

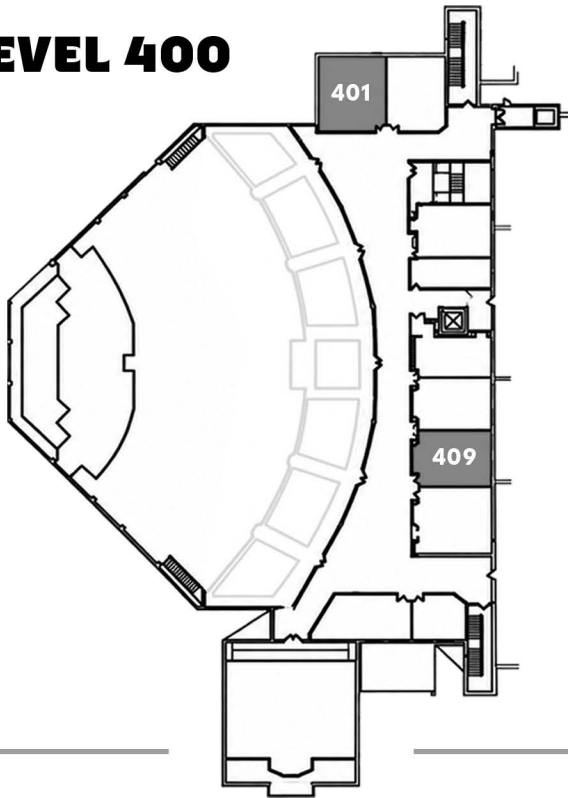
**NO
OTHER
NAME** *Jesus*
**Savior
& King**

DISCIPLEMAKERS 2026



FALL CONFERENCE

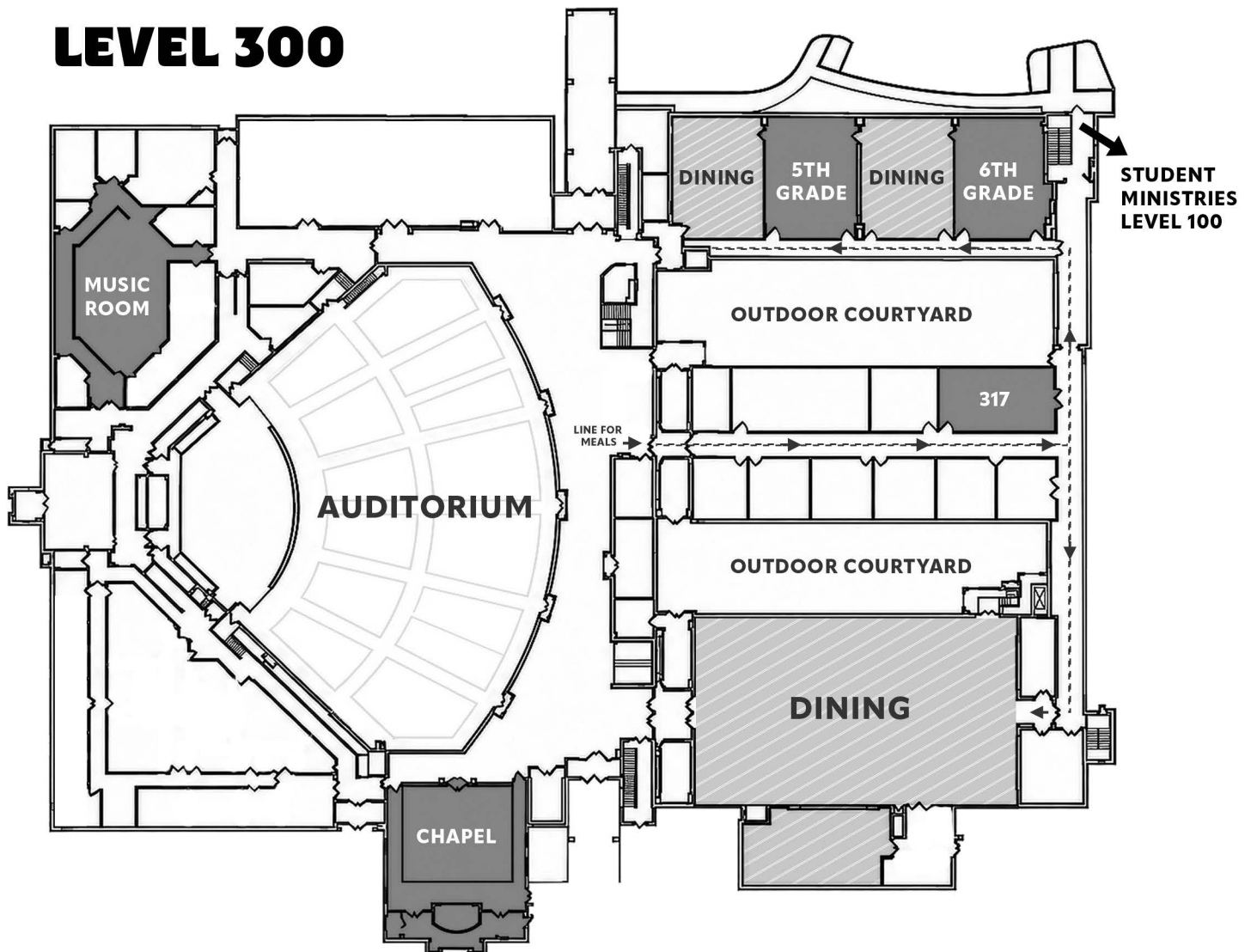
LEVEL 400



CALVARY CHURCH MAP

-  BREAKOUT BLOCKS
-  DINING

LEVEL 300



NO OTHER NAME *Jesus* Savior & King

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SCHEDULE

Friday Night

5:30–7:00pm Check-in

7:00–8:30pm **Main Session:** *Confronting Our Need (Colossians 1:13-14) – Clint Watkins*

8:30–8:45pm Break

Breakouts

8:45–9:15pm	<i>Exploring Christianity</i>	Room 401	Brian Parker & Maggie Enestvedt
	<i>Shame Conquered, Affection Stirred: The Transforming Gospel of Jesus</i>	5th grade	Mark & Shannon Fodale
	<i>Ecclesiastes: When Life Doesn't Satisfy</i>	6th grade	Dave & Megan Royes
	<i>Change is Possible: A Biblical & Practical Approach to Lasting Change</i>	Room 409	Tom Hallman, Jenny Fitch, Tori Day
	<i>Resilient Faith: Enduring Suffering with Honesty & Hope</i>	Chapel	Clint Watkins & Mike Kreider
	<i>Lost in Translation: How to Share the Gospel Story Without Confusing Your Friends</i>	Room 317	Lincoln Fitch & Andy Cimbala
	<i>Vocation: Leaving Your Mark in the World for God's Glory</i>	Music Room	Brian Seay, Caleb & Kaylah Olshefsky

9:15–11:00pm Late Night @ Fall Conference (Location: Student Ministries, Level 100)

Saturday

9:30–10:45am **Main Session:** *Beholding the Son (Colossians 1:15-20) – Mark Fodale*

10:45–11:00am Break

11:00–11:45am Breakouts

12:00–1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00–2:30pm Breakouts

2:30–3:30pm Free time

3:30–5:00pm Breakouts

5:15–6:15pm **Dinner** (with optional info sessions)
 • DMX Interest Meeting: 5th grade (dining half)
 • Missions Trips Interest Meeting: 6th grade (dining half)

6:30–8:00pm **Main Session:** *Continuing in Faith (Colossians 1:21-23) – Joel Martin*

8:00pm Depart

I. Your Desperate Need

A. The darkness that owns you

B. The debt that you owe

II. Your Only Deliverer

A. Only He can rescue

B. Only He can redeem

Scripture References

Friday Evening Main Session

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:13-15

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses...God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth,
and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed,
and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted ...
could you be satisfied with heaven, if Jesus were not there?
John Piper, God is the Gospel

I. Jesus is the “Real Deal” in Creation (vs. 15-17)

A. He is the source

B. He is the agent

C. He is the goal

II. Jesus is the “Real Deal” in the Church (vs. 18-20)

A. He is the head

B. He is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead

C. He is the point

Scripture References

Saturday Morning Main Session

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

I. Jesus is Like No Other

II. Our Response Should Be Like No Other

A. Continue Like No Other

B. Proclaim Like No Other

Scripture References

Saturday Evening Main Session

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1:9

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 2:23

These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

BREAKOUT

Exploring Christianity

*"The Gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe,
yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."
Timothy Keller*

I. Three Important Questions

1. What is your biggest hesitation or question about Christianity?

2. Write down your understanding of the gospel in one or two sentences.

3. How would you answer this statement: "At my core, I am _____"?

II. A Gospel Centered Testimony

III. Where We Are Heading

"Some say of temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it,' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory."

C.S. Lewis

I. The Certainty of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-9)

- A. Evidence #1 - The Gospel started _____.
- B. Evidence #2 - It is attested to by many _____.
- C. Evidence #3 - Consider the _____ of these early Christians.

II. The Comfort of the Gospel (1 Peter 1:3-7)

- A. It shows us that we _____ and _____ grieve.
- B. It reminds us that suffering is _____.
- C. It assures us that no suffering is _____.

III. What the Gospel is NOT

- A. The gospel is NOT going to give you _____.
- B. The gospel is NOT moralistic life _____.
- C. The gospel is NOT _____.
- D. The gospel is NOT Jesus killing your _____ to follow _____.

Scripture References

The Certainty and Comfort of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-9

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Isaiah 53:3-5

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"There is a mountain you have to scale, there are heights you have to climb; and the first thing you realize, as you look at that mountain is that you cannot do it, that you are utterly incapable in and of yourself, and that any attempt to do it in your own strength is proof positive that you have not understood it. Jesus' words condemn, at the very outset, the view which regards it as a program for religiously intent people to put into operation on their own.

*I would rather make bricks without straw than try to live the Sermon on the Mount in my own strength.
God, in His mercy, saved me from the Sermon on the Mount."
Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

I. The Uniqueness of Jesus' Teachings

II. The Uniqueness of Jesus' Claims

- A. He claims to be the _____, _____, and _____.
- B. He claims to have all _____ in heaven and on earth.
- C. He claims to _____ everything and _____ it together.
- D. He claims to be _____ of _____ from all things.

III. How Will You Respond to Jesus?

Scripture References

The Uniqueness of Jesus

Matthew 5:1-10

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Revelation 5:13

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. BUT everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." – Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

I. Life Given #1 - Meaning

- Question: How could living with God's glory & goodness at the center of your life, give you a better reason to wake up each morning?

II. Life Given #2 - Satisfaction

- Question: Have you ever achieved something you longed for, only to be still left unsatisfied the next day?

III. Life Given #3 - Freedom

- Question: "Where have you seen life promise blessing, but become a harsh task master which doesn't deliver on the promised goods?"

IV. Life Given #4 - Identity

- Question: How might having a received identity lessen pressure or anxiety for someone who is constantly trying to achieve their identity?

V. Life Given #5 - Hope

- Question: How could fixing your eyes on Jesus this upcoming week give you hope where you are most inclined to be hopeless?

VI. Life Given #6 - Morality

- Question: How is a morality that comes from Jesus better than people developing their own moralities?

Extended Time for Q&A

And [Jesus] said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. – Luke 24:25-27

I. The Scriptures are One Unified Story...

A. One storyline

B. Told through many books

II. ...All About Jesus

III. Applying the Scriptures to Our Lives

"The gospel ain't easy, but it's actually quite simple."
Mark Fodale

I. The Simplicity of the Gospel

II. Revisiting the Three Questions

III. Practical Next Steps to Take

- A. Make a _____ to _____ your Bible.
- B. Learn to _____ simply by _____.
- C. Surround yourself with _____.
- D. Get plugged into a solid _____.

IV. Additional Resources



BREAKOUT

*Shame Conquered,
Affection Stirred*

*There is an eternal difference between regret and repentance. Regret feels bad about past sins.
Repentance turns away from past sins. Regret looks to our own circumstances. Repentance looks to God.
Sadly, most of us are content with regret. – Kevin DeYoung, The Hole in Our Holiness*

I. The Enslaving Power of Worldly Grief

II. The Liberating Joy of Godly Grief

A. Grieve with genuine sorrow over your sin

B. Hate the sin, more & more

C. Run away from it

Scripture References & Quotes

Understanding True Repentance

2 Corinthians 7:1-13

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

² Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. ³ I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. ⁴ I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷ and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸ For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹ For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. ¹² So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³ Therefore we are comforted.

And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

Psalms 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

Q&A 88

Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the coming-to-life of the new.

Q&A 89

Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?

A. It is to be genuinely sorry for sin, to hate it more and more, and to run away from it.

Q&A 90

Q. What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

A. It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ & a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.

Heidelberg Catechism

Confession by itself is not repentance. Confession moves the lips; repentance moves the heart. Naming an act as evil before God is not the same as leaving it. Though your confession may be honest and emotional, it is not enough unless it expresses a true change of heart. There are those who confess only for the show of it, whose so-called repentance may be theatrical but not actual.

J.I. Packer, *Rediscovering Holiness*

As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.
Isaiah 62:5

I. God, the Passionate Lover (v. 3-14)

A. God is calling you into an _____ relationship.

B. God is calling you into a _____ relationship.

C. God is calling you into a _____ relationship.

II. God, the Wounded Lover (v. 15-42)

A. Sin is using God's gifts to attract other "_____."

B. Sin is not only breaking God's rules, it's breaking God's _____.

III. God, the Faithful Lover (v. 59-63)

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."
John 2:1-4

Scripture (Ezekiel 16)

Uncovering Gospel Righteousness

Act I

³ Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem ... as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. ⁵ No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

⁶ “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ ⁷ I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

⁸ “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. ⁹ Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. ¹⁰ I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. ¹¹ And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. ¹² And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ¹³ Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. ¹⁴ And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

Act II

¹⁵ “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. ¹⁶ You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be. ¹⁷ You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore.

¹⁸ And you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set my oil and my incense before them. ¹⁹ Also my bread that I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord God. ²⁰ And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter ²¹ that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them? ²² And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood.

²³ “And after all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! declares the Lord God), ²⁴ you built yourself a vaulted chamber and made yourself a lofty place in every square. ²⁵ At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your whoring.

³⁰ “How sick is your heart, declares the Lord God, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute, ³¹ building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment. ³² Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband! ³³ Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings. ³⁴ So you were different from other women in your whorings. No one solicited you to play the whore, and you gave payment, while no payment was given to you; therefore you were different.

³⁵ “Therefore, O prostitute, hear the word of the Lord: ³⁶ Thus says the Lord God, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, ³⁷ therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. ³⁸ And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy. ³⁹ And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare. ⁴⁰ They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. ⁴¹ And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more. ⁴² So will I satisfy my wrath on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be angry.

Act III

⁵⁹ “For thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant, ⁶⁰ yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant ... ⁶² I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, ⁶³ that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I atone for you for all that you have done, declares the Lord God.”

If our churches aren't appealing to younger brothers, they must be more full of elder brothers than we'd like to think.
Timothy Keller, Prodigal God

I. Jesus Deepens Our View of Sin

- A. Sin is wandering away from God (v. 4)

- B. Sin is running away from God (v. 12, 29)

II. Jesus Expands Our Vision of God

- A. God is a _____ (vs. 4-6)

- B. God is a _____ (vs. 8-9)

- C. God is a _____ (vs. 20-24, 28, 31-32)

III. Jesus Corrects Our View of Rescue

- A. Repent of our righteousness

- B. Rest on God's Son

Scripture Reference

Exposing Self-Righteousness

Luke 14:25-15:32

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁵ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
Romans 8:1

I. Sin's Penalty = _____

"The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23

Compose a prayer...

II. Sin's Power = _____

"We know that our old self was crucified with him (Jesus)" Romans 6:6

Compose a prayer...

III. Sin's Presence = _____

"...consider yourselves ... present yourselves..." Romans 6:11,13

Compose a prayer...

Scripture Reference

Overcoming Sin's Misery

Romans 6:6-14

⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him (Jesus)

in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing,

so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

death no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness,

but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life,

and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Ecclesiastes 1:

¹ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² **Vanity** of **vanities**, says the Preacher,

vanity of **vanities**! All is vanity.

³ What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 12:

⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

⁹ Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find words of **delight**, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like **goads**, and like **nails** firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.

BREAKOUT

Ecclesiastes

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?
Ecclesiastes 1

I. The Frustrating Feeling of an Uncontrollable Life

II. The Futile Quest of Fixing Your Life

_____ did not satisfy his heart.

_____ he could not hold.

_____ is haunted by death.

III. The Father of Grace and the Joyful Life

- In order to have joy, we must move from a _____ mentality to a _____ mentality.

Scripture Reference

Why You are Unhappy...

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

¹² I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Chapter Two

¹ I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. ² I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" ³ I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴ I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. ⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. ⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰ And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

¹² So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. ¹³ Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. ¹⁴ The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. ¹⁵ Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. ¹⁶ For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! ¹⁷ So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools.
Ecclesiastes 5:1

I. The Way That Wisdom Comes

- “An unsolicited confrontation with reality”

II. The Strategy of Fools

A. Their song is amusement

B. Their song is temporary

III. Where Wisdom Leads

Scripture References

Pursue Wisdom (for Your Joy)

Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:6

¹⁰ Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. ¹¹ The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? ¹² For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

Chapter Seven

¹ A good name is better than precious ointment,
and the day of death than the day of birth.

² It is better to go to the house of mourning
than to go to the house of feasting,
for this is the end of all mankind,
and the living will lay it to heart.

³ Sorrow is better than laughter,
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

⁵ It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise
than to hear the song of fools.

⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,
so is the laughter of the fools;
this also is vanity.

Revelation 5:1-9

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people
for God from every tribe and language and people and
nation..."

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
Revelation 14:13*

I. There is an Appointment You Must Keep

II. There is a Joyful Way to Live

III. There is a Person We Must Follow

Scripture Reference

Prepare for Death (for Your Joy)

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

¹ But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. ² It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. ³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴ But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

⁹ Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

¹¹ Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. ¹² For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

John 5:28-29

I. Train Your Heart in Rejoicing

A. Disappointment is common among youth despite the blessings of youth

II. Walk With God By Remembering

A. Old age is like a coming storm

B. Old age is like a failing house

III. See Death as Your Returning

Scripture Reference

Practice Now (for When You Are Old)

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

⁸ So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

¹⁰ Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Chapter Twelve

¹ Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴ and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵ they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶ before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

BREAKOUT

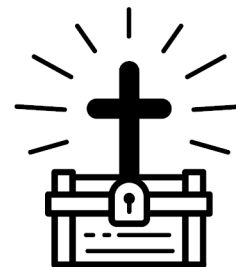
Change is Possible

I. Our deeper problem revealed (Luke 6:43-45)

II. How lasting change happens (Colossians 1:15-22)

Principle: Change takes place as we _____.

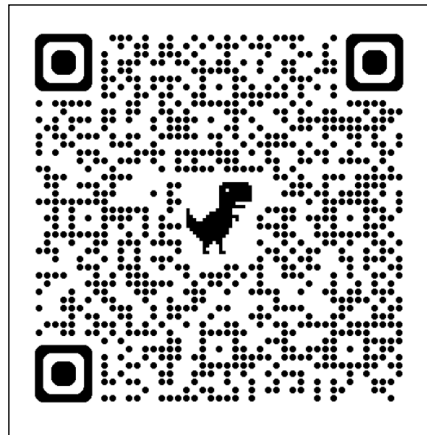
III. The failure of false change



I. How to Find the Treasure

II. How to Change the Treasure

III. How the Changed Treasure Changes You



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"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth"
1 Corinthians 3:6

I. Treasure Christ

II. Treasure People

- Saint

- Sinner

- Sufferer

III. Help People Treasure Christ

- A. Pray

- B. See and treasure Christ in the Scriptures

How to structure your time together

1. Talk about life
2. Look at scripture and connect life to scripture
3. Pray

Scripture References & Quotes

Helping Others Change

Mark 12:30-31

³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Genesis 6:17-22

¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹ Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Leviticus 16:11-16

¹¹ "Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. ¹² And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil ¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. ¹⁴ And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵ "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. ¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Zechariah 3:1-7

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord was standing by.

⁶ And the angel of the Lord solemnly assured Joshua, ⁷ "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

"Saint, sufferer, and sinner. All three of these are simultaneously true of every Christian you meet. If this is the way God sees and loves his people, then we should do the same, using these broad biblical categories to guide our overall approach to the people in our lives. They are signposts for wise love. They help you to prioritize one-another ministry, whether it's to your friend, husband, wife, roommate, child, coworker, or counselee."
– Mike Emlet

"There is a story of an old minister who heard a sermon by a young man, and when he was asked by the preacher what he thought of it he was rather slow to answer, but at last he said, 'If I must tell you, I did not like it at all; there was no Christ in your sermon.'"

"No," answered the young man, "because I did not see that Christ was in the text."

"Oh!" said the old minister, "but do you not know that from every little town and village and tiny hamlet in England there is a road leading to London? Whenever I get hold of a text, I say to myself, 'There is a road from here to Jesus Christ, and I mean to keep on His track till I get to Him.'"

"Well," said the young man, "but suppose you are preaching from a text that says nothing about Christ?" "Then I will go over hedge and ditch but what I will get at Him."

– Charles Spurgeon, *The Soul Winner*

BREAKOUT

Resilient Faith

Psalm 126:1-6

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

I. Suffering Has a Deadline (v. 18-19)

II. Suffering Has a Beginning (v. 20-21)

III. Suffering Has a Soundtrack (v. 22-27)

IV. Suffering Has a Purpose (v. 28-30)

V. Suffering Has a Conqueror (v. 31-39)

Scripture References

The Hope God Can Bring in Suffering

Romans 8:18-39

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 21:3-4

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep,¹⁷ then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I. The Complexity of Suffering

A. Suffering affects us pervasively

B. Suffering affects us differently

II. The Comfort of Christ

A. He welcomes your wrestling

B. He shares your sorrows

C. He takes your place

Scripture References & Quotes

The Comfort God Can Bring in Suffering

John 11:1-53

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the

place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

"How is faith to endure, O God, when you allow all this scraping and tearing on us? You have allowed rivers of blood to flow, mountains of suffering to pile up, sobs to become humanity's song—all without lifting a finger that we could see. You have allowed bonds of love beyond number to be painfully snapped. If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself. We strain to hear. But instead of hearing an answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn. Through our tears we see the tears of God."
Nicholas Wolterstorff

*“...it is often the case, as all saints know, that fellowship with the Father and the Son is most vivid and sweet,
and Christian joy is greatest, when the cross is heaviest.” – J.I. Packer*

I. Where our plans end... (v. 22-24a)

II. God’s work of transformation begins (v. 24b-32)

A. God increases your endurance (v. 24b)

B. God strengthens your grip (v. 25-26, 32)

C. God turns you into someone new (v. 27-28, 31)

D. God brings purpose to your pain (v. 29-30)

Scripture References & Quotes

The Change God Can Bring in Suffering

Genesis 32:22-32

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

"With patient wisdom (for God always waits for the right time) God led Jacob to the point at which He could stamp the required sense of impotent helplessness indelibly (permanently) and decisively on Jacob's soul ... And now God's time had come ... Jacob had hitherto been self-reliant, believing himself to be more than a match for anything that might come, but now he felt his complete inability to handle things, and he knew with blinding, blazing certainty that never again dare he trust himself to look after himself and to carve out his destiny. Never again dare he try to live by his wits." – J.I. Packer

"There was no particle of self-reliance left in Jacob by the time God had finished with him. The nature of Jacob's prevailing with God was simply that he had held onto God while God weakened him and wrought in him the spirit of submission and self distrust ... In principle, God had won his battle with Jacob, and won it for good. Jacob never lapsed back into his old ways. Limping Jacob had learned his lesson. The wisdom of God had done its work." – J.I. Packer

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.” – Hebrews 5:7

I. Explained Pain

II. Expressed Protest

III. Earnest Petition

IV. Eventual Praise

Scripture References

Wrestling with God in Suffering

Psalm 88

- ¹ O Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
- ² Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!
- ³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
- ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,
- ⁵ like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
- ⁶ You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
- ⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah*
- ⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
- ⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call upon you, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to you.
- ¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you? *Selah*
- ¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
- ¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
- ¹³ But I, O Lord, cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- ¹⁴ O Lord, why do you cast my soul away?
Why do you hide your face from me?
- ¹⁵ Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.
- ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dreadful assaults destroy me.
- ¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
they close in on me together.
- ¹⁸ You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.

Explained Pain

- "Every night I flood my bed with tears." Psalm 6:6
"I am poured out like water." Psalm 22:14
"The troubles of my heart are enlarged." Psalm 25:17
"The flood sweeps over me." Psalm 69:2
"You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak." Psalm 77:4

Expressed Protest

- "Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Psalm 10:1
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Psalm 22:1
"Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?" Psalm 74:11
"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6
"How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?" Psalm 89:46

Earnest Petition

- "Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted." Psalm 10:12
"Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help." Psalm 22:11
"Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you." Psalm 25:20
"Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy." Psalm 64:1
"Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!" Psalm 143:9

Eventual Praise

- "But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." Psalm 13:5
"But for you, O Lord, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer." Psalm 38:15
"Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more!" Psalm 39:13
"Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy." Psalm 43:4
"Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!" Psalm 126:5

“... God is the center of attraction in the Kingdom of glory; so that to lose touch with God inevitably means to stop in the midst of the race towards heaven.” – Geerhardus Vos

I. Support the Weak and Wounded (v. 12-13)

A. By helping others

B. By allowing yourself to be helped

II. Strive for Peace and Purity (v. 14-17)

A. By taking responsibility for the doubter (v. 15a)

B. By taking responsibility for the defiant (v. 15b)

C. By taking responsibility for the indulgent (v. 16-17)

Scripture References

Walking With Others Through Suffering

Hebrews 12:12-17

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Deuteronomy 29:18-19

“Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.”

ARISE, LORD

VERSE 1

Why would you allow all this pain?
I know you have the power to take it away
I'm having trouble trusting your plan
It's hard to see how this will work for good in the end

In my doubt I'm crying out in faith
As I hurt please don't turn away

CHORUS

Arise, Lord
See the tears in my eyes, Lord
Hear the pain of my cries, Lord
Will you arise?

VERSE 2

What if it's not well with my soul?
When peace stays at a distance and the grief won't let go
You promised you would comfort the crushed
I'm burdened and I'm broken, will you come lift me up?

In my doubt I'm crying out in faith
As I hurt please don't turn away

VERSE 3

I trust you in the midst of the pain
Your love is always steadfast though my spirit is faint
I'm trying to rejoice in the storm
I need your grace and mercy for the strength to endure

I turn my eyes unto Jesus Christ in faith
He'll overturn all the hurt one day

WAKE UP JESUS

VERSE

Jesus, when you gonna wake up?
When you gonna wake up and calm this raging sea?
Jesus, when you gonna wake up?
When you gonna wake up?
How can you sleep when we're in need?

CHORUS

Just one word from the maker and all the waves be still
Just one touch from the healer and all will be made well

TAG

Won't you rise up? Won't you rise up?
Won't you rise up? Won't you rise up?

O GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PLEA

VERSE 1

O God, we've seen Your faithfulness
You brought us from the wilderness
But now our faith is frail and weak
O God of mercy, hear our plea

VERSE 2

When will You comfort our distress?
How long until the promised rest?
We cry to You from deepest need
O God of mercy, hear our plea

CHORUS

Abba, Father, our Redeemer
In this barren land be our hope and strength
Until glory we will trust and sing
Abba, Father, hear our plea

VERSE 3

We join creation's longing groan
To take Your ransomed children home
For then the eyes of all will see
The God of mercy hears our plea

TAG

For then the eyes of all will see
The God of mercy hears our plea

PSALM 34 (TASTE AND SEE)

VERSE 1

I sought the Lord and he answered me
And delivered me from every fear
Those who look on him are radiant
They'll never be ashamed
They'll never be ashamed

VERSE 2

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me
And saved me from my enemies
The Son of God surrounds His saints
He will deliver them
He will deliver them

CHORUS

Magnify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name together
Glorify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name forever

VERSE 3

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good
Oh blessed is he who hides in Him
Oh fear the Lord, oh all you saints
He'll give you everything
He'll give you everything

BRIDGE

Let us bless the Lord every day and night
Never ending praise may our incense rise

TAG

Oh taste and see that the Lord is good
He'll give you everything
He'll give you everything

BREAKOUT

Lost in Translation

“By the word culture we have to understand the sum total of ways of living developed by a group of human beings and handed on from generation to generation. Central to culture is language. The language of a people provides the means by which they express their way of perceiving things and of coping with them.” – Lesslie Newbigin

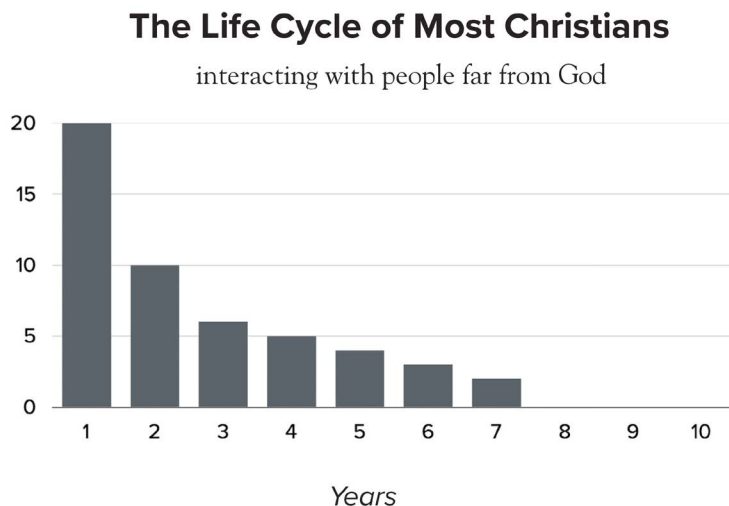
I. The Need for Translation

- A. False worship ought to provoke
- B. Cultural differences are real
- C. “Christianese” is confusing
- D. Christians have a bad rap

II. The Principles of Translation

- A. Enter
- B. Explore
- C. Expose
- D. Evangelize

III. The Practice of Translating Today



Scripture Reference & Quote

How to Share the Gospel Story Without Confusing Your Friends

Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

*“‘Inside out’ begins by entering a person’s social imagination and engaging their ideas from within... we need to learn to step into their story before pointing them to the way out.”
Joshua Chatraw*

I. Daniel Strange's 4 E's (from *Making Faith Magnetic*)

II. Identity



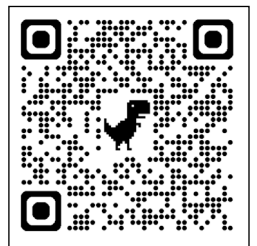
III. Happiness



*“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe,
and of the mystery of human life.” – Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy*

I. Freedom

II. Progress



Scripture References & Quote

Freedom and Progress

“An ideology of extreme personal freedom can be dangerous because it encourages people to leave homes, jobs, cities, and marriages in search of personal and professional fulfillment, thereby breaking the relationships that were probably their best hope for such fulfillment.”

– Jonathan Haidt

John 8:34-37

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”
Theodore Parker

Revelation 21:3-5

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

I. Q&A with Lincoln & Andy

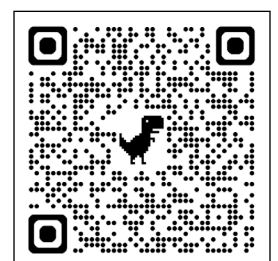
II. Talking & Listening to People

III. Conversation Practice

IV. Application in Evangelism: Explore & Expose

V. Application in Discipleship: Recognize & Resist

*Do you want to dive even deeper?
Lincoln & Andy have assembled a resource doc of videos, articles, books, and audio, scan the QR code:*



BREAKOUT

Vocation

“Through our work we please our Maker and love our neighbor.”

Daniel Doriani, Work

I. We Were Made to Work, and That’s a Good Thing (Genesis 2:5-7, 1:26-28, 2:15-17)

What is work?

- A. Exercising “dominion”
- B. Cultivating
- C. Keeping

II. But It’s Impacted by the Fall (Exodus 20:8-11)

- A. Underworking
- B. Overworking

III. Christ Has and is Redeeming It (Ephesians 2:8-10)

- A. Loving God (Colossians 3:22-24)
- B. Loving our neighbor
 - 1. With the fruit of our work
 - 2. With the work itself
 - 3. Through rightly ordering our effort (loving our nearest neighbors)

Scripture References

A Theology of Work

Genesis 2:5-8

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and **there was no man to work the ground**,⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:15-17

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it**.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Colossians 3:22–24

Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

1 Timothy 5:14

“So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.”

Additional Resources

- *Work* by Daniel Doriani
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steven Corbett
- *Entrepreneurship for Human Flourishing* by Chris Horst and Peter Greer (free electronic book available online!)
- *Durable Trades* by Rory Groves

*"Every truth reveals the omnipresence, eternity, immutability, omnipotence, and beauty of God."
Vern Poythress*

I. Education is God's Discipleship

II. Education Trains You to Love God

A. Behold the wonders of God's Creation

B. Work hard as unto Christ

III. Education Trains You to Love Others

Scripture References

Don't Waste Your Education

Ephesians 6:4-9

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

"What's the biggest thing you've asked God for this week?"

Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators

I. Selfish Ambition is Ambition that is Selfish (and that's bad) (James 3:14-16)

II. Godly Ambition is Ambition That is Godly (Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 15:18-20)

- Godly ambition is a passion for doing as much good as possible for others for the glory of God.

III. The Key to Godly Ambition is Remembering the Character of the Master (Matthew 25:14-30)

IV. A Tool for Developing Godly Ambition (M.A.P.)

Motivation: what gets your blood pumping?

Abilities: what is within your realistic abilities, or abilities you could develop (Matt 25:15)?

Pattern: do you have a tested consistency in doing this?

Scripture References

Godly Ambition is Godly

James 3:14-16

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Romans 15:18-20

¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience...¹⁹ so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ **and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation...**"

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received

what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

1 Corinthians 7:17, 20-21

¹⁷ Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches...

²⁰ Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

I. The Body is One

II. Counting Ourselves Out

III. How God Wired You to Work

Discussion Questions:

Where are you already working in your geniuses?

Where have you been grinding away in a frustration?

How could your genius shape your vocation, your fellowship, or your family this year?

1 Corinthians 12:4-22

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...

Scripture References

Discerning Your Giftings

1 Corinthians 1:10-12

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

¹⁷ But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹ for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹ For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

The 6 Types of Working Genius

The Genius of Wonder is all about asking questions and thinking about why things are the way they are. People with this genius get energy and joy from thoughtfully observing the world around them and contemplating whether there's a different or better way to do things. Almost every idea or project starts with Wonder because it provokes people to think about things they might not have considered before.

The Genius of Invention is all about being creative and coming up with new ideas to solve problems or deal with issues. Inventors are often the first to propose something new because they have a knack for thinking outside the box. They get energy and joy when coming up with ideas from scratch, especially when there's no obvious solution.

The Genius of Discernment is all about having good judgment and relying on gut feelings and instincts. Discerners have a gift for recognizing patterns and get energy and joy from evaluating whether an idea is solid or if it needs some tweaking. They can be trusted to pick out the best ideas while avoiding the ones that aren't so great.

The Genius of Galvanizing is all about getting people on board for projects, activities, and ideas. People with this genius get energy and joy from inspiring and persuading others to take action. It's easy to spot a galvanizer because they naturally share their excitement with others in an effort to generate momentum.

The Genius of Enablement is all about providing others with the help they need for any given project or activity. People with this genius get joy and energy from making the people around them feel supported and have a gift for doing so in just the right way. As a result, they are often the first to volunteer when somebody asks for assistance.

The Genius of Tenacity is all about pushing tasks across the finish line and getting things done. People with Tenacity get joy and energy from reaching goals, meeting standards, and checking things off their lists. They are highly motivated to work through obstacles to ensure results are achieved on time.

1-Minute Working Genius Assessment

THINK ABOUT THE LAST 2-3 TIMES IN WHICH YOU'VE SAID AT THE END OF A LONG DAY, "WOW, THAT WAS A GREAT DAY!"
WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WERE YOU DOING THAT DAY? (CHOOSE 2)



WONDERING: You pondered possibilities / considered foundational questions.



INVENTING: You created new things or solved real-world problems.



DISCERNING: You evaluated existing solutions or got to bring real problems to light.



GALVANIZING: You rallied people to a cause or motivated them to do something.



ENABLING: You helped people in practical ways, directly or indirectly.



TENACIOUSLY GETTING THINGS DONE: You checked SO MANY THINGS off the list!

MY 2 GENIUSES ARE:



**LEARN ABOUT
YOUR PAIRING**



The Six Types of Working Genius was created and is owned by The Table Group Inc. Visit WorkingGenius.com to learn more about Working Genius or pay to take the full assessment.

*⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

Psalm 127:4-5

Main Point: God loves families and wants to build his kingdom through your future family.

I. Families Made

- A. Image bearers made
- B. Unity made
- C. Roles made

II. Families Broken

- A. Image bearers broken
- B. Unity broken
- C. Roles broken

III. Families Restored

- A. Restoration through families
- B. Restoration of families
 - 1. Marriage
 - 2. Children

Scripture References

A Vision For Family

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Genesis 3:1-19

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who

was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Ephesians 5:22-27

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Bandit: "Are you a hard worker?"

Bluey: "Oh, definitely not."

Bandit: "And what about you?"

Bingo: "Ribbit!"

Bandit: "Oh, we've never hired a frog before. But I've got a good feeling about you. You're both hired!"