

**NEXT** 

**GUIDE BOOK**

# A NOTE FROM PASTOR BILLY BYLER



Then the church ... enjoyed a time of peace. God strengthened the church, and its life was marked by reverence for the Lord. Encouraged by the Holy Spirit, the church continued to grow in numbers.

**ACTS 9:31**

# WOODLAND LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH,

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After Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and victory over death, His first interaction with His gathered disciples was to bring peace, mission and the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-22). These are essential gifts, and God has been faithful ever since to provide His followers with all that is needed to fulfill His mission.

For 89 years, Woodland Lakes Community Church has answered God's call. Recently we've enjoyed a season of growth, celebrating every new face, changed heart, baptism and addition to God's kingdom. But the mission is not complete. As the Holy Spirit continues to stir in the hearts of people all over Wichita, we want to be ready to join the Lord in His work.

This is why our church leaders have been earnestly seeking the Lord's will for what is next for our church. We want to fully focus on God's mission while following in the footsteps of past generations who have faithfully committed to seeing the lost and hurting find new life in Christ. We want to address the barriers to future growth, personalize God's mission for each of us and step out in faith obediently, sacrificially and generously.

To reach those who don't yet know Jesus, we have some big goals in mind. We won't see this to completion without the leadership of the Spirit and the willing participation of every person in our church. Woodland Lakes Community Church has been blessed to be a blessing, and I'm asking you to join us as we prepare for the future, honor the past and prayerfully seek the Lord's will. What part does He want you to play in this NEXT Initiative? Let's find out together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Byl".

# NEXT

Our church is more than bricks or budgets; it is about lives transformed. The Lord is at work as we see altars full of people seeking the Lord, baptisms, new members, calls to ministry, and a growing number of people engaged in active discipleship through life groups.

However, as our facilities age, we are seeing that they no longer reflect the warmth and hospitality that we intend. We want to clearly communicate to newcomers that we value them through our love and through the spaces we provide.

## WHAT IS THE NEXT INITIATIVE?

Over the next two years, Woodland Lakes Community Church will intentionally make sacrifices so that we can better meet the needs of our current church family and those who are not here yet.

### **Will you join us?**

**FIRST**, we are asking everyone for a relational commitment toward at least one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus, who you are intentionally praying for and spending time with as a friend.

**SECOND**, we are also asking for a financial commitment to this exciting, hope-filled future. Our total goal of \$550,000 over the next two years will remove the barriers we are now experiencing and make this vision a reality. The next page describes the five projects that will fulfill our vision.



## **COMPASSION PROJECT**

First, because we value caring for those in our community, we will partner with *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, a ministry that provides beds to local children in need. Along with our monetary donation, we will schedule a work day to build the beds!



## **ROOF REPLACEMENT**

Our metal roof leaks, and we have been putting bandages on a problem that needs a more complete solution. We will be addressing our leaking roof by replacing it entirely. While it may not sound exciting, addressing our roof will prevent us from requiring long-term repairs inside our building.



## **SANCTUARY UPDATES**

We will be updating some needed components of our sanctuary. While we may have become accustomed to it, parts of the sanctuary walls are chipping paint, and our room is showing the normal wear and tear of a used facility. We want to make sure that our facilities reflect the warmth and hospitality that we intend.



## **IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR KIDS MINISTRY FACILITIES**

We want to refresh our kids ministry area, where future generations of the church are first introduced to Jesus. Improvements we have planned include sound absorbers in the clubhouse, painting, new carpet in the nursery, renovating the preschool bathroom, and new preschool rugs.



## **SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF OUR DEBT LOAD**

There remains a balance of approximately \$750,000 on our mortgage. We want to reduce our number of debt-laden years, advancing the timeline of a debt-free celebration. Freeing up valuable ministry dollars will allow us to provide for the needs of those around us and invest fully in the mission God has given us.



# HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF WHAT IS NEXT >>?

The NEXT INITIATIVE isn't just about building improvements; at the end of the day, it is about reaching people. There are thousands of people in our community who don't have a church home. Many of them would walk through our doors if we simply built a relationship with them and extended an invitation.

**AS A CHURCH, WE ARE ASKING YOU TO MAKE TWO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AS PART OF THE NEXT INITIATIVE:**

**1**

Commit to your "one." If you don't yet have this person identified, commit to prayer as you ask God who this person is. Once you know, begin building your relationship as you pray for this person. Reaching our community won't happen just through weekend services and programming - it will happen through our personal, intentional relationships.

**2**

Commit to give sacrificially to resource our church projects by making a 2-year commitment, over and above your regular giving to Woodland Lakes Community Church. As you discern what your part in this may be, join us in praying, "Father, show me what step of faith I can take in order to join with others to meet this need." On May 10, we will come together and make our commitments for the next two years.

**4**

Please be in prayer now for this season. When we sacrifice, and we don't make it about ourselves, we serve God. We also grow in our faith! Previous generations who came before us provided us with much ... now it is our turn.

<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>ANNUALLY</b>	<b>2-YR TOTAL</b>
\$100	\$1,200	\$2,400
\$200	\$2,400	\$4,800
\$300	\$3,600	\$7,200
\$400	\$4,800	\$9,600
\$500	\$6,000	\$12,000
\$750	\$9,000	\$18,000
\$1,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
\$1,250	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$1,500	\$18,000	\$36,000

**Our goal is to raise \$550,000 over the next two years from your generous donations. This is a lofty goal that will require sacrifice from each one of us. However, we have done it before, and we know that with God's help, we can do it again!**

# NEXT CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

You may have heard the phrase “equal sacrifice, not equal amounts” and thought to yourself, “*If only they knew how little money I have,*” or “*I am already giving all that I can,*” or “*I can barely afford to live on what I earn. There is no way I can give to this project.*” We understand your concerns and are including some ideas to consider.

- ONE** Give up a “routine.” For example, giving up a \$5 coffee 3 days each week for 2 years would equal a \$1,560 contribution. Or giving up one \$10 fast food meal a week would equal \$1,040.
- TWO** Switch your streaming service plans (Netflix/Hulu/Disney+/Spotify) from Premium to Standard. Your savings of \$8-15 each month would mean a \$192 - \$360 contribution over 2 years.
- THREE** Continue a bill payment. If you will be paying off some form of debt in the next year, commit to continue to “pay the bill” by redirecting the money to the NEXT Initiative after the bill is paid off.
- FOUR** Adjust your vacations. For the next year or two, do something close and inexpensive like a day trip. Or take a 3-day vacation instead of a week and save on airfare and hotel costs. This can easily save between \$600 - \$1,800.

- FIVE** Commit an estimated raise in salary for the next two years. A \$.50 raise for 2 years in a row would equal a \$2,080 contribution.
- SIX** Commit your income tax refund check for the next 2 years.
- SEVEN** Part with collectibles or other assets of worth. Consider selling collections (coins, stamps, baseball cards), art, jewelry, or extra vehicles and donating the proceeds.
- EIGHT** Donate land and/or real estate. Selling land or real estate that you are not using may generate tens of thousands of dollars or more.
- NINE** Make a contribution of shares of stock. This will avoid paying capital gains taxes and provide you with a tax-deductible contribution.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **What is the mission of Woodland Lakes Community Church?**

Our mission is straightforward — Love God and Love People.

## **What is The NEXT Initiative?**

The NEXT Initiative is the strategic approach our church leadership is taking to help accomplish the mission and vision God has set before us.

## **What are the goals of The NEXT Initiative?**

We have two goals. First, we are asking that everyone commit to a personal relationship with a “one.” Our second goal is to raise \$550,000 over the next two years to apply toward building improvements, a special project to bless our community, and debt reduction.

## **Why did our leadership feel this was necessary?**

We are experiencing great days at WLCC! To ensure that we are prepared for what God has in store for us NEXT, we believe that now is the time to strategically join together to purposefully advance the mission God has set before us. To accomplish this, we must be aligned in vision, focused on mission, and steward well the facilities God has provided us.

## **What projects will be addressed through The Next Initiative?**

- Replacement of our aging, leaky roof
- Updates to our sanctuary
- Improvements to our kids ministry facilities
- Significant reduction of our debt load
- A special project to bless our community

## **Will WLCC be borrowing money because of The NEXT Initiative?**

No, we will not incur any additional debt.

## **What, specifically, are you asking me to do?**

1. Begin praying for how God may use you during this initiative.
2. Identify a “one” and commit to building an intentional relationship with that person.
3. Make a financial commitment to help fund The NEXT Initiative over the next two years.

## **Does a financial commitment to The NEXT Initiative take the place of my regular tithe?**

No, tithes are meant to support the regular, ongoing ministries of the church. Commitments to the NEXT Initiative should be in addition to regular tithes and offerings.

**LOVE PEOPLE**

# STUDY WITH US



Woodland Lakes Community Church's leadership team invites you to focus with us for the coming weeks on the NEXT Initiative. We encourage you to go deeper into God's Word and commit to reaching others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are asking the church to make both a relational and financial investment as we intentionally welcome others to experience the grace and love of Jesus.

We have been challenged with the idea of reaching out to a "one." Your "one" is a person whom God has laid on your heart to pray for, come alongside and share life together. You are encouraged to identify your "one." To assist you, we are offering these devotionals, complete with both Sunday and Wednesday lessons.

**Please pray for the church and for the NEXT Initiative.**

NEXT is ultimately about welcoming people into the family of God through the transforming work of Jesus Christ. In order to remove the barriers preventing or delaying the fulfillment of this mission, finances are an important part of the vision. As we approach commitment weekend on May 10, pray for God to speak to you on how you can contribute financially to the NEXT Initiative.

# RESOURCES FOR YOU

## SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONALS

These devotional guides will be used for the life groups who meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. If you are not part of one of these groups, now would be a great time to join one! Otherwise, you may use these studies with your family or as individual devotions.

Each of these guides include focus scriptures, discussion questions, action steps, and a prayer prompt. All scripture references use the Common English Bible (CEB).

- **WEEK 1 - THE NEXT ONE: Our Mission**
- **WEEK 2 - THE NEXT EXPERIENCE: Thomas and His Doubts**
- **WEEK 3 - THE NEXT CHAPTER: The Signs**
- **WEEK 4 - THE NEXT MOVE: No Going Back**
- **WEEK 5 - THE NEXT MEAL: Commitment**
- **WEEK 6 - THE NEXT TURN: A Second Chance**
- **BONUS WEEK - PENTECOST SUNDAY: The Holy Spirit's Arrival**
- **WEEK 7 - THE NEXT STEP: Focus**

We are grateful to Pastor Cyndee Price, Rev. Daniel Boone, and Melinda Martyn for creating these devotionals for us!

## UPCOMING WAYS TO ENGAGE

- **24 HOURS OF PRAYER** - from noon on Friday, April 10 until noon on Saturday, April 11 at the church
- **IGNITE: PRAYER & WORSHIP EVENT** - Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 PM

# WEEK 1 - SUNDAY, APRIL 12

## THE NEXT ONE: Our Mission

Woodland Lakes Community Church's vision statement is "Love God and Love People." Over the coming weeks we will explore what it means to "love people" in a practical and relational way. We will prayerfully ask the Lord to place someone in our lives who may need the hope, joy and good news of Jesus. This is your "one."

Read together the Biblical account of how one believer (Ananias), by obeying the prompting of the Holy Spirit, was influential in helping one man (Saul, later Paul) understand who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. Through Ananias' obedience, the church gained a powerful teacher, encourager, and champion.

### Read Acts 7:57-8:1 and Acts 9:1-19

Saul endorsed the killing of Christians. He was on his way to Damascus to hunt down and imprison any believers he found.

- Saul had a powerful encounter with Jesus, which left him blind for three days.
- In Damascus, a believer named Ananias received a vision from the Lord telling him to go to Saul.
- Ananias obeyed the Lord, despite Saul's reputation, and went to the house and placed his hands on Saul.
- Saul regained his sight, got up and was baptized.

### DISCUSSION:

Loving others (having a "one") doesn't have to be complicated or super-spiritual. An open heart to hear from God, a spirit of compassion, and a willingness to take a step of faith are all it takes. How did Ananias find his "one"?

Ananias' "one" definitely didn't follow Jesus (Acts 9:1). In Ananias' mind, Saul was far from believing. Did that mean Saul was too far beyond redemption? Who do you know who needs forgiveness, grace and the good news of Jesus in his or her life?

God was already at work in Saul's life (Acts 9:4-6), but Ananias was not aware of this when he said, "Yes, Lord" (Acts 9:10). Why did he say yes?

What do you think about Ananias' initial response to God's instructions (Acts 9:13-14)?

Many times, what we think we know about someone can influence our attitude toward them. What would have happened if Ananias had allowed his fear to control his response to God? What will happen if you allow fear to prevent you from offering someone the love of God?

Ananias' obedience to God and his interaction with his "one" had an immediate and remarkable result, but it was dependent on God's timing. You may not know when, or even if, your obedience and interaction with your "one" will bear fruit. Will you leave the timing of visible fruit to God and trust Him to be at work (1 Corinthians 3:6)?

**ACTION:**

Listen to today's message from Pastor Billy from John 20:19-23 titled "The Next One," and prayerfully consider having a "one."

**PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord Jesus, please stir the heart of a nonbeliever and place that person in my life. May Your Holy Spirit open my eyes with discernment and my heart with compassion. Help me be obedient to Your leading and trust in Your plan. Amen.

# WEEK 1 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

## THE NEXT ONE: Our Mission

Woodland Lakes Community Church's Vision Statement is "Love God and Love People." We are exploring what it means to "love people" in a practical and relational way. We will prayerfully ask the Lord to place someone in our lives who may need the hope, joy and good news of Jesus. This is your "one." Read together the scripture passage from Pastor Billy's message on Sunday.

### Read John 20:19-23

- The disciples were hiding in fear of the Jewish authorities. Uncertainty had immobilized them. They had no idea what came next.
- Suddenly, Jesus stood among them! He said, "Peace be with you," then He showed them the wounds in His hands and in His side. His immediate action reassured them with His presence and words.
- He gave them a mission. He sent them into the world as the Father had sent Him.
- He didn't send them alone; He breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

### DISCUSSION:

Jesus knew His disciples were anxious and fearful. He also knew what they needed: the peace and reassurance of knowing He was alive and a reason to continue — the mission. He also knew they would need the Holy Spirit to accomplish that mission.

Jesus spoke peace to the disciples. Why do you think that was the first thing He said?

Describe a time when you needed Jesus to speak peace into your life.

Jesus didn't expect the disciples to accomplish this mission using their own wisdom, intellect, logic, and cleverness. What would you need from the Holy Spirit if you were to begin or deepen a friendship with a nonbeliever?

Just like the disciples, we cannot undertake any mission without the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. That is why it is essential to seek His leading when identifying your “one.” What are some things you can do as you wait on the Holy Spirit?

If the Holy Spirit has already placed someone on your heart, share that name with your group.

### **ACTION:**

Remember the three requirements to consider when indentifying your “one”:

1. Someone who is not currently living for the Lord
2. Someone who lives near you
3. Someone for whom you are willing to rearrange your life

Having a “one” is not a project or assignment. The goal is to be a friend to someone who needs the love of Jesus in his or her life. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you your “one.” This may take time. Be patient and allow Him to speak to your heart.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord Jesus, we know it is Your desire for all to come to know You and for us to be in mission with You. We know that there are those around us who desperately need to experience Your saving grace and find eternal life. And we know that Your Holy Spirit will lead us and empower us as we obey Your call. Guide us as we pray to identify that “one” person You have put in our lives. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

# WEEK 2 - SUNDAY, APRIL 19

## THE NEXT EXPERIENCE: Thomas and His Doubts

I want the Holy Spirit to guide me in seeking my “one,” in being willing to honestly listen to his or her doubts, and in allowing myself to be uncomfortable in order to introduce him or her to Jesus. This morning’s lesson will help us realize our “one” rarely comes neatly prepackaged. It can happen, yet often the “ones” whom God brings our way are, well, a lot like we were when we needed Jesus in our lives and required some patient discipling.

**Read John 20:24-29**

### DISCUSSION:

#### Thomas’ DOUBT...

What did Thomas do when confronted with the other disciples’ testimony that Jesus had appeared to them in verse 25?

Was Thomas wavering in his faith?

#### Thomas’ EXPERIENCE...

How long did Thomas have to wait before seeing Jesus?

What happened when Jesus physically appeared in front of Thomas?

Did Thomas actually touch Jesus’ scars?

Would just seeing Jesus’ scars be enough for you, or would you touch one or all of them?

## Thomas' BELIEF...

How did seeing the resurrected Christ affect Thomas' belief?

Jesus' disciples were His "ones." He dealt with their doubts, and Jesus was willing to do whatever was needed to help Thomas over his faith hurdles.

How did Jesus deal with Thomas' lack of belief?

How could you help your "one" overcome doubts about his or her growing faith?

### **ACTION:**

Sharing our experiences with those God leads us to disciple is empowering for mutual growth with our "ones." Listen to today's message from Pastor Billy from John 20:24-29 titled "The Next Experience."

After three years with Jesus and after knowing Him as Risen Lord and coming King, the disciples were sent out by Jesus. Tradition holds that following Jesus' Ascension, the Apostles drew lots for areas of evangelism, and Thomas drew India. He went there around 52 AD, evangelizing and establishing churches until his death in 72 AD. We recognize our 'India' is where we live, work or visit. It is where we shop, play or study. Our 'India' is wherever we go. Therefore, we need to be alert to yet "one" more possibility!

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, we love You and we thank You for loving us in spite of our doubts. We love You for the extravagant gift of experiencing life lived with You. Please help our "ones" experience You in a way that will help address any doubts they may have. We love You for giving us Your Word so that we will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son and have eternal life in Your name. Amen.

# WEEK 2 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

## THE NEXT EXPERIENCE: Thomas and His Doubts

I want the Holy Spirit to guide me in seeking my “one” and listening to his or her doubts while I allow myself to be vulnerable in introducing him or her to Jesus. Last Sunday, Pastor Billy set out the challenge for us, leading us to each find our “one.” Having a “one” means praying God will pair us with someone who doesn’t know the Lord, lives near us, and for whom we would rearrange our life to develop a friendship. We will need to make space in our lives for our “one” as he or she begins walking in faith. In his message on Sunday, Pastor Billy reminded us that while our prospective “ones” are imperfect works in progress, we, too, need to grow in grace and spiritual maturity.

**Read John 20:24-29**

### DISCUSSION:

What doubts have you had in your own faith journey?

What experience helped you deal with your doubts?

In your own life, who helped you grow in your faith?

In your own life, where do you best encounter Jesus?

**Read Matthew 28:16-20**

Matthew 28:17 says, “When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted.”

Is doubt a disqualifier for worship for us or for our “ones”? Why or why not?

## Read John 20:24-29 again

What kind of experience did Thomas have with Jesus in verse 27?

Your “one” might have doubts. He or she probably will. How will you deal with those doubts?

If our “one” has doubts, can we trust Jesus to show up like He did for Thomas? How might we help our “one” encounter Jesus?

Church tradition holds that Thomas followed God’s call to India in 52 AD and planted churches there. What does this prove to us about Thomas’ faith and doubt?

### **ACTION:**

Here are ways we can help foster an environment in which our “ones” can have a life-changing experience with Jesus:

1. Invite them to read the Bible on their own or with you. Do they have a Bible? If not, get them one!
2. Ask how you can pray for them, and ask them to pray for you.
3. Be prepared to share how your experience with Jesus addressed your doubts and helped you on your own faith journey. This will require a willingness to be vulnerable with your “one.”
4. Invite them to church! Gathering among God’s people in a worship setting can bring about a powerful experience.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, we love You and thank You for using us even though we sometimes doubt. We thank You for showing up for us and our “ones” and for drawing us to You. Please help our “ones” experience You in a way that will help address any doubts they may have.

# WEEK 3 - SUNDAY, APRIL 26

## THE NEXT CHAPTER: The Signs

In His extravagant love, God provided seven signs in the book of John. We are surrounded by signs. Stop. Merge. Speed Limit 25. Following traffic signs leads to our safety and wellbeing. John, the Apostle of Love, wrote with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, leaving signs that lead to our eternal safety and wellbeing. The signs in the book of John are proof that God loves us and doesn't want us to get lost. It all boils down to love. The signs in the book of John point the way.

**Read John 20:30-31**

### DISCUSSION:

**Read about the sign in John 2:1-11 when Jesus turned water into wine**

In ancient Israel, failure to provide sufficient wine at a wedding was a terrible humiliation for the bride, the groom and their families. At Mary's request, Jesus averted the crisis. What does His generous action tell us about the heart of Jesus?

What did John write about the response to this miracle in verse 11, and how might he want us to respond?

**Read about the sign in John 4:46-54 when Jesus healed the royal official's son**

What does verse 50 reveal about the official's faith?

Read Hebrews 11:1. How did this apply to the official? How does this apply to your life?

**Read about the sign in John 5:1-15 when Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda**

What did Jesus ask the man and why?

How does this question affect us and our problems? Do we always want to get well?

**Read about the sign in John 6:3-14 when Jesus fed the 5,000**

What is the significance of having so many leftovers in verses 12-13?

What was the people's response to this miraculous sign in verse 14?

**Read about the sign in John 6:16-21 when Jesus walked on water**

When Jesus walked on water, what did He prove to His disciples about His identity?

Then Jesus said, "Don't be afraid." Why didn't the disciples need to be afraid?

**Read about the sign in John 9:1-38 when Jesus healed the man who was born blind**

Jesus told the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. What do we need to do when God's instructions don't make sense to us?

The man's parents were afraid because they didn't want to be expelled from the synagogue. When we are faced with obeying God or displeasing people, what must be our greatest concern?

**Read about the sign in John 11:1-45 when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**

Read John 11:15. What was the point of Lazarus' death and return to life? How was Lazarus' death sacrificial?

Read John 11:45. What did the sign of Jesus raising Lazarus do for those who witnessed it?

**ACTION:**

John, the Apostle of Love, writing with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, provided these seven signs because God loves us and wants us to believe. So, like John, look for ways to share stories, make commitments and invest your time and resources so that others will also believe.

Look for ways to be generous. Be mindful of obedience to God. Be willing to sacrifice for the Lord and the people around you. Discuss how this will look in your life.

**PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us so much that You left signs leading us to You. Please help us to live generously, obediently and sacrificially as we grow to be like Your Son. Amen.

# WEEK 3 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

## THE NEXT CHAPTER: The Signs

In His extravagant love for us, God provided seven signs in the book of John. The signs lead us to Jesus so that we will believe He is the Christ and have eternal life in His name. While these signs lead to our eternal safety and wellbeing, they also affect how we live. Slow down and search the signs for examples of generosity, obedience, and sacrifice.

### DISCUSSION:

**1. Inspect the sign in John 2:1-11 when Jesus turned water into wine.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**2. Inspect the sign in John 4:46-54 when Jesus healed the royal official's son.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**3. Inspect the sign in John 5:1-15 when Jesus healed the man at the pool.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**4. Inspect the sign in John 6:3-14 when Jesus fed the 5,000.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**5. Inspect the sign in John 6:16-21 when Jesus walked on water.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**6. Inspect the sign in John 9:1-38 when Jesus healed the man born blind.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**7. Inspect the sign in John 11:1-45 when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.**

Look for examples of generosity.

Look for examples of obedience.

Look for examples of sacrifice.

**ACTION:**

Pray for the Lord to provide opportunities for you to live out Spirit-led demonstrations of generosity, obedience and sacrifice this week. Then consider what it would look like if we, as a church, did the same.

**PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord, thank You for Your extravagant love and for the signs You have provided to lead us to You. Lead us to live generously. Help us to live obediently. Guide us to live sacrificially. Amen.

# WEEK 4 - SUNDAY, MAY 3

## THE NEXT MOVE: No Going Back

Vision honors the past but doesn't focus on the past. Vision is forward-looking and anticipates the future even when it is tempting to want to live in the past, in familiar things, in the comfortable and known.

### Read Numbers 13:25-33 and 14:1-4

- The 12 spies had returned from Canaan, with differing reports.
- Caleb encouraged the people to obey the Lord and predicted the Israelites could take the land.
- The remaining men disagreed and started rumors with tales of giants.
- The people believed the tales and wished that they had died instead of facing such a risk.
- They decided to choose a new leader who would take them back to Egypt.

### DISCUSSION:

What acts of God had the Israelites witnessed prior to their complaints in the wilderness?

Based on their past experiences with God, you would think that they would have at least begun to trust Him to take care of them. Why was this so hard for them?

### Read Exodus 16:1-3 and Numbers 11:4-6

What was missing from their memories of Egypt?

Why do you think they wanted to return to Egypt?

Has there been a time in your life when you just wanted to go back to what was familiar and comfortable, to where you knew what to expect, even if the circumstances were not perfect?

## Read Joshua 3:14-17

The Israelites ultimately turned their focus to the future and entered the Promised Land. After crossing the Jordan, the Israelites were committed to God's vision for their nation. However, full-on commitment to God's plan took forty long years. Due to their resistance to embracing God's vision for their nation, an entire generation was denied the blessing of entering the Promised Land.

We, as a faith community, can learn from their experiences. Do we desire to "cross the Jordan" and be part of what God wants to do in the future of our church?

In light of our church's vision statement, "Love God and Love People," what are real steps we could take to reach out to a "one" in love and friendship?

Are we willing to take a risk by committing our resources to the church — time, service, tithes and offerings?

God was calling the Israelites to step out in faith and trust Him to accomplish His vision for them, and He is calling us to do the same — to step out in faith, as we live out our vision statement: "Love God and Love People."

### **ACTION:**

It is time to make the next move. Prayerfully consider what full-on commitment to the future of our church means for you. Ask God to open your heart with compassion for those who don't know Him and with generosity in supporting the vision of this church.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord Jesus, our hope is in You. You have led this faith community in the past, and You have given us a vision of hope for the future. Now it is time for us to move ahead with renewed commitment to ministry, individually and corporately. We set our eyes firmly forward on You. It is in Your powerful Name we pray. Amen.

# WEEK 4 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

## THE NEXT MOVE: No Going Back

Join us on Wednesday May 6  
for our IGNITE  
Prayer and Worship Night!

Please use this devotional for your personal study of Pastor Billy's message on "The Next Move."

Before we focus on today's scripture passage, it is interesting to note that Jesus had previously appeared to the disciples in different places and circumstances and, perhaps, with different purposes in mind.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Read Luke 24:13-35

Jesus walked, unrecognized, with two unnamed disciples who were heading to Emmaus. What might have been Jesus' purpose in talking with the disciples? Where was His focus?

#### Read John 20:19-23

Jesus suddenly appeared in a locked room with the disciples. What did Jesus do?

Was Jesus' focus on past events or on the future?

#### Read John 20:26-29

Jesus again suddenly appeared in a locked room with the disciples, including Thomas. What did Jesus do?

Was His focus on past events or on the future? How so?

#### Read John 21:1-8, which is this week's scripture passage

The location of Jesus' appearance is significant.

What other events in Jesus' ministry happened here?

Peter decided to go fishing and the others joined him. What did fishing represent to these men?

They fished all night and caught nothing. What would this have meant to them?

Jesus unexpectedly appeared on the shore. They didn't recognize Him, even though He called out to them. Why do you think they didn't recognize Him?

What made the difference between no fish all night and many fish in the morning?

What might Jesus' purpose have been in this appearance?

### **Read Philippians 3:12-16**

Like the disciples, we have encountered the Living Christ. We have past experiences that have shaped our relationship with Him. What should those past experiences drive us to do, according to Philippians 3:13?

The disciples didn't recognize Jesus' voice. They were distracted by doing familiar things, having no success. How are we, like the disciples, distracted by doing the things we've always done, the way we've always done them, without success?

Jesus asked the disciples a question: "Children, have you caught anything?" Is He asking us the same question? Have we been fishing in the night and catching nothing?

Peter immediately jumped in the water when Jesus showed up. That meant getting soaking wet. What will an enthusiastic, full-on response to Jesus look like in our lives?

The disciples were not sure how to go forward, and their unsuccessful fishing trip proved they couldn't go back. Jesus showed up and gave them hope, reminding them that they were still fishermen, but they were now fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). Their obedience to Him would bring results beyond their imaginations. God wants to do the same in our lives and in our church, but He can only work if we are willing to dive in like Peter, trusting Him for the outcome.

### **ACTION:**

Ask God to open your heart for those who don't know Him and commit to having a "one." Pray about generously responding to supporting the vision of this church with financial and other resources God has given you. Trust God for the fulfillment of your commitment.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord Jesus, how we long to see our nets overflowing! We know You can and want to do things through us that are beyond our hopes and dreams, if we will make the next move with You. Open our eyes and hearts. In Your precious and powerful name we pray, Amen.

# WEEK 5 - SUNDAY, MAY 10

## THE NEXT MEAL: Commitment

The story of Elijah, the Lord's prophet, and the widow of Zarephath shows what happens when we put our meager resources and our futures in the hands of God.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Read 1 Kings 17:1-7

King Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him (1 Kings 16:30). Ahab worshipped Baal (16:31) and believed that Baal brought rain. Elijah told evil King Ahab there would be no rain until he said so, and then Elijah hid by the Cherith Brook. Why would Elijah need to hide?

How was the Lord faithful concerning Elijah's care in the wilderness?

Did God give Elijah barely enough to survive or was the Lord's provision extravagant?

Elijah told Ahab that as surely as the Lord lives, there would be no dew or rain unless Elijah said so. Yet Elijah had food and water. What was the secret to Elijah's success?

#### Read Philippians 4:19

How can we gain personal experience that we can rely on God for our care?

How can we be confident in God's provision?

#### Read 1 Kings 17:8-16

The widow didn't hesitate to fill Elijah's cup. What does this tell us about her heart?

What was required of the widow so that she could be instrumental in God's miracle?

Put yourself in the widow's shoes. You are holding one last meal for you and your son in your hands. Do you keep the flour and oil for yourself and your boy or do you believe Elijah and his God for a miracle?

Do you feel like what little you have to give won't make a real difference? What are you overlooking?

### **Read 1 Kings 17:17-24**

In ancient Israel, widows lacked the economic and physical protection men provided. Childless widows' needs were not met in the present, and they had no security to look forward to in the future. What did God restore for the widow when He saved the life of her son?

The Lord has a heart for widows. Psalm 68:5 says, "Father of orphans and defender of widows is God in his holy habitation." Why is God so clear in promising to provide for orphans and widows?

### **ACTION:**

Read Malachi 3:10. God said, "Please test me in this." Generally, testing God is inappropriate. It points to disbelief. But here God gives a clear invitation. When we give generously, obediently and sacrificially, God will provide. Take some time to write down ways in which the Lord has provided for you in the past. As you are willing, share one or two examples with the group about a time when the Lord provided for you.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, help us remember that You can do a lot with a little. Help us remember that we are not asked to do things in our own strength. Help us to always remember your power and your extravagant love and care for us. Amen.

# WEEK 5 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

## THE NEXT MEAL: Commitment

In this week's Sunday message, Pastor Billy preached on John 21:9-14, when the disciples brought their catch to the Lord and accepted His invitation to join Him at His table. There are other passages in scripture that highlight the value of a meal.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Read 1 Kings 17:8-16

The widow said, "Look at me" (17:12) to Elijah. She is asking us to look at her, too. Even though she had nothing left, she still filled Elijah's water cup. She was also committed to feeding her son one last time. What does this tell us about her heart?

The widow was destitute, yet Elijah told her to bake a little loaf for him and then make some for herself and her son. God could have sent his ravens to provide bread like he did for Elijah (17:6). What did God do for the widow when He let her bake bread?

Elijah shared a prophecy with the widow. The flour and oil wouldn't run out. What did the widow do in response to the prophecy?

How was the widow rewarded for her trust and obedience?

#### Read John 21:1-3

The disciples fished all night but caught nothing (21:3). Remember that Jesus told them to fish for people, and they were fishing for fish again. Why might they have gone back to fishing for fish?

How was it going for the disciples?

How well does it go for us when we try to operate in our own strength without God?

## Read John 21:4-14

Jesus stood on the shore and told the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the boat. The disciples obeyed and caught so many fish they couldn't haul in the net (21:6). What changed?

John 21:9 says, "they saw a fire there, with fish on it." But then, Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you've just caught" (21:10). Did Jesus need their fish? Why did He ask them to give?

When you are invited to someone's house for dinner, what is the first thing you ask and why?

If Jesus were to invite you over to His place, what might you bring to His table?

## **ACTION:**

Read Malachi 3:10. God said, "Please test me in this." Generally, testing God is inappropriate. It points to disbelief. But here God gives a clear invitation. When we give generously, obediently and sacrificially, God will provide. Take some time to write down ways in which the Lord has provided for you in the past. As you are willing, share one or two examples with the group about a time when the Lord provided for you.

## **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your extravagant love for us. We thank You for the privilege of being tools in Your mighty hands. We ask You to bless us with the wisdom to always commit to Your plans and not our own. Amen.

# WEEK 6 - SUNDAY, MAY 17

## THE NEXT TURN: A Second Chance

Today, Pastor Billy will be preaching on John 21:15-19, which tells about Peter's second chance after he denied Jesus three times. Three times Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" To set the table for Pastor Billy's message today, we will examine Peter's denials in John 18:15-27.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Read John 18:15-18

Peter was fearless when he swung the sword at a servant (18:10). Why would he lie to an unthreatening servant woman (18:17)?

Since Peter was risking his own life to follow Jesus, and Peter was also interested in his own survival, what can we see was true about Peter?

Put yourself in Peter's shoes. You fully believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God (16:16). You saw Jesus walk through murderous crowds. But now Jesus has been arrested and all the disciples but you and John have scattered. How are you physically? How are you emotionally? How are you spiritually?

Deuteronomy 19:15 says, "A solitary witness against someone in any crime, wrongdoing, or in any sort of misdeed that might be done is not sufficient. The decision must stand by two or three witnesses." Throughout the Bible, eyewitness accounts are extremely important. When all the other disciples scattered, why would it be important that Peter and John stayed with Jesus?

#### Read John 18:25-27

Do you think it was easier or harder for Peter to make a second denial in verse 25?

Do you think it was easier or harder for Peter to make a third denial in verse 27?

We know Peter loved Jesus. Peter didn't run away with the nine disciples who scattered. Peter had the courage to follow Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. Why might Peter have lost his courage when confronted three times?

Peter stayed when nine disciples scattered. What does this tell us about the internal struggle he may have been feeling?

John doesn't give us Peter's reaction to the rooster crowing in verse 27, but if we were to speculate — what feelings might Peter have had in that moment?

Have you ever experienced a time in which you feel like you let Jesus down?

### **Read 1 Peter 2:23**

Why is this particularly important, coming from Peter?

### **ACTION:**

The Lord could have given us lists of do's and don'ts. But God gave us stories so that we can imagine how we would respond. We can learn humility without living out every humbling experience. We grow through the victories and mistakes of others. Now, with a deeper understanding of Peter's denials of Jesus, listen to Pastor Billy's message on John 21:15-19.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, we love You and we thank you for second chances. Amen.

# WEEK 6 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

## THE NEXT TURN: A Second Chance

Jesus proclaimed that loving God and loving people is the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:36-40. The common thread in the two most important commandments is love. So, of course, when Jesus gave Peter his second chance after his denials, Jesus asked, "Do you love Me?" Then, Jesus gave Peter his mission.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Read John 21:15-19

In English, it looks like Jesus is asking the same question three times and Peter is answering the same way three times, but in Greek, it looks quite different. In John 21:15, Jesus used the Greek word *agapao* for love. It means a deep, sacrificing love that has its source in God. Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Peter used the Greek word *phileo* for love, which means brotherly affection. What was Jesus asking? What was Peter's answer?

Next, Jesus gave Peter his mission. Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." The Greek word for feed is *bosko* which is a prolonged form of the verb. It means keep on feeding. The Greek word for lambs is *arnion* which means a little lamb or a little sheep. So, what mission did Jesus assign to Peter?

Jesus was not talking about literal sheep. What was Jesus commissioning Peter to do?

What is the time commitment for a shepherd to feed his sheep?

In John 21:16, Jesus asked Peter for the second time, "do you love me?" Jesus used the Greek word *agapao* again. Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Peter used the Greek word *phileo* again. What was Jesus asking? What was Peter's answer?

Next, Jesus reiterated Peter's mission and He turned up the responsibility. Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep" (John 21:18). The Greek word for take care of is *poimaino*. *Poimaino* means to feed, tend, or shepherd the sheep. The Greek word used for sheep is *probaton* which means a full-grown sheep. How much responsibility does Jesus give to Peter now?

Jesus was not talking about shepherding literal sheep. What was Jesus commissioning Peter to do?

Finally, Jesus asked Peter a question for the third time. Jesus assigned Peter to a mission, and he turned up Peter's responsibility once again. Jesus asked, "Do you love me?" (John 21:17) However, this time, Jesus used the Greek word *phileo* for love. Jesus changed the word for love from *agapao* to *phileo*. How does the difference in these two words change what Jesus was asking Peter?

Jesus answered, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17). This time, Jesus used the Greek words *bosko* and *probaton* again. So, Jesus reiterated, keep on feeding My full-grown sheep. Jesus was not talking about continued feeding of literal sheep. What was Jesus commissioning Peter to do?

What was Peter's mission?

Peter denied Jesus three times in the high priest's courtyard, and Peter was crushed by his failure. Now Jesus had given Peter a second chance at expressing his love for Jesus three times. How do you think Peter felt after this second chance?

### **ACTION:**

Consider who God may be calling you to shepherd and what might that look like in light of Peter's words in 1 Peter 5:2-4.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your extravagant love, the second chances You give to us, and the individual missions You assign to each and every one of Your children. Amen.

# BONUS WEEK - SUNDAY, MAY 24

## PENTECOST SUNDAY: The Holy Spirit's Arrival

This morning's lesson highlights that when the Holy Spirit appears, things are never the same. He is humanity's Divine Plus One because He goes with us wherever we go! When the Holy Spirit rushed in to visit the twelve in the First Century, the term 'Pentecost' was familiar. It referred to the 50th day after Passover and was another name for the Jewish harvest festival called the Feast of Weeks.

### CONTEXT:

#### Read Acts 1:13-14

How many disciples were there and what were they doing?

Their numbers had grown beyond the original 12 disciples. Who else was gathered and what did that say about the group?

### DIVINE VISITATION:

#### Read Acts 2:2-4 in several different translations

In Acts 2:2, how is the wind's arrival described?

Where else in scripture is wind depicted in a dramatic way?

What happened in Acts 2:3?

In scripture, fire is symbolic of the presence of God. Where else in scripture has God shown up as fire?

What happened in Acts 2:4?

Does everyone experience the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the same way?

## MISSION:

### Read Acts 2:6 in several different translations

What was the immediate result of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

What was the significance of being able to hear and understand in their native languages?

What effect might the miracle of speaking in foreign languages have on the disciples?

### Read Acts 2:12-13

What was the crowd's reaction to the Holy Spirit's gift of languages?

### Read Acts 2:14-21

Who preached and what was the message?

What was the ultimate result of Peter's bold preaching and the work of the Holy Spirit?

## APPLICATION:

What can we learn from the events surrounding the first post-Resurrection Pentecost?

- When God's people are together, the Holy Spirit is active and responds to all seekers.
- The Holy Spirit uses anyone, at any time, to work in believers' lives.
- The Holy Spirit speaks to individual hearts, drawing them closer to God and enabling them to improve on their natural abilities for Christian service.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers with gifts and abilities as they mature. However, the Holy Spirit Himself is the ultimate Gift.

## PRAYER PROMPT:

Heavenly Father, we want to freshly immerse ourselves in a one-on-one relationship with the Holy Spirit. As our "ones" sense that relationship in our lives, lead them to be curious enough to ask honest, open questions about You. Make us appropriately transparent and honest in our responses, enabling our "ones" to personally know the Holy Spirit, who is our ever-present Counselor and Helper. Amen.

# BONUS WEEK - WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

## PENTECOST SUNDAY: The Holy Spirit's Arrival

When the Holy Spirit appeared among the disciples and the others with them, everyone heard and saw the effects of His personal Presence.

### AUDIBLE

#### Read Acts 2:2, 2:5-12

Who heard the sound?

What did they hear?

Did the Holy Spirit inspire legitimate languages that were in use in the First Century?

Why would God have the disciples speak in so many languages? Why not use a translator?

#### Read John 3:8

The Apostle John used the Greek word *pneuma* for both wind and Spirit. How are wind and Spirit connected on Pentecost?

### VISIBLE

#### Read Acts 2:3

The flame was not one corporate flame. Why not?

On Sunday, we discussed fire in scripture as a symbol of God's presence. However, fire also symbolizes God's power and passion.

#### Read 1 Kings 18:36-39

How does fire symbolize power and passion in this passage?

#### Read Luke 3:16

What did John the Baptist mean when he said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire?

### Read Luke 12:49

How does fire symbolize power and passion in this passage?

### Read Acts 2:7 and 4:13

How did the crowd respond to hearing their native languages spoken?

God could have used extraordinary people. Instead, He used extra ordinary people. Galileans had a unique and easily identifiable dialect. Everywhere they went, Jerusalem's elites looked down on them as country hicks. Peter's lack of sophistication was obvious. (See Mark 14:70.)

What would be required for uneducated and inexperienced disciples to speak over fifteen different languages?

How does the fact that God used the uneducated and inexperienced disciples give us hope and encouragement that He will use us to impact the life of our "one"?

The early church was unified and they did life together. How do you see this lived out at WLCC?

Advancements in technology are allowing us to more easily overcome language barriers. What other barriers still remain to telling others about the good news of Jesus?

How do we invite our "ones" into our church family?

### PRAYER PROMPT:

Heavenly Father, we want to continue immersing ourselves in our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. We want to keep growing in our fellowship with, and obedience to, the third Person of the Divine Trinity. We know the Holy Spirit will be faithful in opening opportunities to share with our "ones." As the Spirit leads, may we be open to sharing how His Spirit has worked, and is working, in our lives. We pray that as we share, our "ones" will develop spiritual hunger and will seek the Holy Spirit's personal presence in a lifelong relationship with Him. Amen.

# WEEK 7 - SUNDAY, MAY 31

## THE NEXT STEP: Focus

Over the past month and a half, we have been looking at chapters 20 and 21 of John's Gospel. Our study has focused on how we, as a faith community, can more fully live out the stated vision of our church: "Love God and Love People." We've been challenged to:

- Find our "one" (John 20:19-23).
- Open our hearts to the next experience (John 20:24-29).
- Help our church meet the financial challenge for the next chapter, based on Jesus' miraculous signs (John 20:30-31).
- Challenge ourselves to make the next move (John 21:1-8).
- Make a commitment of time and finances (John 21:9-14).
- Realize Jesus gives us a second chance to respond to this challenge, even when we feel unqualified or disqualified for service (John 21:14-19).

This week, we will conclude our series with the last six verses of John 21, focusing on three elements: Distraction, Focus, and Overflow. Let's look back at the passages we've studied for the last six weeks, keeping these elements in mind.

### Read John 20:19-23

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What were the disciples focusing on? Did their focus change?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### Read John 20:24-29

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What was Thomas focusing on? Did his focus change?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### Read John 20:30-31

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What are the disciples focused on?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### Read John 21:1-8

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What are the disciples focused on? Did their focus change?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### **Read John 21:9-14**

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What are the disciples focused on? Did their focus change?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### **Read John 21:15-19**

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What was Peter focused on?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### **Read the final six verses of our series — John 21:20-25**

**DISTRACTION** – What distractions are at work in the passage?

**FOCUS** – What are the disciples focused on? Did their focus change?

**OVERFLOW** – What abundance can we see here?

### **ACTION:**

- Identify the distractions in your life. What is consuming your time, thoughts, and money?
- Refocus on Jesus and the call He has on your life and His mission for you.
- Look for changes you can make so that you have time to build a relationship with your “one.”
- Identify adjustments you can make in order to better support your faith community financially.
- Live expectantly, anticipating the overflow of blessing as you live out your call to “Love God and Love People”.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for using ordinary men and women in scripture, and throughout history, to further Your Kingdom. It gives us hope that You can use us, too. We know they all faced distractions, large and small, and had to continually refocus on You. We also know that when they did, You responded with an overflow of blessings. As we follow their example in dealing with distractions and refocusing on You, fill our hearts with expectation and gratitude for the overflow You will bring. Amen.

# WEEK 7 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

## THE NEXT STEP: Focus

In our last class in the series, we will take a closer look at the last six verses of John 21 and make applications of this passage to our own lives.

### Read John 21:20-25

Peter is distracted by the mission of others. When have you been most vulnerable to distraction in your life? What were the distractions?

### Reread John 21:20, aloud

Should we be looking back (or around) at where others are on their journey?

Where should we focus?

### Read Matthew 16:18-19

What had Jesus said about Peter in the past?

### Read Matthew 14:28-31

Peter was distracted by John. What happened in the past when Peter let worry distract him?

Have you ever taken your focus off of what Jesus has said and found yourself beginning to sink like Peter? What can you do to refocus your attention on Jesus?

### Reread John 21:22, aloud

Jesus wanted to redirect Peter's attention. Even with Jesus right beside him, Peter had trouble focusing only on Jesus. How did Jesus turn Peter's focus back to Himself?

A well-known quote is loosely attributed to Teddy Roosevelt: "Comparison is the thief of joy." Is the thought behind this quote supported by scripture, or not?

### **Reread John 21:24-27, aloud**

Who are the eyewitnesses who corroborate the truth of our testimony?

Why is our testimony important?

Speculate for a moment and use your imagination: what other things did Jesus do that were not written down?

The author says Jesus did many other things. Does it matter that we don't know every detail?

What is the author's main point?

### **ACTION:**

Acknowledge and celebrate Christ's work in your life. Celebrate that He wants to use you in the life of another. Celebrate His call to support your church financially, knowing He will provide the means. Anticipate God's abundance as you and your church "Love God and Love People." Be encouraged as you share your testimony with your "one." We may not have all the answers, but we will share who Jesus is and what He has done in our lives.

### **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Lord Jesus, we love You. We are challenged by the vision You have given us and are excited to see how You are going to work. May Your Holy Spirit remind us to stay focused on You and what has been set before us. Amen.



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