

THE PATHWAY EXPERIENCE

LEADING LEADERS





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INTRODUCTION

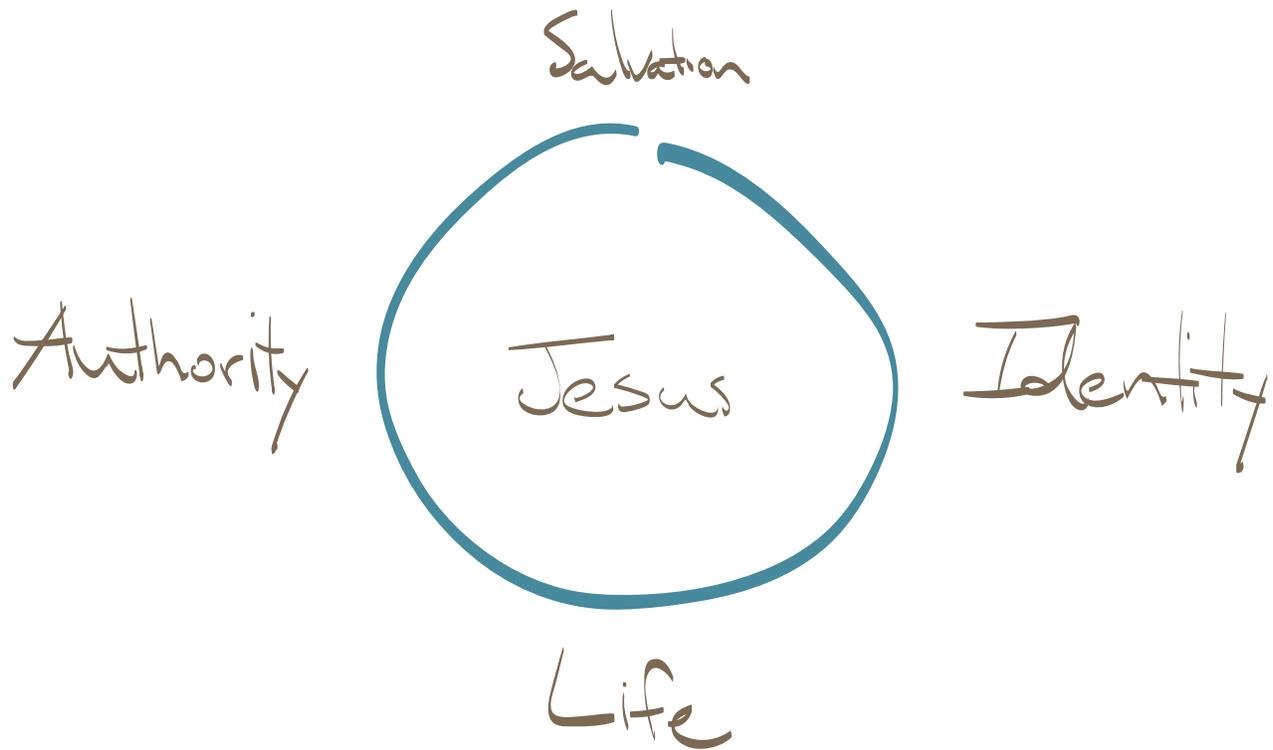
The Discipleship Pathway is made up for four stages. In the first stage, we focused heavily on the Gospel and the powerful ways that Jesus has both saved and transformed you. In the second stage, our focus was on living out your new life in Christ on a daily basis. Here in the third stage, our focus will be on the plan God has for you to be a difference-maker in the world around you.

The Christian life involves a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, but it doesn't end there. God has also called you to a lifelong pursuit of disciple-making. This means taking all that God has done in you personally and living it out for the sake of others. In this next season of discipleship, you will see what is possible when you begin living from the "inside out." You will gain a deeper perspective on how God has uniquely equipped you for ministry. More than that, you will experience the joys of living this out with others in community.

But before we launch into "Leading Leaders," let's go back to the beginning. Spend some time reflecting on the Jesus-Centered Life. As you have walked along this path of discipleship, where has the Jesus-Centered Life become real and powerful for you?

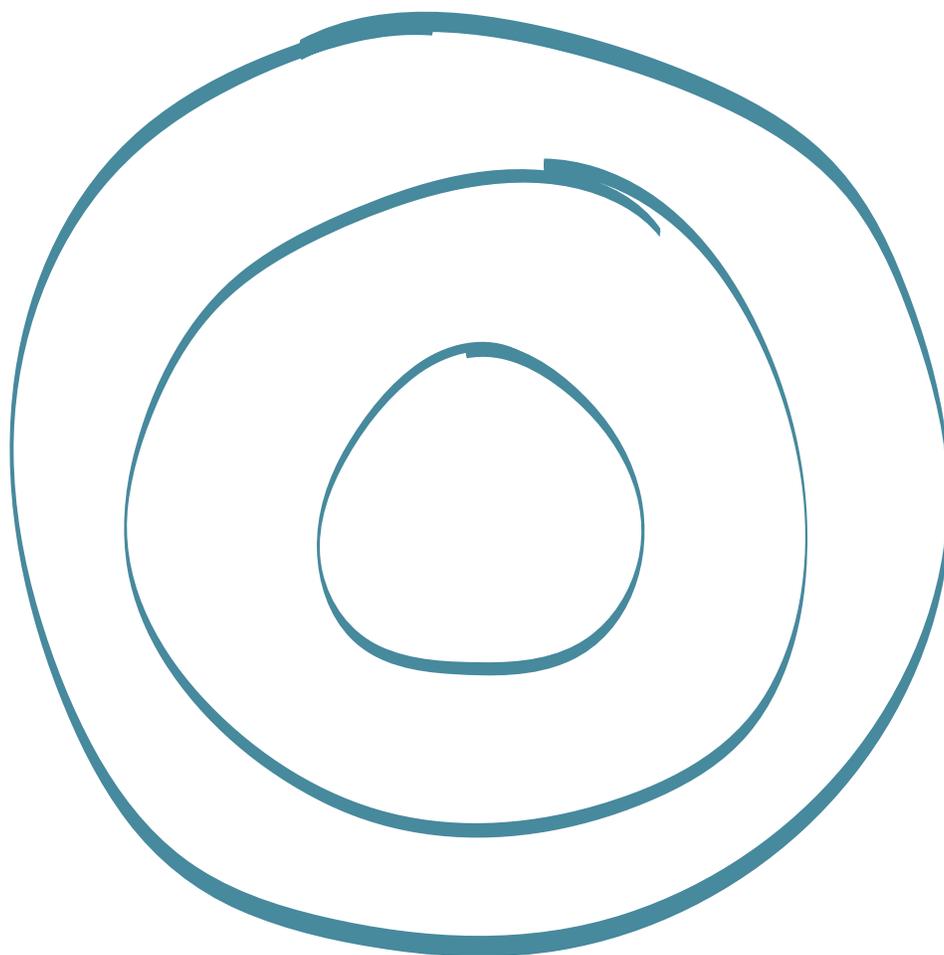
- » In what ways have you deepened in your identity in Christ?
- » How has your life in Christ changed?
- » Where are you experiencing and living out your authority in Christ?
- » Where in your life do you feel a need to grow?

JESUS-CENTERED LIFE

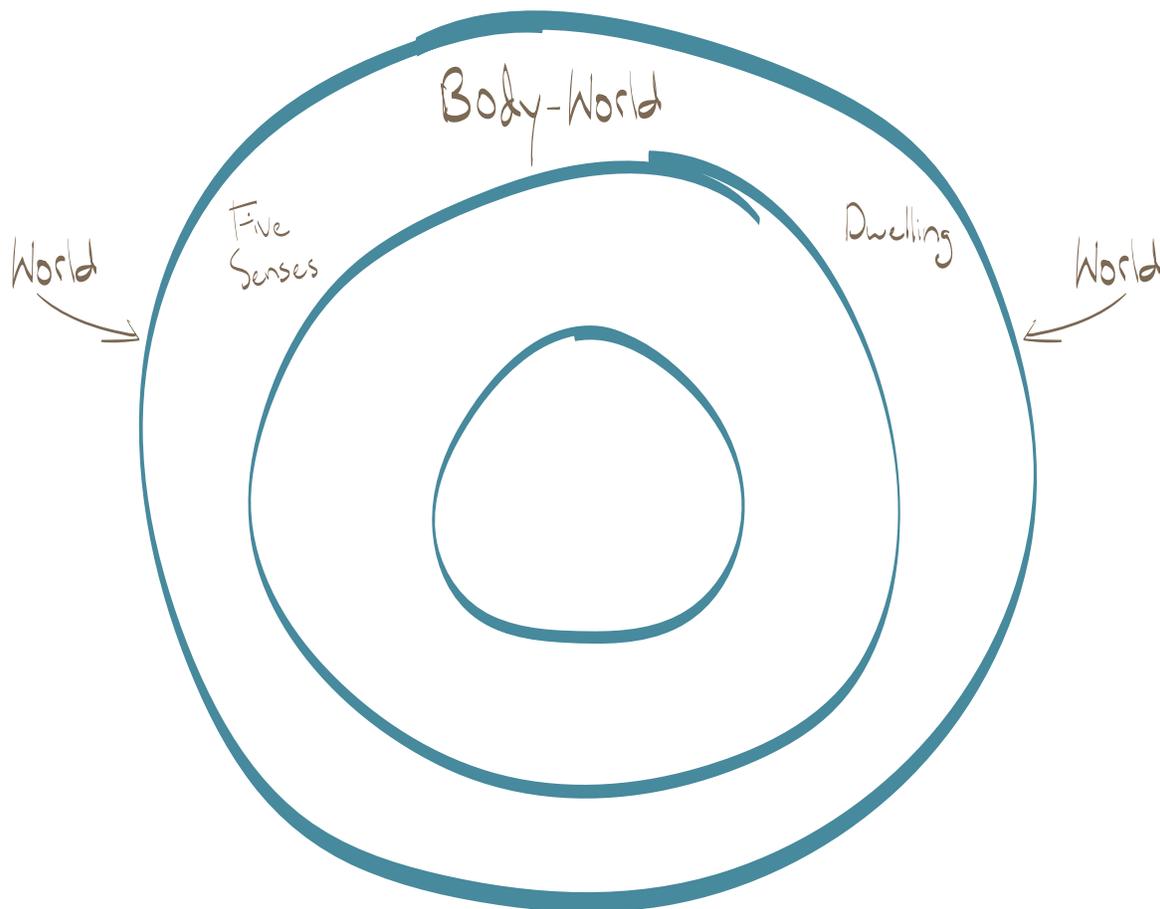


BODY – SOUL – SPIRIT DRAWING

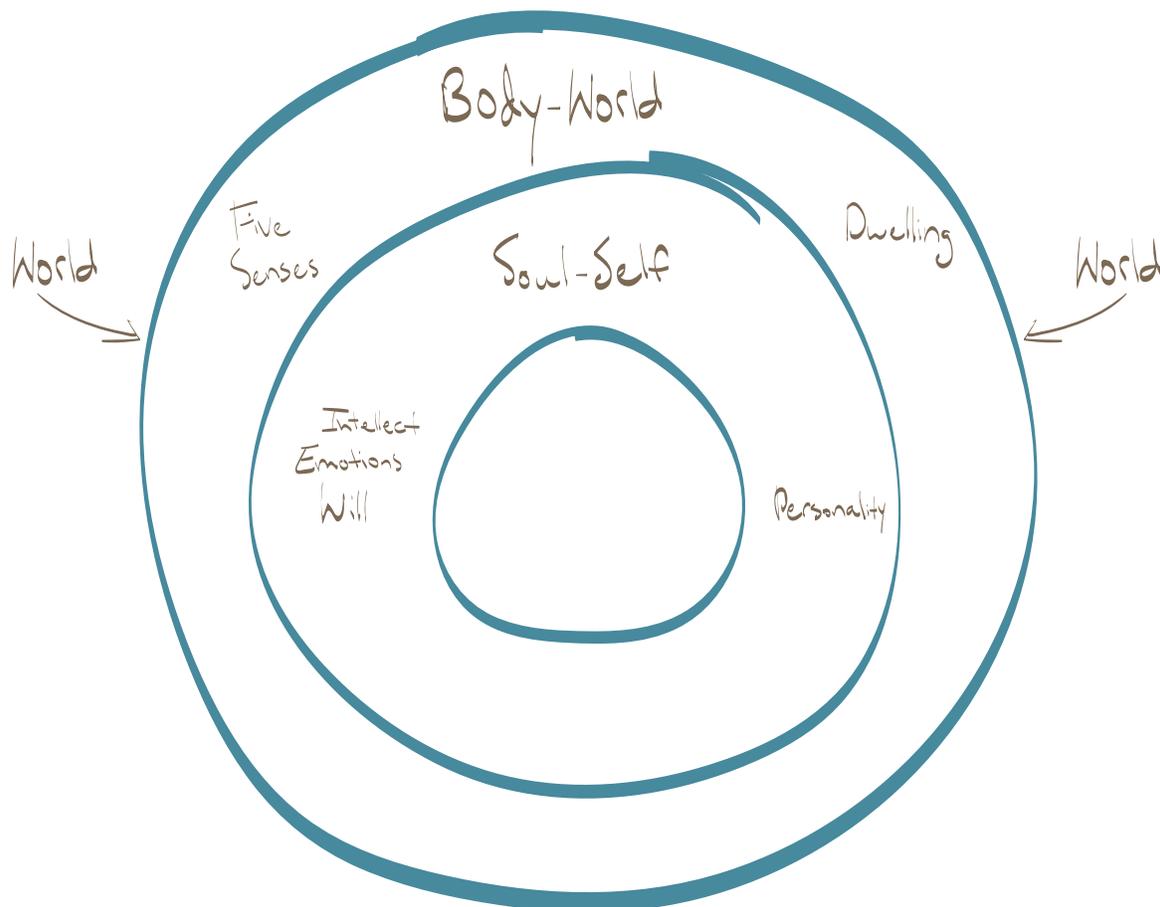
There are three essential parts that make up each person. God has created all of us with a body, a soul and a spirit. The apostle Paul put it this way: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Some view the soul and spirit as interchangeable, but we believe they are distinct (Hebrews 4:12).



First, you have a body, which is your physical **dwelling**. Your body is the means by which you experience the tangible world. In your body, you have five senses that make you conscious of the world around you, and you have a multitude of cells, organs and mechanisms that keep you healthy and alive. Your body, however, is only temporary. We are all destined to perish in our physical bodies.

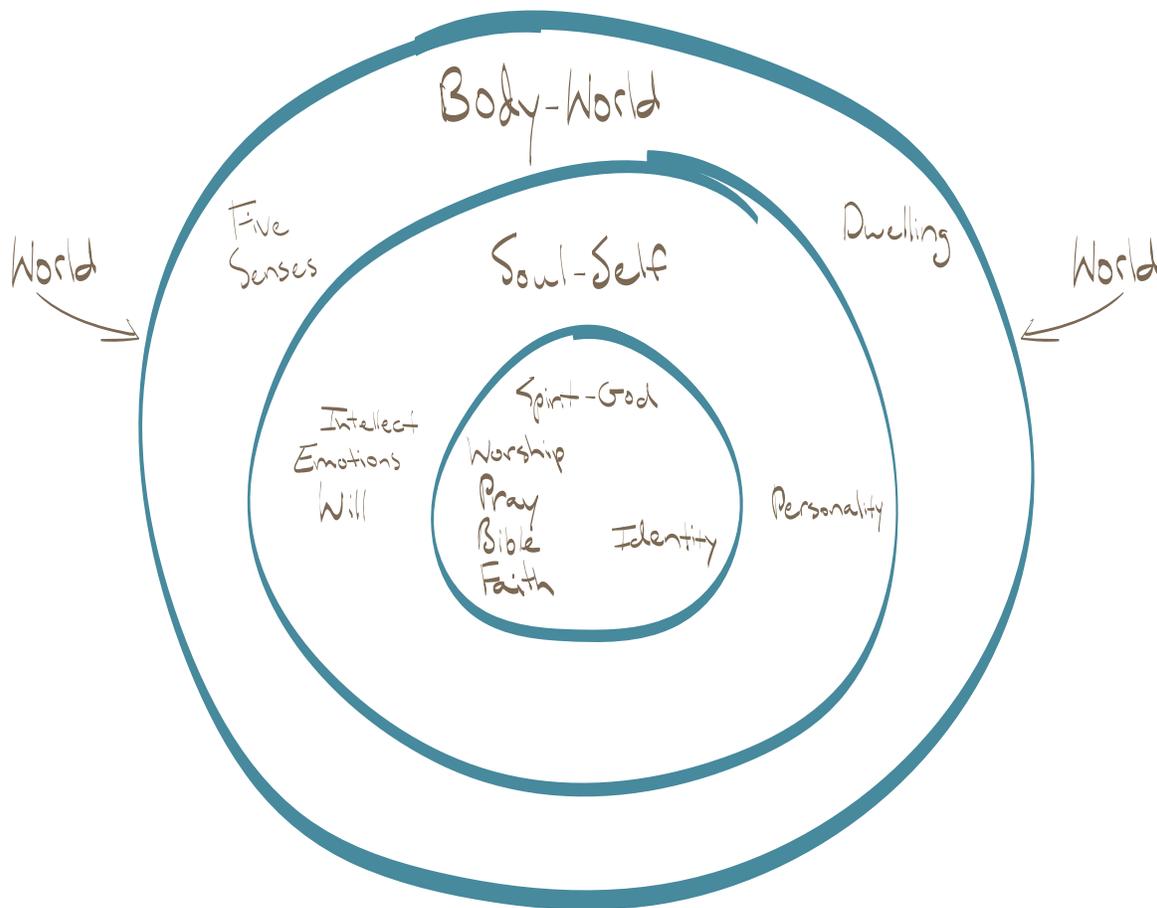


Second, you have a soul, which is comprised of your intellect, your will, your emotions and desires. Your soul is what makes you conscious of self. In essence, your soul is what makes up your **personality**. Therefore, what you think, what you feel and how you then choose to act all comes from your soul. Unlike your body, your soul is eternal and needs to be redeemed by God.



Living only with respect to our souls and bodies (from the outside in) is to live by instinct, chasing what feels good or what may promise temporary satisfaction. We allow our natural desires and emotions to direct our decisions. We also identify ourselves based on the world's values, rather than God's Word. The outcome of these things is emptiness and leads us away from God's design for us — but these two circles don't tell the whole story.

Finally, and most importantly, you have a spirit. Genesis 1 tells us that only humans have a spirit, being created in God's image. If your body is where you are world-conscious, and your soul is where you are self-conscious, then your spirit is where you are God-conscious. When you placed your faith in Jesus, you were made alive spiritually. Therefore, your spirit is the part of you that communes and relates directly with God through worship, prayer, the Bible and your expression of faith in Him. The spirit is where your true **identity** as a Christian comes from.



Your old sinful nature demands that you live from the outside in, where your flesh and your impulses dominate you. The new way of Jesus enables you to live from the inside out, where God's Spirit directs your soul and body. When you live from the inside out, Jesus lives through you and changes the way you think, what you desire and ultimately what you choose, as He forms you into His character.

CASE STUDIES IN INSIDE-OUT LIVING

Mike is a growing Christian, but he has always been an agitated driver. He gets irritated with people who only drive the speed limit and calls them names from behind the wheel. When he gets cut off in traffic, he curses and honks repeatedly and has even followed that person closely for miles to try to make a point.

- » Why do you think Mike responds this way?
- » How does Mike begin to develop an inside-out mentality in this area of his life?
- » What specifically would inside-out living look like for him when he's on the road?

Anna loves Jesus and is very involved in the college ministry at her church. Lately, however, she has felt overwhelmed with school and is fearful that her GPA will sink. Anna has classmates who routinely cheat and falsify research on their papers, and they seem to get away with it. Against her better judgment, she follows suit and cuts a few corners to stay ahead of her grades.

- » Where are Anna's feelings of fear and temptation coming from?
- » What does Anna need in order to combat these feelings and struggles?
- » How might God's truth and His Spirit bring about a change in Anna's heart and life?

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. Matthew 1:18–25

- » From the outside in, what did Joseph's circumstances look like?
- » Even after hearing from an angel, what were the risks Joseph was facing?
- » How does Joseph's response reflect an inside-out relationship with God?

1

INSIDE-OUT LIVING

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

1 Chronicles 14:8–17 tells of King David’s pursuit of God’s guidance in battle. Here we will learn that the Jesus-Centered Life means following God’s leading in everything. Living from the inside out radically changes your choices and values and transforms your character to be more like Christ. In short, a disciple increasingly lives by the power and leadership of Jesus Christ.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

What God Values: David was a valiant warrior who knew how to fight strategically, but at every turn He inquired of God about what he should do. For us, it is natural to do what is easiest or what seems best to us, but Jesus calls you to value His wisdom and leadership above all other influences (Colossians 3:1–3).

What You Value: Knowing and living for God was the highest motivation in David’s life. As you come to know Christ more, He will take greater and greater priority in your life (Jeremiah 9:23–24). Living a significant, God-honoring life means treating Jesus as your highest aim.

Christ-Likeness: David’s dependence on the Lord showed his desire to reflect God’s character as King over Israel. Similarly, Jesus changes you from the inside out so that you may be more like Him (1 Peter 1:14–16). Your goal as a disciple is to follow Jesus so closely and passionately that you inevitably begin to conform to His character (1 John 2:6).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 How do you make decisions?
- 2 How has your decision-making changed as you have grown in the Jesus-Centered Life?

Where do our decisions, values and priorities come from? Before trusting Christ, we all lived from the outside in, doing what seemed right or what felt good. Now, as disciples of Jesus, the Holy Spirit enables us to think and act in a way that pleases God. David could have made his military decisions based on his gut feeling or an established strategy, but he chose instead to inquire of God. This decision, and David's resulting success, could have only happened as he pursued God whole-heartedly. By looking at how David inclined his heart to God, you will gain insight into how an inside-out life brings spiritual transformation.

STORYING

Tell of King David's battles in your own words.

⁸ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up in search of David; and David heard of it and went out against them. ⁹ Now the Philistines had come and made a raid in the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁰ David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? And will You give them into my hand?" Then the LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will give them into your hand." ¹¹ So they came up to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there; and David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like the breakthrough of waters." Therefore they named that place Baal-perazim. ¹² They abandoned their gods there; so David gave the order and they were burned with fire. ¹³ The Philistines made yet another raid in the valley. ¹⁴ David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around behind them and come at them in front of the balsam trees. ¹⁵ It shall be when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines." ¹⁶ David did just as God had commanded him, and they struck down the army of the Philistines from Gibeon even as far as Gezer. ¹⁷ Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him on all the nations. [1 Chronicles 14:8–17](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » How did David develop his military strategy?
- » David was a valiant warrior and an excellent military strategist. So, why did he ask for God's direction rather than formulating his own plan for battle?
- » Who did David credit with the victories?
- » All of this happened in the midst of an enemy attack. When you are being spiritually attacked, are you prone to depend on God or to take matters into your own hands? Why?
- » What would the surrounding culture have said about David's strategy in this story? What does our culture believe about how we should make our decisions?
- » What does David's strategy teach us about how we should make decisions?
- » How exactly did David hear from God? How do you hear from God? What do Jesus' words in John 16:12–13 say about how you hear from the Lord?
- » God was the source of David's victory in battle. What battle are you facing that you need God to be victorious over?

APPLICATION

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. [1 Peter 2:11](#)

- » Peter says your soul is a battleground where spiritual war takes place. Where are the battlefields in your life? How is God's Spirit now empowering you to win these battles?

²³ Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord. [Jeremiah 9:23–24](#)

- » To boast means to find your identity in something. Who — or what — do you find your identity in other than God? What can you do this week to turn your "boasting" to Jesus in these specific places?

¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." [1 Peter 1:13–16](#)

- » It's easier and more natural to live from the outside in, but God calls you to an altogether different way of life that honors and reflects Him. Where have you seen inside-out living taking place in your life? What area of your life can we specifically pray for God's Spirit to transform you?

2

MINISTRY

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

Luke 10:1–9 tells the story of Jesus sending His followers out as ministers. Jesus didn't limit leadership to His twelve closest disciples, but equipped many people to fulfill His mission. Here we will learn that ministry is not the job of a select few. God calls every member of the church to take ownership of its ministries by loving, encouraging and serving others.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

All Play a Part: Jesus sent 70 men ahead of Him to minister and share the gospel. In the church, all believers are now called for the purpose of ministry. Every member of the church is made to actively participate in the church by serving its members (Galatians 5:13–14) for the purpose of glorifying God and building up the body (1 Peter 4:10–11).

God Blesses Servants: Jesus instructed his disciples to take nothing extra with them because God would provide and bless them along the way. As you serve others in the church (Romans 12:9–13), you will be strengthened in your walk with Christ. You also learn and experience the value of interdependence (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12).

Your Part Matters: The church is at its best when we are working together for the same God-given purpose. It is vital for you to see that faithfully and actively participating in the community of Pinelake is essential to your personal spiritual growth — and to the growth of Pinelake as a whole (Hebrews 10:23–25). You have a significant role to play!

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What comes to mind when you hear the word *ministry*? What kind of people are called and qualified to be ministers?
- 2 Try to imagine that for one month your church had no pastors or staff. What would happen to the church? What would you do?

Jesus is the greatest minister the world has ever known, but He still made a practice of giving ministry over to ordinary people. When He ascended to heaven, Jesus called all of His followers to carry on His work (Matthew 28:19–20). In fact, one of the reasons for the explosive growth of the early church was that every believer was in on it (Acts 2:41–47). As a Christian, you are not called to merely attend services, but to actively engage in the work of ministry that God has called you to. When you see yourself as a minister and begin living it out, the church becomes what God intends for it to be (Ephesians 4:11–16).

STORYING

Tell the story of the ministry of the 70 in your own words.

¹ Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. ² And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³ Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' ⁶ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. ⁸ Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' [Luke 10:1-9](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » Why do you think Jesus sent these people out in pairs and not alone?
- » What does verse 2 mean? Who are the laborers of the harvest? Do you see yourself that way?
- » Are church staff responsible for carrying out all the ministries of the church? Why or why not?
- » Why did Jesus tell His disciples not to take any extra provisions?
- » What was the goal of this mission in Luke 10? How could Jesus be sure it would be successful?
- » What is the ministry of the church? Think both broadly and specifically. What is your responsibility in the church?
- » What is the threat to viewing ministry as only that which pastors and missionaries do?
- » How have you seen God use you for His ministry in the church?

APPLICATION

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." [Galatians 5:13–14](#)

- » Some think the church exists to serve their personal needs, but what does Scripture say? How are you doing when it comes to loving and serving other people in the church?

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. [Romans 12:9–13](#)

- » Looking at this passage, where do you feel you are doing well? Where do you struggle? What makes the struggle so difficult for you?

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. [Hebrews 10:23–25](#)

- » Who is a person that inspires and encourages you to love and good works? How do they do it? Are you serving and engaging others in Christ for that same purpose?

3

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

1 Corinthians 12:14–26 gives a picture of the value and purpose of spiritual gifts. In these verses, you will learn that God has gifted you with specific spiritual attributes and abilities. While the church is to be united around one singular mission, God gifts individual believers differently. Every spiritual gift, no matter how insignificant it seems, blesses the church and helps fulfill its mission. God has graced you with spiritual gifts that are essential to the growth and health of the church.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

One Body, Many Functions: Paul uses the analogy of a human body to describe the church. His point is that while some gifts may receive more attention, no one person is more valuable to God's mission than the other believers in the church. Every person within the church is useful and valuable (Romans 12:4–8). When every member uses his or her spiritual gift, the church functions as Jesus intends.

Equal Value and Purpose: In the same way that your hands, nose and eyes are all necessary to the proper function of your body, you are important to our church. Your spiritual gifts are essential in fulfilling the purpose of the church. Your unique gifting was specially given to you by God to bless His body (1 Peter 4:10).

Gifts for Service: God did not gift you spiritually so that you could boast in your own abilities (Colossians 3:23–24). He gave you a gift to glorify Him and build up other believers through service (1 Corinthians 12:6–7). You will also find that using your gift is a key to your own fulfillment and joy in serving the church.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What does the term *spiritual gift* mean to you?
- 2 Do you know what spiritual gift or gifts you have?

Every disciple has been specially gifted by God to help build Christ's kingdom and to serve His church. One of the best ways to figure out what gift(s) you have is to look for and embrace opportunities in the church to serve. God gives spiritual gifts to us for His glory and for the purpose of building up the church (1 Corinthians 12:6-7). The more you give of yourself in service to others, the more apparent and useful your spiritual gifts become.

STORYING

Share Paul's analogy of spiritual gifts in your own words.

¹⁴ For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. [1 Corinthians 12:14–26](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » What does the analogy of the church as a body mean to you?
- » Name some spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12:1–11). How is each of these essential to the health and growth of the church?
- » What is the source of the envy we see in verses 15–16? What is Paul's response?
- » Is it possible to exercise your spiritual gifts in the wrong manner? Why or why not? What should be your goal as you exercise your spiritual gifts at Pinelake?
- » What does verse 18 mean, and why is it significant?
- » How might the church suffer if you fail to exercise or wrongly exercise your spiritual gifts?
- » How is a spiritual gift different from a natural talent?
- » How might the church be blessed when you faithfully use your gifts to build up the church and glorify God?
- » Do you tend to think that some spiritual gifts are better or more important than others? What is wrong with such thinking? What happens to your relationship with God and your connection to the other members of the church if you think this way?

APPLICATION

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. [Romans 12:4–8](#)

- » What does it mean that we have gifts that differ according to grace given to us? Do you value your gift as a work of God's grace in your life?

¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [1 Peter 4:10–11](#)

- » Have you ever considered that God made you to serve in a specific way? How does this affect the way you see your value and purpose within the church?

⁶ "There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." [1 Corinthians 12:6–7](#)

- » Are your acts of service in the church focused on you or on God's glory and the good of the church? How might your approach need to change?

4

CALLING

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

Mark 1:16–20 tells the story of Jesus calling His disciples to follow Him. Here you are called to embrace the eternally significant purpose that God has for you. The call to participate in Christ’s mission of making disciples is not optional. Everyone who is saved by Christ is called to follow Him, to live under His authority and to participate in His disciple-making mission.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

Devotion: The command to “follow me” is a call to whole-life devotion. Jesus came to give you abundant life (John 10:10), but you only experience it when you trade in your way for His. When Jesus called the first disciples, they “left their nets and followed Him.” As a Christian, you are called to leave behind the self-directed life and choose instead to follow your Savior wherever He leads (John 15:4–5).

Transformation: Jesus linked the command to follow with a promise to transform His disciples. To be a Christian is to be daily transformed into the likeness of Jesus (Romans 8:29). This change is not simply to make you a better person, but to make you think and act more like Christ (1 John 2:6). As you follow Him, you take on more of His heart and purpose.

Purpose: “I will make you become fishers of men.” Jesus’ goal for us is to form disciples into disciple-makers (Matthew 28:18–20). You are sent out as an ambassador for God, carrying the gospel of Jesus wherever you go (John 20:21). There is nothing more important or rewarding than a lifetime devotion to this calling (2 Timothy 4:7–8).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What would you say to someone who asked you, “What is the meaning and purpose of life?”
- 2 How fully do you feel you are living out this meaning and purpose?

Jesus calls each of His disciples with the end already in mind. He does not want just an adoring crowd to admire Him. Rather, He wants devoted followers who take on His mission for the world. Jesus has done countless great things for you, but His chief desire is to make you significant as a disciple-maker. The most important thing you do as a follower of Christ is to reproduce your life of faith in others. The world needs to know who Jesus really is and what it looks like to follow Him. Jesus gave us — His church — the responsibility to make those truths known in both our words and actions. The potential impact of obedience to that calling is world changing. God is calling you both to live out and to invite others to a Christ-centered, Spirit-led, ongoing story of life change.

STORYING

Tell the story of Jesus calling His disciples in your own words.

¹⁶ As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him. [Mark 1:16–20](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » Do you see yourself anywhere in this story? How might you have responded if you were in Simon or Andrew's shoes?
- » What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- » What do you risk by following Jesus? Have you lost or given up anything to follow Him? What have you gained?
- » Do you believe that Jesus is transforming your life? How? And for what purpose?
- » What does it mean for you to be a "fisher of men"? What is involved in the process?
- » What would you say to those who claim that disciple-making is best left to Christian professionals (pastors, evangelists, missionaries and teachers)?
- » Are you actively reproducing your life of faith in another? If not, what is holding you back?

APPLICATION

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. [John 15:4–5](#)

» What does it mean to abide in Christ? According to Jesus, why is it so vital for you to abide in Him? What area of your life do you desire greater devotion to Jesus—and greater fruitfulness?

⁶ The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. [1 John 2:6](#)

» You cannot be like Jesus in your own strength, but what has He promised to do for you? Where in your life do you desire to see yourself think, act and speak more like Jesus?

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:18–20](#)

» What have you been called to do? Why? What stands in the way of you embracing this purpose and living it out?

5

EVANGELISM

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

Luke 24:13–27 tells the story of Jesus revealing the Gospel to two men. Here we are challenged to share more than just our personal testimony. As a disciple-maker, you must be able to share the biblical story of the Gospel to those who do not yet believe it. Like Jesus, you must also cultivate a heart for the lost and learn to embrace the opportunities God gives to share the Gospel with others.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

A Heart for the Lost: Jesus took time to patiently walk and share with two men who didn't understand the Gospel. Similarly, God wants you to cultivate a deep concern for those who do not know Christ. God calls you to share the Gospel out of love for Him and for your neighbor (Matthew 22:36–40). The greatest act of love you can show another person is to tell them the good news about Jesus (Romans 10:14–15).

Opening a Door: Jesus never passed up an opportunity to speak God's grace to others because He saw relationships as open doors for truth to be shared. No matter where you are, God wants you to be prepared to share the good news of His Son with those around you (1 Peter 3:15).

Sharing the Gospel: Jesus simply and lovingly shared the truth of salvation, which is the most powerful message there is (Romans 1:16). In the same way, God calls you to share the Gospel with the people around you, demonstrating the life-changing news of Jesus with your life and your words (Colossians 1:28).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What are some of the reasons that most Christians do not share their faith with others?
- 2 Of those reasons, which are hardest for you to overcome personally?

The word *Gospel* literally means “good news.” It is the good news of God’s plan to save sinners through faith in Jesus, who died and rose again on our behalf. Evangelism refers to the process of declaring this good news to other people in such a way that they can understand and respond to it. For you, evangelism means making Jesus known to the world in both word and action.

STORYING

Tell the story of Jesus on the Emmaus road in your own words.

¹³ And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. ²² But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see." ²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. [Luke 24:13–27](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » Why were these two men so discouraged and despondent?
- » How did Jesus approach them? Why did He not reveal His identity right away?
- » Why does Jesus say, "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer?"
- » Looking at verse 27, how does Jesus share the Gospel with these men?
- » We have talked about the importance of your personal faith story, but why is the biblical story of salvation so important?
- » How would you share the message of the Gospel in just three or four sentences?
- » Who is really responsible for bringing salvation to a person, you or God (see Luke 24:31–32)? How does this influence your approach to sharing your faith?

APPLICATION

¹⁴ “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’ ”
[Romans 10:14–15](#)

- » What is implied about those who do not hear the Gospel in these verses? What keeps you from lovingly and passionately sharing the Gospel with others?

¹⁵ “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence” [1 Peter 3:15](#)

- » How might you prepare to share Christ with others? Why is it essential to share Christ with gentleness and reverence?

¹ “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — ² and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.”
[1 John 1:1–3](#)

- » Many disciples hesitate to share the Gospel, fearing they don’t know enough. How do these verses in 1 John answer such fears?

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SACRIFICIAL LIVING

EXPOSURE TO THE WORD

Mark 12:41–44 tells of Jesus' commendation of a poor, generous widow. Here we learn that Jesus calls disciples to a wholly different way of life than that of the world. Our most natural desires for success, comfort and financial security do not always square with the Gospel. Christ calls you to sacrifice your personal wants and dreams for His kingdom purposes, to hold on loosely to this world and to love others in a Christlike manner.

EXPLANATION OF THE WORD

Live Opposite: Many people were giving to the temple treasury, but Jesus commends the woman who gave all she had to live on. The amount she gave was sparse, but her heart was rich toward God. It is clear that fleshly desires for comfort and excess are incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus. Instead, you are called to lose yourself in favor of the fullness of following Christ (Luke 9:23–24).

Surrender: It made no fiscal sense for this woman to give her last pennies to God, but her devotion and faith propelled her to sacrifice. For her, life was more than money and earthly security. Likewise, you must fight the temptation to create idols of your possessions and the things you think you deserve (Philippians 3:7–8).

Godliness: This woman's generous gift reflects God's generosity toward each of us. Jesus loved His enemies and gave to those who could not repay Him. He loves sinners so much that He died on the cross for them (Romans 5:8). Like Jesus, you are to serve and to sacrifice for others, not out of obligation, but out of Christlike love (1 John 3:16–18).

INTRODUCTION

1 When has someone really sacrificed of themselves for your good? What did their sacrifice say about them?

2 Which of Jesus' commands is most difficult for you to stomach? Why?

The story of the poor, generous widow is at once inspiring and intimidating. We are inspired by her faith and generosity, but intimidated by the thought of giving all we have to God. The call to sacrificial living, however, is about more than money. It is a way of life that honors God above all earthly things. You are able to hold on loosely to your own comforts, ambitions and desires when you value Jesus above all else. This woman's story is a snapshot of what this looks like, but the full measure of sacrifice is shown to us in Christ. His death on the cross is more than just your means to salvation; it is an example of how you should live — sacrificing your desires, loving others and giving generously to those in need so that Christ might be seen in you.

STORYING

Tell the story of the poor, generous widow in your own words.

⁴¹ And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. ⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." [Mark 12:41-44](#)

Choose two or three questions to discuss from the question bank below.

- » Why did Jesus draw his disciples' attention to this woman's deed?
- » Are there any good reasons why this woman should have given less than she did?
- » Honestly, how does this story make you feel? Inspired? Guilty? Intimidated? Why?
- » How does our culture view this idea of sacrificial living?
- » Where have you seen sacrificial living modeled in your life?
- » Tell of a time when you gave of yourself in a costly or even painful way. What motivated you? Would you do it again?
- » How does the example of Jesus' life and death encourage you as you think about all of this?
- » Why do you think Jesus raises the bar so incredibly high for His disciples?

APPLICATION

²³ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it." [Luke 9:23–24](#)

- » Why is denying self a requirement for following Jesus? What is God calling you to sacrifice so that you might point others to Christ?

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ" [Philippians 3:7–8](#)

- » How had Jesus changed Paul's perspective on gains and losses? How has He changed yours? In what ways does your perspective on fairness, comfort or success still need to change in light of the Gospel?

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. [1 John 3:16–18](#)

- » What should Christ's sacrifice for you lead you to sacrifice for others? What is one way you could model the sacrifice of Christ in your relationship with someone this week?



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