



**THE
EVERY
INITIATIVE**

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



SAVE

THE

DATE

APR 7-MAY 19

EVERY Sermon Series

APR 7-21

Vision Gatherings
*April 14, 7:30a or April 21, 12:00p
or during your Connect Group*

APR 29

Pray & Worship Night
6:00p Meal, 6:30p Service

MAY 5

Commitment Sunday

MAY 10

Back to Summer Bash

MAY 19

Celebration Sunday Services



As we engage together in The Every Initiative, we want to encourage you to take time to study and pray along with your church family. This devotional guide has been prepared as a resource to help you with that daily/weekly time with your immediate family, Connect Group, or individually.

These resources match the sermons of The Every Initiative with daily Scripture readings, study notes, discussion questions, sample prayers, and other worship suggestions that will help you go deeper in God's Word.

Scripture references in this guide are all taken from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). Your experience with this resource will be enhanced if you'll consider reading each day from a variety of Scripture translations and paraphrases.

If you prefer interacting with this guide digitally, the QR Code on the back cover will take you to The Every Initiative webpage where you can access an electronic version in .pdf format, as well as a link to a Spotify playlist that includes all corresponding song selections.

Special thanks to the following for writing and preparing these resources:
Jess Smith, Clint Brown, Jen Mercer, David Manner, Jenny Riggins

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | EVERY ONE MATTERS

Read Matthew 9:9-13

- Matthew was a Jew and a tax collector. This meant he had chosen to work for the enemy of his people. He was hated by his own people and disowned by his family. Though he was rich, I'm sure he was incredibly lonely. He likely felt an immense weight of rejection, isolation, and insecurity.
- When Jesus called Matthew to follow him, Matthew left everything and followed Jesus - publicly and without hesitating.
- Jesus went even further to show how much Matthew was loved and accepted - he and his disciples ate together at Matthew's house with a group of "many tax collectors and sinners." When the overly religious Pharisees saw Jesus hanging out with "disreputable characters" and "other outcasts," Jesus responded to their contempt with a new purpose for what it meant to follow God: Those who are sick need healing, not those who are well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Matthew may have chosen to be a tax collector because he had skills to be successful in that career, or he may have felt pushed into it because of rejection or insecurity he may have already been feeling. Do you ever run away from God - or the people you know will lift you up - when you feel unworthy of his love? Do you do things that make you feel secure or safe, even though you know others may hate it or disagree with your actions? Example: many people eat their feelings, binge watch TV, drink too much, or spend an excessive amount of time/energy at work - all chasing something that will give them a false sense of security.



SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | EVERY ONE MATTERS

2. Matthew WAS a One. He was rejected and living his life without God or people to guide him back to God. Jesus invites him to become a disciple, and right away, Matthew provides a context for his friends and colleagues to meet Jesus. Can you think of a One who may be feeling unloved, unseen, or unwanted? Can you invite him or her to share a meal with you?

Prayer: Father God, thank you for seeing all the ugly parts of me and calling me to follow you just the way I am. Thank you for holding my hand as I grow through my own struggles with rejection, guilt, and loneliness. Please show me whom you want me to invite into your community this week and equip me with the strength and boldness to show him or her love in a way he or she will receive it.

NOTES

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Scripture: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." Romans 1:16

Prayer: Lord, your Word is powerful and mighty. Thank you for your free gift of salvation. Put a person on my heart with whom I can share that gospel message this week. Ready my mind and let me be open to transformation in your name. NOW is the time to boldly follow you, so give me peace and strength to take the next steps.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Scripture: "Do Everything in Love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

Prayer: Lord, help me to love like you in my words and actions. Let my behavior be an example to my One that he or she may see you through me. I know that NOW is the time to be bold in my faith. Thank you that even when I mess up, you are still with me. I praise you for your mercy and love.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Scripture: "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Prayer: Lord, you are good, and your mercy lasts forever. You have called me to your purpose, and you are working all things together for good. Thank you for your plans that you have set in motion - help me walk in them and share your love.



THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Scripture: "...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love."

Ephesians 3:17-18

Prayer: Lord, I pray this passage for spiritual strength. Dwell in my heart and help me walk in the fullness of your love. Let others see your love in me and let it guide them to you.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Scripture: "My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

Psalms 121:2

Prayer: Lord, help me to be focused and look to you in everything I do. I know you are my helper. You made heaven and earth. You know me by name. Your desire is to call all people back to you. Help me on this journey with my One. Fill me with your Spirit and let me be your hands and feet so that my One may know you more deeply.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Scripture: "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." Matthew 28:19

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a disciple that makes disciples. Give me courage and words to speak as I interact with my One. I know you are with me, and I believe your promises are for all people. Help me share your love with them.

PRAY

Pray for God to bring new people into your life whom you can befriend and encourage.

MEDITATE

Meditate on the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4:18-22. Reflect on what it would have been like to meet Jesus and leave your life as you know it to follow him. Think about how Jesus calls all of us to be his disciples.

LISTEN

Known - Tauren Wells; **Maybe It's OK** - We Are Messengers; **Living Proof** - Katy Nichole; **Friend of God** - Israel Houghton

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When you consider how to approach your Ones, simply treat them as a friend. Invite them to spend time with you doing things you enjoy, and let your conversations naturally progress toward sharing your faith. It does not need to feel forced, but ask God to show you opportunities to encourage and provide them with the hope and love of Jesus.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | EVERY RELATIONSHIP COUNTS

Read Luke 19:1-10

- Just like Matthew, Zacchaeus was a social outcast. When Matthew met Jesus and began to follow him, he wanted his friends to know Jesus as well. Being a Chief Tax Collector, it's possible that Zacchaeus's influence reached all the way to Galilee, and he probably knew Matthew. He likely was at Matthew's dinner party in Matthew 9.
- Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus at his house - much to the horror of the citizens and religious leaders of Jericho. Though Zacchaeus had embezzled money from his fellow Jews and was not allowed to participate in Jewish courts as a judge or witness, nor was he allowed to participate in synagogue, Jesus thought Zacchaeus was worth saving.
- After spending the day with Jesus, it was then about Zacchaeus's relationship with Jesus - not just Matthew's. Zacchaeus responded with his whole heart. He restored and rewarded all those he had defrauded and gave the other half of his possessions to the poor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus also knows and calls us by name. He calls us out of our sin and shame to follow him. We may be comfortable in the lifestyle we create for ourselves, making the cost of following him heavy. What types of things may be holding you back from fully surrendering to God's call to "go and make disciples?"
2. Whether or not Matthew and Zacchaeus knew each other before they met Jesus, they each heard about him through their sphere of influence. They wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know him personally had it not been for people they already knew who knew Jesus. As a Christ-follower, the



SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | EVERY RELATIONSHIP COUNTS

people you meet and interact with each day have the opportunity to get to know Jesus through you. What thoughts come to mind when you think about the people in your life who may not already know Jesus? What do you think of when you consider how your behaviors every single day have an impact on those around you?

Prayer: God, thank you for the people you've brought into my life. Please empower me with your Spirit to always show them your love and kindness even when it's hard - as it often is. You came to "seek and save those who are lost" and I don't want my own hang-ups or preferences to get in the way of that.

NOTES

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Scripture: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

Prayer: God, I know there is only one way to salvation. Jesus is the only hope for the lost - and that includes me and (name your One). Our salvation depends on acknowledging Jesus is who he says he is, and he alone is the source of salvation. Use the people and circumstances in (my One's) life today to point him/her to you. Give me courage and boldness to share my faith with (my One) when the opportunity arises in a way that he/she will understand and receive.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Scripture: "For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up." Ecclesiastes 4:10

Prayer: God, help me be a good friend. Help me show my friends that you are always here to pick me up, and you will do the same for them - no matter how many times we may fall down.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Scripture: Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Prayer: Lord, thank you for helping to carry my load. It is heavy, and I am tired. I see my friends and colleagues (and often even myself) turning to so many things outside of you to find hope, love, comfort, and acceptance. I know you are the only one who can truly provide these things. Help me to remember to turn to you and allow you to share my load. Help me to be a good example to (my One) and encourage him/her to trust you also.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Scripture: "A God-fearing woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying." Acts 16:14

Prayer: Father God, Lydia's story gives me hope for the salvation of (my One). Make me bold enough to share the gospel with him/her in a way that is clear, compelling, and reflects your love. Help me reject fear that may cause me to shy away from speaking the truth in love. Do for (my One) what you did for Lydia - open his/her heart to receive what you're saying.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Scripture: "Everyone who believes is justified through him from everything that you could not be justified from through the law of Moses." Acts 13:39

Prayer: Father, I know what it is like to be enslaved to sin – the inability to stop, the crushing guilt and shame, the longing to be seen, accepted, and loved. It breaks my heart to consider (my One's) experience apart from you. Help him/her to understand that he/she is, in fact, enslaved to sin. Give him/her a clear revelation of your amazing love and grant him/her grace to obey and submit to you as a loving Father who has a good plan for his/her life.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Scripture: "I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father." John 15:15

Prayer: Father God, thank you for calling me your friend! I also want to be a good and loving friend to (my One) and those around me. Help me to say what you want me to say and behave like you want me to behave - not awkwardly pushing your message on those who are not ready to hear it, but lovingly sharing your gospel every time the opportunity naturally arises. Help me be a friend that others want to spend time with.

PRAY

Pray for your family or group's commitment to this task. Pray also for whatever the Lord lays on your heart about your One.

MEDITATE

The 15th chapter of John talks a lot about what Jesus expects of friendship. Meditate on a verse from that chapter that speaks to you. Reflect on what it actually looks like to be a good friend.

LISTEN

Use A Friend - Tauren Wells; **Next to Me** - Jordan Feliz; **Together** - for King & Country; **Loved by You** - Unspoken

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Still unsure who your One is? First, ask God to show you who that One person should be. He knows exactly whose heart he is preparing for a revelation of his love through you. Consider people in your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, or an acquaintance from a group you're in. Hand out notes of encouragement to those who serve you at grocery stores, restaurants, etc., letting them know they are seen and loved by Jesus. If you've settled on your One, ask God to show you opportunities to encourage and provide him or her with the hope and love of Jesus.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 | EVERY HEART'S TREASURE

Read Luke 16:1-15

- Jesus tells this parable to his disciples, who all know Matthew's previous job as a tax collector. Some may have even paid their taxes to him. Given the similarities between the manager and Matthew as a tax collector, it's possible they think Jesus is talking about Matthew and maybe he thought the same.
- As Jesus finishes the story, he goes on to state some very pointed and deep spiritual truths: Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. If you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
- The Pharisees had been listening to Jesus tell this parable and they began to ridicule him because they loved money, so Jesus told them, "...God knows your heart. What is highly admired by people is revolting in God's sight."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you identify with in this story? The master, manager, debtors, or maybe the Pharisees?
2. The manager used his resources to help himself by attempting to make friends so he would have a place to stay. Has there been a time that you've used your resources to benefit others? If so, share.



SUNDAY, APRIL 21 | EVERY HEART'S TREASURE

3. Have you been faced with deciding between the desires of your heart, or to serve God? Which path did you take?

Prayer: Father, you know my heart. If I am greedy, change me, Lord! If I am not trustworthy, change me, Lord! If my desires do not align with the work of Jesus, change me, Lord! I pray that all you have provided me will be a blessing in the lives of those around me. May the name of Jesus be glorified above all others.

NOTES

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Scripture: "For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love."

Galatians 5:13

Prayer: Father, thank you for your son, Jesus and the freedom that has given me. Lead me in that freedom, so that I love and serve others the way you do for me. I pray for the Ones, that they may also come to know this freedom that only you can provide.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Scripture: "Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, 'I will never leave you or abandon you.'"

Hebrews 13:5

Prayer: Lord, I choose to serve you. I know I can be greedy and live selfishly. I know in doing so I push you away, but your goodness and faithfulness is beyond comparison. Father, please forgive me and in those moments help me to see you have provided all that I need. You are all that I need.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as I engage with my One, give me wisdom. Help me to speak with the same mercy and grace that you have spoken into my life. Fill my heart with love and not judgment. Lord, help my One to trust you so that he or she may see the good and beautiful God that I do.



THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Scripture: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10

Prayer: Father, I pray that my faith and love for you be grounded so that no desire can lead me astray. I pray for contentment with what you have provided because what you provide is greater than anything money can buy.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Scripture: “Each person should do as he has decided in his heart – not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Prayer: Lord, I have seen time and time again how faithful and generous you are. You consistently give more than I could ever ask for. You overflow my cup in so many ways and I praise you. Let me rest in that truth and strengthen my faith, so that I can reflect you by showing the same generosity.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Scripture: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

Prayer: Father, as you sent an Advocate for us, I’m asking to be an advocate for my One. He or she may not know you now, but I’m asking that you reach him or her in a way that only you can. I’m asking you to change his or her heart. Give him or her knowledge and understanding. Use me in any way you see fit. Change this person’s life and bring it to you. I ask all of this in the name of Jesus.

PRAY

You are an awesome God! Your provision is much greater than I deserve, but you give because you are good, and you love me. Father, continue to shape my heart so that it looks more like yours tomorrow than it does today. Thank you for Jesus and the example he left for us to follow.

MEDITATE

Meditate on James 2:22 and think about what it means to be a faithful servant.

LISTEN

Make Room - Community Music; ***Firm Foundation (He's Gonna Make a Way)*** - Chandler Moore, Maverick City Music, and Naomi Raine

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Ask God to reveal to you the treasures of your heart. Ask him to point out the areas that don't fit with the mission of Jesus. Pray that he provides opportunities to build faithfulness and trust.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 | COUNTING EVERY COST

Read Luke 10:37-38; Luke 14:26-33

- Everything in life has a cost associated. Following Jesus is no different, which is why he tells us to calculate that cost before we make the decision. His cost is love, humility, and sacrifice. He requires that we love him first, carry our own cross, and give our lives to him - that's what he did for us.
- Matthew was living a life filled with wealth and luxury, but even he counted the cost and believed it was more than worth it to follow Jesus.
- The reward for following Jesus is far greater than anything the world can offer. We get to be a part of the miracle of seeing the lost become found.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the greatest sacrifice you have made?
2. Why is it easier to spend our resources on worldly/materialistic things than on the mission of Jesus?
3. Have you ever seen someone come to know Jesus that did not previously have a relationship with him? Share what that experience was like.



SUNDAY, APRIL 28 | COUNTING EVERY COST

Prayer: Lord, help me to see that nothing in this world can satisfy me the way you can. Remind me to prioritize YOU first. Give me the strength to carry my cross and open my eyes to see your miracles. Continue to mold me, so that others can see you through me. May we celebrate and rejoice in the name of Jesus as those who were once lost are now found.

NOTES

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." Matthew 6:33

Prayer: Father, guide my ways so that I may seek your kingdom first. You are the gracious provider. You have made a way for us to be with you eternally. Thank you for all you have done, continue to do, and will do.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Scripture: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions – is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever." 1 John 2:15-17

Prayer: Father, there is nothing in the world greater than you. You brought the Israelites out of Egypt, and you gave your only Son for my sins. Help me to keep my eyes on you and to not fall in love with the things of this world. Help me to live a life that brings you pleasure and glorifies your name.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: "Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:1-2

Prayer: Father, help me to see people the way you see them. Help me to love people the way you love them. We are all your creation and were made in your image. Jesus said in the book of Matthew, "...when you did it to one of the least of these, you were doing it to me." Remind me of these verses as I walk through this journey with my One, so that he or she can see who you really are.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6

Prayer: Father, thank you for making a way for me to be reconnected to you and live eternally with you, through your son Jesus. This is where you desired mankind to be all along and when we messed it up, you were there to pick us up. You paved the way for the lost to found. I praise you in Jesus's name.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: "So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude." Colossians 2:6-7

Prayer: Lord, I know being a disciple of Jesus is just a step on this journey to be with you eternally. Thank you for the One in my life! I know that if I am going to be a vessel for him or her to truly seek you, then I need to grow deeper with you too. Help me to seek you always. Build my faith to trust in your ways. Take hold of my life.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Scripture: "Jesus said, 'Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.'" John 4:13-14

Prayer: Father, I pray for my One. I pray that his or her thirst will be quenched with your water - that the emptiness that he or she feels will only be satisfied with you. Lord, you are so gracious and merciful. Your love surpasses all others. I love you, Lord.

PRAY

Father, for all that you have done and still do for me, in comparison, the cost to follow your Son Jesus is nothing. Your goodness and love can't hold a price tag. Even still, I stumble trying to follow. Forgive me when I get it wrong. But I ask that you keep providing opportunities for me to get it right. Help me to be an example for others. You are amazing in all you do!

MEDITATE

God gave his only Son to die an agonizing death, so that we could be united with him always and forever. Meditate on John 3:16 and think about what the cost was for your life.

LISTEN

O Come to the Altar - Elevation Worship; ***Ready or Not*** - Hillsong United; ***Good and Loved*** - Travis Greene and Stephanie Gretzinger

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Ask God what it looks like in your life to put him first and carry your cross. Pray that he answers those questions and takes over your life. If you already know these and don't have a One, ask that God put a One in your life. Then you can show him or her the work that God does. If you have a One, live out the reality of Jesus to him or her!

SUNDAY, MAY 5 | EVERY STEP TAKEN

Read Matthew 14:22-33

- Jesus sent the disciples ahead of him so he could have some alone time.
- The disciples had been struggling to row across the lake for hours. Jesus easily walked through the wind and waves to get to them.
- Peter asked to join Jesus, and Jesus told him to come.
- Peter was walking on water until he “saw” the wind and became frightened.
- Peter called to Jesus to save him when he was frightened, and Jesus responded “immediately.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt like the disciples? Have you felt like you were in a storm rowing against the wind and not going anywhere? What did that look like for you?
2. For the disciples, rowing across a lake was part of their daily life. It wasn't normally a hard task. Many of them were fishermen. They knew boats; they knew the water. However, this time they couldn't do it on their own. No matter how hard they rowed, they got nowhere. Sometimes our storms are things that we think we should be able to handle on our own, with our own talents and effort, but for whatever reason, we can't. We need Jesus. Is there anything in your life that you think you should be able to do on your own without the help of Jesus? How is that working out for you?
3. Peter has gotten a lot of flak over the centuries for taking his eyes off Jesus, however, he DID walk on water. In order to do that, he had to take an incredible step of faith. His first step was one that didn't make any earthly sense. It defied everything he knew about science and rationality, but it was an important step for his spiritual growth. Have you ever been in a situation where God asked you to do something that didn't make sense to you? Did you take that step? If so, what was the outcome?



SUNDAY, MAY 5 | EVERY STEP TAKEN

4. When Peter started to sink, he called to Jesus, who immediately saved him. When they stepped into the boat, Scripture says that the wind died down. The test was over. Peter had a partial win, and the rest of the disciples learned that Jesus was, indeed, the Son of God. Have you ever felt like you were in a test? Did you pass or fail? What did you learn?

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, that you are a God who lets us participate in your story. Thank you for saving us when we fail to be as obedient as we need to be, and for letting us learn and try again. Help us to be obedient to take that first step during times that don't make sense to us, so that we can become better partners with you in your story.

NOTES

MONDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for being a God who wants to be sought out. Thank you for being so easy to find. I pray that my eyes would be open to see you, and that my heart would always desire to be in your presence.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

Prayer: Dear God, I pray for that area in my life where I find it hard to trust you. I surrender it to you. I know you are a God who wants what is best for me, and that your ways are always the best ways. I pray that I may believe this and trust in you to be in charge of every aspect of my life. I want you to have the last word.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I pray for wisdom. I acknowledge that all wisdom comes from you. I pray that I might use that wisdom to grow closer to you and become a better servant of yours. I pray that I might use that wisdom to grow closer to the people around me, that I might share your love and truth with them, and that your wisdom and truth might be the healing word in their lives and in mine.



THURSDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for being willing to be the light to guide my path. Thank you for living a perfect life so that I might have an example of how to love you, love myself, and love those around me.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples.’” John 8:31

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for your word. Thank you for the guidance we need to live our lives in accordance with your desires. Thank you that your Word helps us get to know you better. I pray that I might take your Word and internalize the truths found within so that I may better obey you in my daily words and actions.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: “‘Because of your little faith,’ he told them. ‘For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’” Matthew 17:20

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for the spirit who lives within me. Thank you that your spirit is with me always so that it might be my guide. I pray when I have doubts and fears, that your spirit might speak louder.

PRAY

Lord, I pray that I might listen to your voice and choose to believe it instead of the doubts and fears that whisper lies to me. Thank you that even though my faith might be small and frail, you still honor it and can do mighty things with it.

MEDITATE

Meditate on Matthew 14:27, "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

LISTEN

Walk on Water - Elevation Worship; ***Oceans, Where My Feet May Fail*** - Hillsong United; ***I Will Praise You in This Storm*** - Casting Crowns; ***Walking on Water*** - NEEDTOBREATHE; ***Walk on Water*** - Britt Nicole

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Ask God to help you step out of the boat and keep your eyes on him this week.

SUNDAY, MAY 12 | EVERY TALENT LEVERAGED

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- Before going on a journey, a master doled out his own money to three servants. Each got a sum according to what he could handle.
- Two servants turned a profit with the master's money while he was away. One did not, nor did he try.
- When the master returned after his long trip, he praised the servants who turned a profit, rewarded them with a promotion, and told them to share in their master's happiness. However, he harshly chastised the servant who did not turn a profit, took away from him what he had been given, called him worthless, and threw him out into the darkness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the story, the servants were given a significant sum of money to look after while their master was gone. The master did not give specific instructions of what to do with it, and each man had to make that decision for himself. With what gifts and talents have you been entrusted? How are you using those gifts and talents for God?
2. In the parable, the master never told the servants when he was returning. God hasn't revealed to us when Jesus is returning, either. In the story, he expected the servants to be actively investing his money for a monetary return while he was away. What does it look like to get a return on our talents for the kingdom of God like the servants did with the money that was entrusted to them?
3. The third servant didn't make any money while his master was away because he was too afraid to use it. He thought the master was a harsh man and didn't want to lose what he had been given. This did not please the master at all. Do you have any gifts you are hesitant to use? If so, why are you holding out and not using them?



SUNDAY, MAY 12 | EVERY TALENT LEVERAGED

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for providing us with gifts and talents. I pray that you would take my talents and show me where to best use them to further your kingdom. I pray that if there is an area that I am withholding my talents, that you would show me, so that I may be more obedient to you in using them to spread your word and introduce you to people who don't know you.

NOTES

MONDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

Prayer: Dear God, I love that you have planned good works ahead of time, and that you let me participate in them. Thank you for including me in your plans. I pray that you open my eyes to see how I can be helpful to my fellow humans. I pray that I can spread your love to those around me in a way that will let them know how incredibly loved they are. I pray that I don't miss it.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: "Let all the skilled artisans among you come and make everything that the Lord has commanded:" Exodus 35:10

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving me gifts with which I can serve you. I pray for opportunities so that I can use them to bring people to you, so that they may truly know hope, love, and peace.


WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for being a God who is consistent. Thank you that I know how you are going to respond, because you do everything in line with your own character. I thank you that generosity is one of those characteristics, and that you love to give your children gifts... good gifts.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: "There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God who works all of them in each person." 1 Corinthians 12:5-6



Prayer: Dear God, thank you that I am not alone. Thank you that I am surrounded by so many people on the planet who know you and love you. I pray that I make and continue to make connections in a community of Christ-followers so that I can be encouraged by them, and that they can be encouraged by me. Thank you that you are willing to work through us all. I pray that we make you proud in the work we do for you.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: “Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

Prayer: Dear God, I pray that you give me confidence to use my gifts to serve you. I pray that my confidence can be in you, that you can provide me with courage and strength to serve you well. Thank you that I know I can rely on you for all things.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

Prayer: Dear Jesus, you are my light. You are what brings good things into the darkness of this world. I pray that your light within me may shine for all to see, so that I may be a bearer of good news to those around me. I pray that my words and my deeds might bring you the honor you deserve. All praise belongs to you.

PRAY

Lord, I pray that you would mold me into someone just as generous and kind as you are and that I may give away my gifts to those around me in order to bless them like you have blessed me.

MEDITATE

Meditate on Matthew 25:23, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.”

LISTEN

Use Me Lord - VOUS worship featuring Ryan Horton; **Serve the Lord** - Kenedi Anderson; **Send Me Lord** - Matt Redman; **A God Like You** - Kirk Franklin

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Make a list of the gifts God has given you. Ask God to help you use them to fulfill his mission.

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | EVERY ONE'S ONE

Does God like parties? Does he appreciate a good celebration? I think he does. Did you know that singing is mentioned over 400 times in the Bible, and that we are commanded to sing over 50 times? Did you know that dancing is mentioned over 160 times? Ecclesiastes 3:4 says that there is “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.”

This week is the time to laugh, sing, and dance. It is time to celebrate! We can celebrate so many wonderful things! We can celebrate our church of brothers and sisters who are willing to do life with us! We can celebrate the generosity of God and of his saints! We can celebrate a God who gave his only son to us, that we might have life to the full! We can celebrate a God who wants to know us, walk with us, and grow us into who we were made to be!

Read Psalm 150 with enthusiasm! With joy! Sing it if you so desire! Heck, create a dance for it!

Praise the Lord

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his sanctuary.

Praise him in his mighty expanse.

Praise him for his powerful acts;

praise him for his abundant greatness.

Praise him with the blast of a ram's horn;

praise him with harp and lyre.

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and flute.

Praise him with resounding cymbals;

praise him with clashing cymbals.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Hallelujah!



SUNDAY, MAY 19 | EVERY ONE'S ONE

Notice how many times it commands us to praise! SO MANY TIMES!

- We are told WHERE to praise: in his sanctuary, and in the heavens. EVERYWHERE!
- We are told WHY we are praising him: for his power and greatness!
- We are told HOW to praise him: as noisily as possible! While you are dancing!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you have to praise God for? Make a list if you need to!
2. How has The Every Initiative challenged you? What questions do you still have? What do you need to work on?
3. How do you think having a One is going to grow your faith? How will it challenge you?
4. What do you hope to see accomplished from The Every Initiative? What is your main goal for our church? How can you personally be involved in meeting that goal?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for so many things to be thankful for! Thank you for being a generous God who blesses us with more than we even realize. Thank you for the church, your people. I pray that the church might be of one mind, one body, to further your kingdom and bring hope and healing to the hurting and lost.

LISTEN

Bless Me - Maverick City; ***Won't He Do It*** - Koryn Hawthorne; ***Love Theory*** - Kirk Franklin; ***Revelation Song*** - Kari Jobe; ***In the Sanctuary (Live)*** - Kurt Carr & The Kurt Carr Singers



WESTERN HILLS CHURCH



whillschurch.org/every/