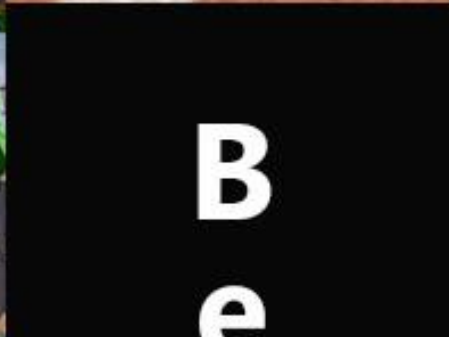
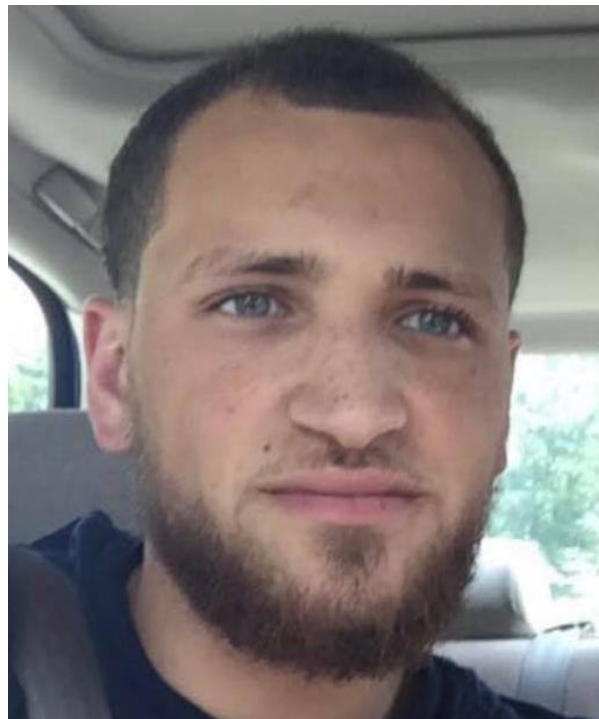


The 12 Most Important Chapters in the Bible



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For Elijah
1997-2018

Be-LIVE the Way of Jesus: Our Story in God's Story

In the winter of 2019-2020, I was still learning to live with the grief of our son Elijah's violent and tragic death a year and a half earlier. The grief enveloped me and affected every area of my life, especially my faith. The aftermath of Elijah's death swept through me like a hurricane, exposing and purging every aspect of my faith too weak to withstand the unyielding truths of life. As a pastor and as a follower of the Way of Christ, this purging affected not only me, but also the faith lives of the wonderful congregation I served at the time, St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Odessa, Delaware.

Throughout that wilderness season, I leaned hard into friendship and community, trusting more of my whole self to the God I experienced in others. That winter, I stumbled upon the idea of an entirely new way of talking about the life of a follower of Jesus. **As I prepared to lead our confirmation class of nine youth, I planned to center our conversation on the 12 key stories in the Bible that demonstrate the values that shape a child of God and follower of Christ.** I came to see these values as descriptors of **what we mean we use the word, God.** To navigate life by their light reveals the image of God in us all.

Christianity is a way of life, not a list of ideas to which we give intellectual assent. Originally, the word "believe" meant the way you lived, rather than concepts to which you give intellectual assent: BE-LIVE. I pray that in this study you will explore what *lived* faith means, sharing stories of the ways you have experienced God, primarily in the awe of nature and strange and wonderful coincidences that give us all hope for some direction, purpose, and meaning in life.

Peace!



Values in Life

The 12 Most Important Chapters in the Bible

1. Bless – Genesis 12 (God Blesses Us On the Way)Page 4
2. Deliver – Exodus 3 (God Calls Moses to Free God's People).....Page 6
3. Witness – John 20 (Jesus Sends Mary to Preach Good News).....Page 8
4. Accompany – Psalm 139 (God is Always With Us)Page 10
5. Redeem – Isaiah 53 (Love Serves, Suffers, and Saves),.....Page 12
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7. Celebrate – Luke 15 (God Finds Us)Page 16
8. Prepare – Matthew 25 (We Find God)Page 18
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10. Demonstrate – 1 John 4 (Our God of Love in Action)Page 22
11. Grow – Revelation 2-3 (Tough Love Letters)Page 24
12. Launch – John 13-14 (Jesus' Way to Serve, Suffer, and Save)Page 28

God Blesses Us On the Way

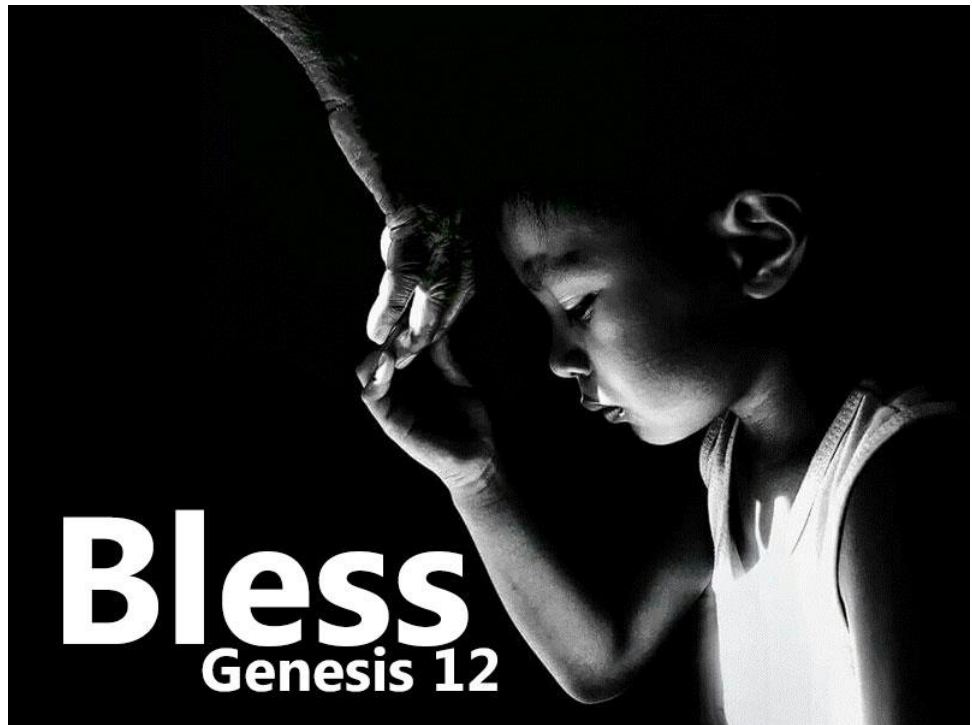
¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old

when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance; ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account." ¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female slaves, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh called Abram, and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her, and be gone." ²⁰ And Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning him; and they set him on the way, with his wife and all that he had.



Week 1 (Bless – Genesis 12) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. What do you think was the main reason Abram was willing to pick up and take off into the unknown? (a.) Challenge: he was ready to take on a new adventure; (b.) Reward: the Lord promised him some good stuff; (c.) Obedience: God told him to go; (d.) Discontent: he was restless; (e.) Faith: what God promises and orders, you do.
2. What command and promises does God give Abram? With what qualifications?
3. What is the means of fulfillment of God's promises to Abram (see v. 7 and 11:30)?
4. If actions reveal character, who is Abram?

Game (1:00-1:15): Trust Walk – Blindfolded Obstacle Course and/or I'm Going on a Trip and I'm Taking... (ABC's)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Council of Elrond \(2\)](#) from The Fellowship of the Ring

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. What is the longest car trip you can remember taking with your family?
2. What is the hardest move you ever had to make? What did you learn along the way?
3. Where is home for you? When have you left home? What for? What did you take with you?
4. Who has traveled with you on your journey of faith?
5. Where would you like to be living and what would you like to be doing 10 years from now?
6. If God called you to move away from home, how do you think you would react?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. Describe a time when you made a significant, personal sacrifice in response to God's direction.
2. Of the promises God makes to Abram, which appeal to you and why? (Would you rather be blessed or be a blessing?)
3. How have you learned to hear God's call on your life? (a.) through devotional time; (b.) by trying to cultivate my spiritual gifts; (c.) by seeking advice from Christian friends; (d.) by trusting God for help when I face new challenges; (e.) other _____.
4. To what (place, people, priority) might God be calling you now? How is that calling connected to the larger story involving your family? How are you pulling up stakes for the journey?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [Journey to the Past](#) (Anastasia)

God Calls Moses to Free God's People

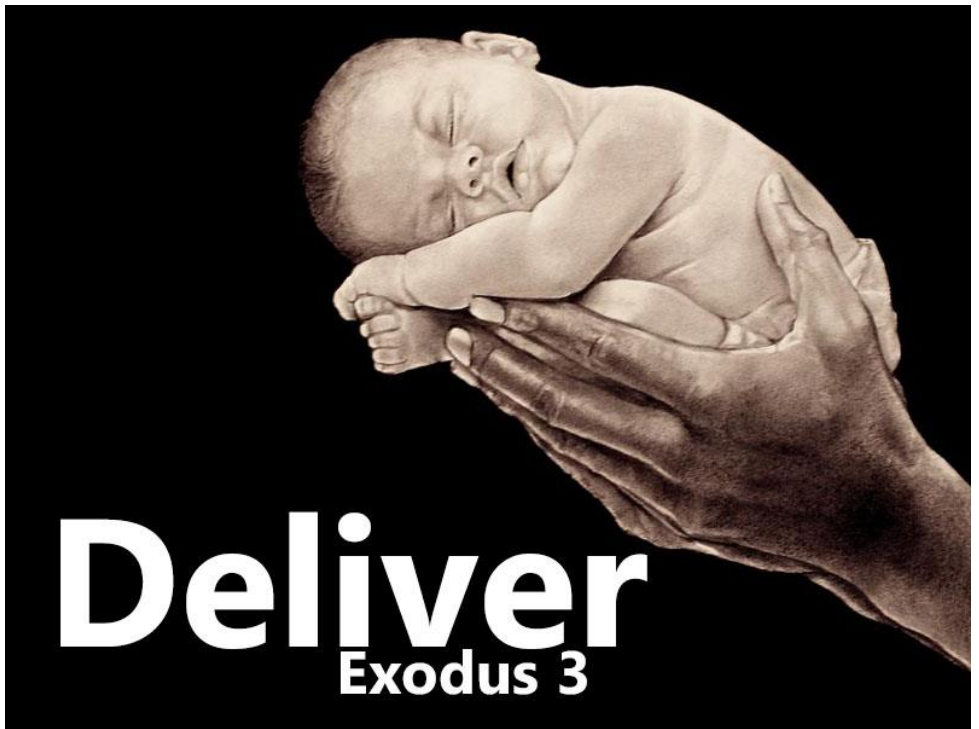
¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."^[a] He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,^[b] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

¹⁶ Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.' ¹⁸ They will listen to your voice; and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; let us now go a three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹ I know, however, that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will perform in it; after that he will let you go. ²¹ I will bring this people into such favor with the Egyptians that, when you go, you will not go empty-handed; ²² each woman shall ask her neighbor and any woman living in the neighbor's house for jewelry of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; and so you shall plunder the Egyptians."



Week 2 (Deliver – Exodus 3) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Why do you think God used the burning bush to get Moses' attention (vv. 1-3)? What if God had simply begun speaking instead? What is the resulting effect on Moses (vv. 5-6)? What relationship with Moses had God initiated here (vv. 1-6)?
2. What does God ask Moses to do for Israel (vv. 7-10)? Why?
3. How does Moses reply (v. 11ff)? Is Moses more uncertain of himself or God? Why? What range of emotion might Moses have had in this encounter with God?
4. What reassurances does God give Moses? How does "I AM" uniquely designate God?
5. Who is responsible for carrying out God's plan (vv. 16-22)? What is the part to be played by God? Moses? The elders of Israel? The king of Egypt? The Hebrew women?
6. What motivates God to save people? Why wait so long? What needs to take place first?

Game (1:00-1:15): Museum - Select one person from your group to be the museum night guard. This person will stand facing the wall while the rest of the group is on the other side of the room, with a hand or foot touching the wall. The goal of the game is for the museum to "come alive" and try to sneak up and tag the guard. At any point, the guard can turn around and everyone must freeze. If the guard catches anyone moving, the whole museum returns to start. You can also split the group in half to see who can reach the night guard first or let it be an individual challenge. If done as a large group, it's a good lead-in to talking about the consequences of group-think or being influenced by others.

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [John Legend – Glory](#) (Video with Selma montage)

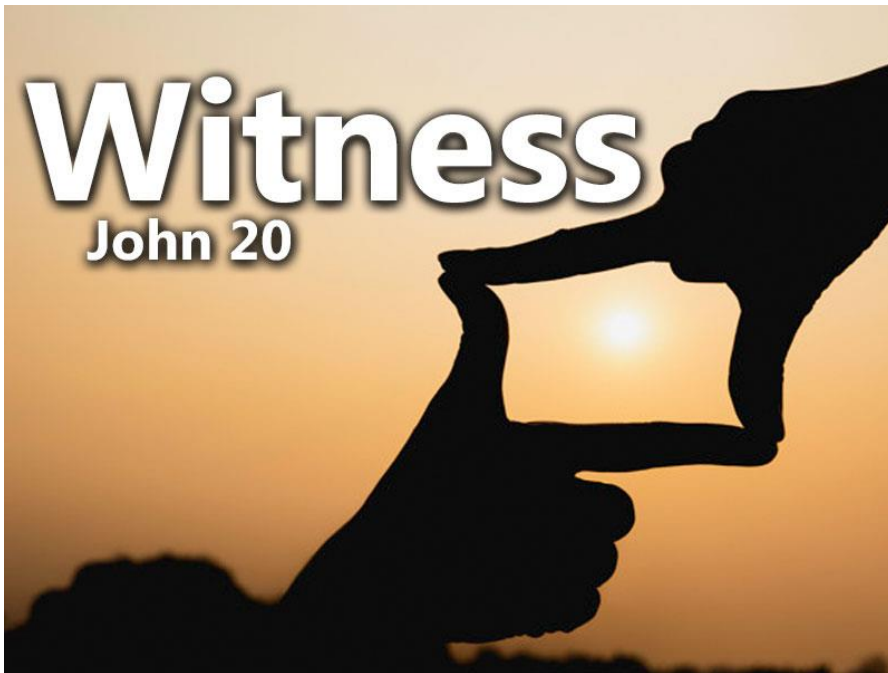
Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. What does it take to get you up in the morning?
2. On Monday mornings, what is "business as usual" for you? When you then see, hear or smell something strange going on there, when do you do about it?
3. In taking on new work, do you "bite off more than you can chew"? Do you "chomp at the bit"? Why?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. Where have you had your most significant experience with God? Recall an event in your life when you were "standing on holy ground." What was sacred about that moment? How has that moment served to establish a right relationship between God and you?
2. If God were to identify as "I AM _____," how would God fill in the blank for you?
3. Have you ever felt called by God to do a particular task? What task? How did you respond?
4. What would God have to do to get your attention and commitment to take on a new mission in life? How would you likely respond if God called you by name?
5. What would your "land of milk and honey" be like? To get there, what route do you imagine having to take? What "king" stands in your way? What "elders" will you consult?
6. Do you think God will come through for you as God promised to Moses? Why?
7. How would you describe your relationship with God right now? (a.) a burning bush; (b.) a flickering shrub; (c.) a few warm coals from the past – or someone else's fire; (d.) ashes in the wind; (e.) other: _____.

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [Deliver Us](#) (The Prince of Egypt)



Jesus Sends Mary to Preach Good News

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.

He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,^[b] “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[c]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Week 3 (Witness – John 20) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Put yourself in the place of Mary. What is your emotional state two days after the crucifixion? (a.) lonely; (b.) deserted by God; (c.) angry at God; (d.) like her heart was crushed; (e.) in shock – unable to believe what had happened; (f.) depressed – unsure how to make it through the day.
2. Why do you visit the tomb so early? Realizing the body is gone, how do you react?
3. What do you think was the disciples' general reaction to Mary's news of an empty tomb? (a.) "This woman is crazy with grief; (b.) "What have they done with him?" (c.) "We better check this out!" (d.) "Maybe he has risen!" (e.) other: _____.
4. Would you have responded more like Mary or more like the other disciples in this story? Why?
5. Does Mary appear to be quietly or more openly grieving? What finally breaks through her grief and confusion (v. 16)?
6. What term (v. 17) does Jesus use for his disciples here? What is new their relationship from now on (see John 15:15)?

Game (1:00-1:15): Assemble Lego Creations (one person at a time to see the model and communicate to the group).

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Ralph and Vanellope say Goodbye](#) (Ralph Breaks the Internet)

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. When something upsets you, who is the first one you tell?
2. What have been the hardest goodbyes in your life?
3. When was the last time you visited a cemetery? How did you feel when you were there?
4. Growing up, what was your favorite thing about Easter?
5. Describe a time when you mistook someone for the wrong person.

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. When was the last time you had a good cry? (a.) recently; (b.) it's been a while; (c.) I can't remember the last time.
2. When someone you love dies, how does the resurrection of Jesus help you to deal with your pain?
3. What is your proof that Jesus rose from the dead? (a.) I have peace beyond understanding; (b.) the spirit of Jesus lives in me; (c.) I am confident in my salvation; (d.) I can love the unlovable; (e.) I'm not sure; (f.) other: _____.
4. What circumstances cause you to seek Jesus and his companionship? (a.) difficult times; (b.) loneliness; (c.) the loss of a loved one; (d.) a great worship experience; (e.) the beauty of nature; (f.) Christian fellowship; (g.) other: _____.
5. How has Jesus spoken your name in a time of grief? How did it affect you?
6. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your brother?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [Into the Unknown](#) (Frozen 2)



God is Always With Us

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully

made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the
sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.
¹⁹ O that you would kill the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from
me—
²⁰ those who speak of you maliciously,
and lift themselves up against you for evil!
²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against
you?
²² I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting

Week 4 (Accompany – Psalm 139) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Read this Psalm aloud.
2. How does the Psalm writer feel about God's total knowledge of their life (vv. 1-6)? Restricted or protected? Free or oppressed?
3. Why does the Psalmist bother to pray (v.4)? Are they free to choose their own actions (v.6)?
4. Why does the Psalm writer think about escaping God (vv.7-12)? What directions are mentioned in vv. 8-9)? What do verses 11-12 say about God's ability to transform the most hopeless situations?
5. Ancient peoples, contemporary to this Psalm writer, spoke of childbearing in mysterious terms (vv. 13-16). How has a better scientific understanding of the process of conception and birth added or taken away from the mystery that is life?
6. What do you think of the Psalm writer's conclusion in verse 16?
7. To what thoughts does the Psalm writer refer in vv. 17-18)? What thought bothers them in particular (v. 19)?
8. How does the Psalm writer's expression of hatred make you feel (vv. 21-22)? How is it related to the celebration of God's having formed (presumably) each person in their mother's womb, even the persons toward whom the Psalmist expresses hatred?
9. Why do you think the Psalmist invites God to carefully examine (and perhaps expose) their thoughts? How does this show an awareness of their own limitation, in light of the limitations of others? The Psalms often record a kind of transformation. What transformation has happened here?

Game (1:00-1:15): Race in pairs with balloons (between heads, backs, shoulders)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Final scene](#) from Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. If you found out that Alexa was reporting all of the conversations in your home, what would you immediately stop saying and doing? (JK, you don't have to answer that out loud, but if you have an answer – as all of us do – then think about this question: Since you witness everything you do, say, or think, can you identify some things that are probably unhealthy for you to witness yourself doing and saying and thinking? Think about it =)
2. Where have you experienced something you would call God's presence in nature?
3. Where have you experienced God's presence in a wonderful coincidence?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. What feelings about yourself and about your value to God and others does this Psalm inspire?
2. What does this Psalm have to say to persons struggling with disabling conditions?
3. How does this Psalm describe the experience of God's presence in life?
4. Is there a dark situation in your life at the moment? How can you bring that situation into the warm, healing gaze of God's love and grace?
5. How does God ordain all of your days (Jeremiah 1:5)? What does this promise tell you about the choices you make in life?
6. In what ways do you check your motives for the choices you make? How are the internal and external voices (of course correction and feedback) related?
7. How do relationships in your life resemble your relationship with God?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [You've Got a Friend in Me](#) (Toy Story) by Claire Ryann and Dad



Love Serves, Suffers, and Saves

¹ Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at
him,

nothing in his appearance that we should
desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with
infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no
account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us

whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is
silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹ They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with
pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his

days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make

many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will allot him a portion with the

great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

Week 5 (Redeem – Isaiah 53) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. This is the last of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah (this one actually begins at 52:13; see also 42:1-7, 49:1-6, and 50:4-9). If you had grown up next to this Servant, how would you describe his childhood in a podcast interview (53:2-3)? How does that contrast with God’s perspective of the Servant (53:2a)?
2. If all you knew about the Servant’s adult life was summed up in 53:7-9, what would you assume must have happened later in their life (see also 50:6)?
3. What is the purpose/meaning of the Servant’s suffering (vv. 53:4-6)?
4. What do you think is the meaning of the paradox between the death of the Servant (v. 9) and their seeing the light of life (v. 11)?
5. Verses 7, 10, and 12 use sacrificial imagery to speak of the Servant. How does that make the death more than a martyr’s death, or even an innocent victim of violence?

Game (1:00-1:15): Sit Down Together, Untangle, and/or Pass the hoola hoop

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Final scene \(Act of True Love\)](#) from Frozen

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. In school, who is the kid everyone picks on? Why? How do you feel about it? And what can you do about it?
2. In what circumstances would you consider giving blood, bone marrow, or one of your kidneys for another person?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. The New Testament freely applies this song to Jesus (Matthew 27:38, 57-60; John 1:29; Acts 8:32-34; 1 Peter 2:22-23). From this song, how would you explain the meaning of Jesus’ death and resurrection? How does it bring reassurance to you of God’s forgiveness and love?
2. Paul applies 53:1 to the ministry of a Christian (Romans 10:16). How have you experienced rejection of others because of your faith in Jesus? When has obedience to God ever left you feeling “cut off from the land of the living” (v.8)?
3. Does knowing God’s approval give you courage to serve, even when others turn against you? How so?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [He Lives in You](#) (The Lion King Musical)

Hope

Ezekiel 37



Can Dry Bones Live?

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been

commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For Judah, and the Israelites associated with it"; then take another stick and write on it, "For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it"; ¹⁷ and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. ¹⁸ And when your people say to you, "Will you not show us what you mean by these?" ¹⁹ say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am about to take the stick of Joseph (which is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with it; and I will put the stick of Judah upon it, and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand. ²⁰ When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, ²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen,^[f] and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴ My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. ²⁵ They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. ²⁷ My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and

they shall be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations shall know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

Week 6 (Hope – Ezekiel 37) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Imagine the valley full of bones. Why might their dryness be significant (vv. 2,4)?
2. Hebrew uses the word “ruach” for “wind,” “breath” and “spirit.” How are these three related (vv. 5, 9, 14)?
3. What are the two steps in raising these dead (vv. 7-8, 10)? Why not do it all at once?
4. How are the exiles feeling (v. 11)? What is God telling them about the future of: Israel? The individual? Humanity?

Game (1:00-1:15): Find Hope Egg Hunt (w/ and w/out kisses inside) and/or Musical Chairs (with enough and too few chairs); We could also play Walk & Stop

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [I Am Home](#) from Freedom Writers (or [Firebird Suite](#) from Fantasia 2000)

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. Have you ever seen a skeleton? Where? Was it real bone or imitation? How did it make you feel?
2. What little things can raise your spirits on a gloomy day? Where do you go when you're depressed?
3. When have you lost hope and witnessed things turn around completely (at a performance, sport event, in your family, at school, or at church, or in a friendship)? How do you draw on that experience now?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. How would you describe your life currently: (a) Dry bones? (b) No backbone? (c) Into the flesh? (d) Full of hot air? (e) Standing tall?
2. Has God raised you from “the dead”? When and how did it happen?
3. Are you “filled with the spirit”? What does that mean for you? How does it happen?
4. How can group members help to raise each other's spirits?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [I Know Where I've Been](#) (Hairspray)



God Finds Us

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and 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 of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ 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 in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout 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 to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up 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 like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then 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 slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But

we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

Week 7 (Celebrate – Luke 15) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Who is in Jesus’ audience? How do they respond to him?
2. How does Jesus’ parable of the sheep relate to the muttering of the Pharisees? What is Jesus’s point (v. 7)?
3. How do you picture the woman searching for her money (vv. 8–9)? What is Jesus’s point here?
4. From your own perspective, what caused the younger brother to want to leave home? Was he ready?
5. If you had been the father, would you have given him his inheritance early? Would you have gone to look for the son in a “far country”?
6. What prevented the older brother from coming to the homecoming party?
7. If you could invite one of these two brothers to your group, who would you invite? Why? Who is going to make a better parent – the younger or the older son?

Game (1:00-1:15): Sardines!

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Reunion scene](#) from A Dog’s Way Home

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. Which of your possessions were recently lost? Recently found?
2. Where are you in the birth order of your family – youngest, oldest, in the middle?
3. How old were you when you stayed (overnight) away from home for the first time? Where did you go? What did you do? How did you feel? Were you ready emotionally to spend the night away from home?
4. Who is the “obedient one” in your family? Who is the “wild one”?
5. What is the biggest party or celebration your family has ever thrown?
6. Are you more of a “home-body” or an “on-the-go” person?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. Of the two brothers, which reminds you of your own story?
2. Where are you right now in your relationship with your parents?
3. Spiritually, where are you in your relationship with God right now? (a.) Never left home; (b.) Still at home, but feeling tempted to check out the “distant country”; (c.) In the distant country, trying to have a good time; (d.) starting to realize I’m in a pigpen; (e.) nervously heading back to God, but not really knowing what to expect; (f.) just beginning to feel God’s forgiveness; (g.) gradually feeling God’s acceptance; (h.) celebrating with the family of God; (i.) other: _____.
4. How do you feel about sharing your spiritual journey with this group?
5. If you had to go to one of the two brothers with the deep personal problem, who would you choose?
6. What is it going to take to get you to the party?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [I Can’t Let You Throw Yourself Away](#) (from Toy Story 4)



We Find God

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give

us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter 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 replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and

you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;’⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Week 8 (Prepare – Matthew 25) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Does this story seem more like a parable or a prophecy? Why?
2. How are the people divided into sheep and goats? (a.) Their beliefs; (b.) Their actions; (c.) Their character; (d.) Their treatment of others.
3. List the six actions Jesus will use as the basis of judgment. What kinds of acts are these? For whom are they done now and ultimately (v. 40)?
4. How are those who don’t do the acts and those who do them similar? Different?
5. What does this section teach about Christian responsibility? Who are “the least of these brothers of mine”?
6. Is the judgment note in the section consistent with your view of Jesus? Why or why not?

Game (1:00-1:15): The Best Game (empathy)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [What Do You See?](#) Scene from Patch Adams

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. Where do you keep your prized possessions?
2. What little prize from the past have you kept because it was special to you?
3. What do you prize the most?
4. What is one of the biggest surprises you have ever experienced?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. What person has always been there for you when you needed them? (a.) My mother; (b.) My father; (c.) A grandparent; (d.) Another family member; (e.) Close friend; (f.) Other: _____.
2. What kind of people do you have the most compassion for? (a.) Homeless; (b.) Sick or disabled; (c.) Lonely; (d.) Refugees; (e.) Elderly; (f.) Starving; (g.) Prisoners; (h.) Other: _____.
3. In these six areas, where do you find yourself serving most naturally? In which areas do you have the most trouble reaching out?
4. When have you been hungry, thirsty, a stranger, in need of clothes, sick or imprisoned, and someone reached out to you? How did it feel?
5. If Jesus were to come today and evaluate your life, what would he say about how you have “looked after” him by caring for others? (a.) “You’re doing great!” (b.) “You’re doing a lot better than you used to.” (c.) “You used to do much better.” (d.) “You’re doing the best you can.” (e.) “You’re in big trouble!”
6. What is something this group could do to help someone in need?
7. What is one thing you would like the group to pray about?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [Strangers Like Me](#) (from Tarzan)



1 Corinthians 12-13

Give

The Gift of Love

Chapter 12 ¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters,^[b] I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common

good. ⁸ 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 discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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 the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would 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 would 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 the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 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 members, 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 members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Chapter 13 ¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Week 9 (Give – 1 Corinthians 12-13) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. Verses 12:4-6 indicate that some people from Corinth felt certain gifts were better than others. Have you ever encountered a similar attitude? In yourself?
2. How is the diversity of spiritual gifts related to the way we talk about God as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit?
3. Why is verse 12:12 such a good illustration of verse 12:13?
4. What might be a good example of a weaker (but indispensable) part of the body of Christ (verse 12:22)? Of a less honorable part of the body of Christ (verse 12:23)? Of a more respectable member of the body of Christ (verse 12:24)? Does each member receive the treatment they should at our church? How could you help us do better?
5. From Paul's rhetorical questions in verses 12:29-30, what is another problem in the church in Corinth?
6. Given the Corinthians' quest for spiritual gifts and power, what is Paul's point in verses 13:1-3? What actions have you taken that have become a substitute for loving others? How did it feel?
7. How have you experienced love like Paul describes in verses 13:4-8? What have you done lately that is an example of what love is not?

Game (1:00-1:15): Eric Laws' Money Game (with candy)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [I Believe in Love scene](#) from Wonder Woman

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. What are some of your earliest memories of the Church?
2. What was the most fulfilling job/task you ever had?
3. What is one skill you secretly possess?
4. What is one of your favorite love songs?
5. When in your life have you felt most loved?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

6. Of the spiritual gifts listed in verses 12:8-10, which have you received? If you were to define a spiritual gift as a God-given ability to bless others, what spiritual gift do you see in your life (or that others have celebrated in your life) that is not on this list?
7. How have you used the gift of your life to bless or to help others? Have you ever known someone who keeps the gift of their life to themselves?
8. What attitudes toward spiritual gifts do we have at St. Paul's: (a.) For Pastors only? (b.) For all believers? (c.) For the good of others? (d.) For the first century church only? (e.) For super Christians only? (f.) The more mature the Christian, the more and better spiritual gifts in their life?
9. How do these verses (12:12-31) make you feel about your place in the body of Christ? At St. Paul's? About your need for others?
10. Take some time to affirm in each person in our group which spiritual gifts and Christ-like qualities you have noticed in them?
11. In your opinion, what is the best way to develop the ability to love other people?
12. How do verses 13:8-10 help to put our church in perspective? Your personal life?
13. What does it mean that you will one day know fully, as you have been fully known?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [God Help the Outcasts](#) (from Hunchback of Notre Dame)



Our God of Love in Action

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus^[a] is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. ⁴ Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one

who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[b] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,^[c] are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^[d] whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters^[e] also.

Week 10 (Demonstrate – 1 John 4) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. What does John command in verse 1? What else has he said about false prophets (see 1 John 2:18-29)?
2. How can we distinguish a true prophet from a false one (see also 1 John 2:20-23)?
3. What is the source of human love? How can God's love be expressed through humans? In our motives? Our actions? Why is it a lie to say you love God when you do not show love to your brothers or sisters (in your family or in the human family – see verse 19)?
4. From verses 8-15, what do you learn about the relationship between God who Jesus called Abba or Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? About their relationship to us?
5. How does the message that God's love drives out fear (v. 18) relate to the understanding that God is light (see 1 John 1:5)?

Game (1:00-1:15): Make a Peanut butter sandwich in 90 seconds blindfolded (with and without help)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Just a Touch of Love scene](#) from Sister Act

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. How do you stay informed on current events?
2. What personality trait or strength did you get from your father? Your mother?
3. What is one of the kindest things a neighbor has done for you? A friend? A complete stranger?
4. How do you show love to members of your family? To your friends? To neighbors?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. What do you believe about Jesus nature? What difference does it make whether he was truly divine? Truly human?
2. What power equips you to overcome false prophets?
3. Is the love discussed in this letter an action or a feeling? What does this tell you about love?
4. In your life, when has love held too much fear? When and how has God's love cast out fear?
5. If you want to do a better job of loving others, how should you go about it (see vv. 15-16)?
6. How do you want to love sacrificially this week? At home? At school? A difficult relationship? In how you spend your time?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [This is Me](#) (from The Greatest Showman) ([Rehearsal Version](#))



Tough Love Letters

Chapter 2

The Message to Ephesus

¹ “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

² “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. ³ I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at

first. ⁵ Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

The Message to Smyrna

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:

⁹ “I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

The Message to Pergamum

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword:

¹³ “I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me^[a] even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. ¹⁵ So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

The Message to Thyatira

¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

¹⁹ “I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants^[b] to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to

idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. ²² Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings; ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call 'the deep things of Satan,' to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden; ²⁵ only hold fast to what you have until I come. ²⁶ To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

²⁷ to rule^[c] them with an iron rod, as when clay pots are shattered—

²⁸ even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. ²⁹ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Chapter 3

The Message to Sardis

¹ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

"I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. ³ Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Message to Philadelphia

⁷ "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens:

⁸ "I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Message to Laodicea

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin^[d] of God's creation:

¹⁵ "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. ²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Week 11 (Grow – Revelation 2-3) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. What does Acts 19 tell us about the church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)? What are its strengths? How were its strengths the cause of its failure? What do you think their worship was like?
2. What problems is the church in Smyrna facing (Revelation 2:8-11)? How can they be both poor and rich? Why is Jesus known as the first and the last? What does this passage teach about suffering?
3. What pressures are the Christians in Pergamum facing (Revelation 2:12-17, esp. v. 13)? At what point are they strong? Where are they tempted? What do you think is easier to endure: Persecution by enemies or seduction by harmful but enticing practices around you? Why? Why is the title by which Christ reveals himself (see v. 12) to appropriate for these Christians?
4. What are the strengths of the church in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)? Its weaknesses? Who was Jezebel (see 1 Kings 2:5-25; 2 Kings 9:7-37)? How does Jesus describe himself? Why is this appropriate for what the church in Thyatira is going through? How is the nature and source of the temptation in Thyatira like (and unlike) that in Pergamum?
5. What is the contrast between reputation and reality in Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)? What dangers exist for Christians who rely on an image instead of nurturing a genuine spiritual life (v. 2)? What is the only hope for the survival of the church in Sardis?
6. How is the church in Philadelphia able to persevere (Revelation 3:7-13)? Describe their enemies. What does the key of David open (see Revelation 3:7-8; 4:1; Isaiah 22:22-24 and Matthew 16:19)? How does their reward (v. 12) fit their faithfulness?
7. How does the church in Laodicea view itself (Revelation 3:14-22)? What does the faithful and true witness see when looking at the church (vv. 15-16)? Why the contrast? What does Jesus tell them to do in v. 18? Why? What does this say about true wealth? How does the portrait of Jesus in these letters expand the one portrayed in the Gospels?

Game (1:00-1:15): Sinking Raft Transfer Group Challenge (need raised platforms and two boards)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Fortune's Truth scene](#) from Rudy

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. Have you ever had a crush on someone? What was it like?
2. If you were rich, what would you like to do?
3. What kinds of things frighten you? How do you face your fears?
4. What person or group influences you the most at school or in your neighborhood?
5. What team or group of yours had a reputation far better than its performance?
6. When have you been locked out? Or in?
7. What is your favorite cold cereal? Hot cereal? Your favorite drink?
8. If you could invite a famous person for dinner, whom would you ask? Why?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. Of the positive qualities mentioned in Revelation 2:2-3, which best describes you? St. Paul's? Why? In what ways have you lost your first love for Jesus? What helps you keep that love alive?
2. In what ways does money make living out faith easier? Harder? How are you spiritually rich?
3. What cultural influences distract you from your relationship with Christ? What weapons has God given you to do battle with? Which has proved most helpful?
4. Which of the qualities in Revelation 2:19 apply to you this week? How does God help you resist bad influences? How does God call you/us to use the authority/influence over others promised in Revelation 2:26?
5. If Jesus addressed the wake-up call in Revelation 3:2-3 to you, what would he encourage you to strengthen? Right now, would it take a fire alarm to wake you up, or a quiet call? Why?
6. What doors has Christ opened for you (Revelation 3:8)? How have you responded? What doors has Christ closed in your life? What is the Spirit saying to you?
7. What is your spiritual temperature (Revelation 3:15-16)? What is Jesus waiting for at your door?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): [Try Everything](#) (from Zootopia)

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Jesus' Way to Serve, Suffer, and Save

Chapter 13 ¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the

table,^[a] took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you^[c] are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, 'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

²¹ After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so

now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times."

Chapter 14 ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[k] in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[l] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know^[m] my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me^[o] for anything, I will do it."

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep^[p] my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in^[r] you."

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me."

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate—the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way."

Week 12 (Launch – John 13-14) Questions Before We Meet (Journal)

1. What does Jesus know that escapes his disciples' attention (John 13:1, 3, 11)? What impresses you most about Jesus washing their feet (a chore typically done by a slave)?
2. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me"? (a.) I don't want to share a room with anyone with dirty feet; (b.) To be part of me, you have to learn to receive; (c.) You have to let my coming sacrifice cleanse you from sin; (d.) As long as you live you will need cleansing and forgiveness; (e.) Unless you're a servant like I am, you can't be my disciple.
3. How does Jesus expect his disciples to follow his example (John 13:12-17)? (a.) to wash each other's feet literally; (b.) to be willing to do the dirty work; (c.) to take care of each other; (d.) to observe foot washing ceremonially, like Communion. Why do you think Christians don't serve one another more than we do?
4. If you were a movie director, how would you capture the drama in John 13:18-22? If you had been sitting at the table, what would you have been thinking and feeling? Saying?
5. In foretelling his betrayal, what do you sense in Jesus: Resolution? Resignation? Restlessness? What do you sense in the disciples? In Judas?
6. How is Judas responsible when "Satan entered into him" (John 13:27; see also John 6:70; 12:4-6; and 13:2)?
7. Why did Jesus wait until Judas was gone to share the message in John 13:31-35? What does he call the disciples to do in John 13:34?
8. What type of a person is Peter (John 13:6-9, 36-37)? How do you think he felt after John 13:38?"
9. What comfort does Jesus offer the disciples in John 14:1-4?
10. As you look at John 13:36; 14:6-8, and 22, what problems are the disciples struggling with?
11. Put Jesus' statement in John 14:6-7 in your own words.
12. How does what Jesus says in John 14:9 relate to John 1:18? With what tone of voice do you imagine Jesus speaking in John 14:9-14? What evidence does Jesus give for his claims?
13. How do you think the promises Jesus makes in John 14:12-14 are different from the wishes the genie promises Aladdin? What do you think Jesus means in John 14:12 for the church? For you?]
14. How are the disciples to demonstrate their love for each other (John 13:34)? For Jesus (John 14:15)? Why do you think this idea is repeated four times (John 14:15, 21, 23-24)?
15. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 and 25-27? How does the Holy Spirit teach?
16. What's the difference between how Jesus gives peace and how the world gives peace?

Game (1:00-1:15): Walk and Stop (Name and Clap; Jump and Dance)

Movie Clip (1:15-20): [Oboe scene](#) from Mr. Holland's Opus

Icebreaker Questions (1:20-45):

1. What are the special meals in your family: Thanksgiving? Sunday lunch? Birthday dinners? Christmas? What is usually served?
2. How often does your family sit down together for a meal? How do you help prepare or clean up?
3. Who would you nominate for the Mother Teresa Award (for tireless, selfless servanthood) in your family? Our church?
4. When you are troubled, what symptoms show on your face? In your spirit?
5. What trait do you share with other family members?
6. What is your favorite room in the house? Why?
7. Can you remember a time when you got lost? What happened?
8. Who was the best counselor/mentor you ever had? Why was this person so special?

Making it Personal (1:45-2:20):

1. In your life, who is the person who best demonstrates what it means to wash feet? How did they serve?
2. What one thing will you do at home, school, or church this week to follow Jesus example of serving?

3. If you knew ahead of time that someone would stab you in the back, how would you treat that person? How does Jesus show you what love is all about? How do you feel about giving this love? Receiving it? How could Judas betray Jesus? How have you ever betrayed or denied Jesus? How has Jesus responded to you?
4. How do your good intentions compare to Peter's? On a scale of 1-10, how does our church rank according to the standard of love in John 13:34-35? How could you improve our score?
5. If Jesus is the Way, do you feel like you are on a bumpy dead-end street or a four-lane highway? Why?
6. Based on John 14:6 and 10:16, how would you respond to someone who says there are many ways to God?
7. How at home is God in your life? More like a family member, guest, or stranger?
8. Where do you need Jesus' peace most in your life right now? Where can you find hope in this passage?
9. Of all the promises in John 14:16-18, 21, 23, 26-27, which one means the most to you and why?

Song Prayer (2:20-30): *How Far I'll Go* (from Moana)