge Jesus' authority over every part of your life. Thank Him for being with you at all times. Ask for boldness in being a light who makes more disciples wherever you go.

Week 4 Discussion: Care For Lost People

LAST WEEK we discussed the Christian community (church). **THIS WEEK** we're looking at the Christian life as summed up in the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:35-40

Notes:

NEXT WEEK: This group won't meet again, but this booklet has one more week of devotions elaborating on the Great Commission.

Daily Devotion 2I: All Authority Belongs to Jesus

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Pray for Christlike attitudes and actions, honoring Him in everything you do.

Daily Devotion 22: Make Disciples as You Go

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

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

Colossians 3:12-17

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Discipleship isn't complicated—it's simply sharing and showing people the love of Christ revealed. Ask God to help you see every part of your life as an act of worship and an opportunity to share the gospel.

Daily Devotion 23: Baptizing, Teaching, Obeying

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority . . . 12 [You have] been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:6-10, 12

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God for the spiritual reality and tangible expression of baptism—a picture of death, burial, and resurrection. Praise Jesus that He died, was buried, and was raised so that you too can experience new life with Him. Ask for wisdom to remain faithful to the truth found only through faith in Him.

Daily Devotion 24: I Am with You

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

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:15-21, 25-27

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Pray for an awareness of the Holy Spirit’s presence and power in your life. Thank the Spirit for comforting and teaching you. Ask for His peace to fill your life so that you might better know and follow Jesus, even when the world around you doesn’t understand.

Daily Devotion 25: End of the Age

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15 Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation . . . 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-15, 18

WORD—What is the **Main Point** of this Scripture?

G—What does it reveal about **God**?

O—What does it reveal about **Ourselves**?

D—What should you **Do** to respond?



Thank God that He will keep His promise to return and make all things new and right. Pray that you will continue to grow in your love and faithfulness to Christ. Pray also for the salvation of friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and any others you meet.

My Next Steps

Baptism

If you haven't been baptized yet, talk to your group facilitator, a pastor, or someone on the Dream Team. Register for the next baptism at nlchurch.com/baptism

Next Steps

Join the Family! Whether you're just checking us out or have been attending for a while, Next Steps Lunch is for you! This is a fun and relaxed environment where you can learn more about our values and beliefs, find ways to get plugged in, meet your campus team and make new friends!

Rooted

Talk to your group facilitator, a pastor, or check the church website for all the information about the next Rooted session. Rooted is a 10-week discipleship experience that leads into ongoing small groups. You can find all the information for Rooted at nlchurch.com/rooted

Dream Team

We love our NL Dream Team! No matter what team you want to get plugged into, we have a place where you can use your skills and abilities to serve the local church as you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.



NL CHURCH