



NOW

GUIDE BOOK

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVID



“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?”

LUKE 15:4

THANKSGIVING CHURCH,

I am so deeply appreciative of the way you love our community. You are woven into the very fabric of our surrounding communities. I can honestly say that if Thanksgiving were not present, the community would miss us.

But also consider that there are tens of thousands of people right around us who haven't experienced the love of Jesus. Not only is their eternity at stake, but life is simply not working. Our mission has always been about reaching out, gathering, and equipping. We believe that God has placed us here for this very reason and that we must engage our community and world in new and fresh ways.

After much prayer and planning, our leadership team and council are proposing a bold plan to extend our mission and reach our community, as Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28. To achieve this, I am excited to announce our **NOW Vision Campaign**. We have some big goals for the coming years. We are inviting everyone to begin by listening to God for His direction for us as individuals and as a church.

This will be a big step for each of us. I'm asking that you begin **NOW**, praying specifically for how God will call you to be a part of His movement. We can achieve this together, but it will require an investment from each of us. We believe each of us wants to see good triumph over evil, lost people being found, and parties in heaven because of the saving grace of Jesus.

Will you join us as we dream of fulfilling Jesus' command to reach our community and our world with the love of Jesus? Will you choose **ONE** to pray for and share the love of Jesus? Will you give sacrificially of your resources to help us create spaces to invite your **ONE** to experience God's grace? The time is now! The stakes are high! Let's live into our mission that we declare each week in worship by reaching out to our **ONE**, and gathering **ALL** into the kingdom of God, equipping them and ourselves to be disciples of Jesus Christ, in our community, nation, and world.

Pastor Dan

THE NOW CAMPAIGN

40 years ago a small group of people stood on a hill nestled deep in Sarpy County, a stone's throw from Offutt Air Force Base, where cornfields and gravel roads converged and they prayed this prayer, "Is now the time?"

Those ordinary people who trusted an extraordinary God felt deep in their soul that God was calling them to plant a new church. They embarked on a mission to take new ground for God and His kingdom, one person at a time. The movement we now call Thanksgiving was born.



From its humble beginnings of reaching out and knocking on doors, to present day engagement in our surrounding community, Thanksgiving is woven into the very fabric of Bellevue, Papillion, Offutt, Sarpy County, and beyond.

Thanksgiving, we believe **NOW** is the time to be the church more than ever before. That is why we are committed, just like those first Thanksgiving Disciples, to reaching individuals and our community with the Good News of Jesus. **NOW**. Today.

We have talked a lot about what it means to reach **ONE**, the simple and profound truth that God has placed friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors in our lives that He urgently desires us to pray for and reflect the love of Jesus to them.

We have been committed to doing whatever it takes to reach **ONE** more, including creating a campus and worship spaces where you will want to invite your friends and family to engage with Jesus. Our leadership team remains committed to continue developing not a monument, but a mission center.

So, how do we take the next step together? How do we continue to equip our mission? Just like those first disciples of Thanksgiving who sacrificed greatly to birth a vision 40 years ago, we are asking each of you to pray for and grab hold of a God-sized vision to impact lives **NOW**. As you grasp this vision, there are two things we are asking each of us to consider a commitment to over the next 3 years.

First, we are asking you to commit to having a “**ONE**” in your life. “Choosing One” is at the heart of who we are at Thanksgiving and we believe each one of us is called to commit to building a friendship with one person in the community who has not experienced the life changing love of Jesus.

Second, we are asking you to make a financial commitment toward our vision of reaching those in our neighborhoods through connection, community, and compassion. Our leadership has been dreaming and praying about how to do this, and together, we believe **NOW** is the time to move forward with plans to expand and improve our campus, as well as to purchase our mission center in Olde Towne Bellevue, the Light House.

A CHURCH WHERE YOU CAN BE YOURSELF

CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

CONNECTING VENUE





TRANSFORM OUR LOBBY INTO A CONNECTING VENUE

We want to create a significant space for connection between Thanksgiving and our community. We believe **NOW** is the time to transform our current lobby space into a connecting venue, where we would not only connect with one other, but we would create a welcoming and connecting experience for our guests on the weekends and throughout the week.

This new space allows for worship to be more than just a 1-hour event, but rather an opportunity to extend this time through connection and conversation. We see a place where young families could connect throughout the week with a great cup of coffee and an indoor play area. We also see a place where students could connect after school, or on a Friday/Saturday night. We see a place where our senior adults could gather with friends for meals, inspiration, fun and service opportunities. The possibilities are endless!

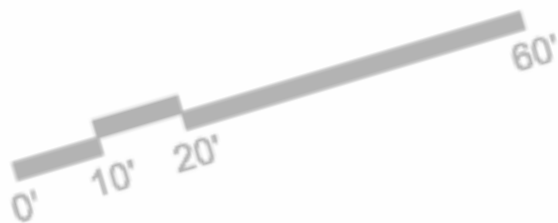
CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS



INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS TO OUR CAMPUS

As we seek to update our lobby spaces, we want to update the rest of our campus as well. Our desire is to have environments that you would be eager and proud to bring your “ONE” to! These improvements include updates to our Worship Center, kids spaces and other public gathering areas.





CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

LIGHT HOUSE





PURCHASE THE LIGHT HOUSE

We want to purchase our mission center in Olde Towne Bellevue, called the Light House, so that we can more fully immerse ourselves in our surrounding community. As a church, we have led the way in providing a place in the community to unite local churches, governmental agencies, police officers, and local business owners to investing in the common goal of addressing the issues and problems that plague our cities and neighborhoods. We are increasingly being looked to as a partner to help transform Bellevue and all of Sarpy County. Up until now, we have been leasing to own the Light House, but we believe **NOW** is the time to purchase it for kingdom purposes.



NOW IS OUR TIME



HOW COULD YOU JOIN US?

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

The cost of the proposed renovations is \$5.5-6 million. Our goal is to raise at least \$2.5 million over the next three years from your generous sacrificial giving. With God's provision, we can achieve this together.

As a church, we are asking you to prayerfully consider joining your church family in the **NOW Vision Campaign**. Our goal is that we will mobilize 100% of our Thanksgiving community to participate by praying passionately, giving sacrificially, and growing exponentially as disciples.

AS A CHURCH, WE ARE ASKING YOU TO MAKE TWO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AS PART OF THE NOW VISION CAMPAIGN:

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 and intentional relationships.

2

Commit to give sacrificially to resource our campus projects by making a 3-year commitment, above and beyond your regular giving to Thanksgiving 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 14 and 15, we will come together to commit our support.

If you would, please be in prayer now for this season. When we sacrifice, and we don’t make it about ourselves, we serve God, but we also grow in our faith! Previous generations have come before us and have provided us with much... now it’s our turn.

MONTHLY	ANNUALLY	3-YR TOTAL
100	1,200	3,600
200	2,400	7,200
300	3,600	10,800
400	4,800	14,400
500	6,000	18,000
750	9,000	27,000
1000	12,000	36,000
1250	15,000	45,000
1500	18,000	54,000

Here’s how far your gift could go! This is about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts, and together, we can make an eternal impact in our community! Here’s an example of how far your gift could go over the course of our 3-year campaign.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING CHURCH ASKING OF ME THROUGH THE NOW VISION CAMPAIGN?

We are asking you to prayerfully consider joining your Thanksgiving Church family in making two commitments. The first is a relational commitment to be praying for and developing a relationship with at least one person in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus. This is a crucial component of Thanksgiving Church's DNA of living a lifestyle of Up (relationship with God), IN (relationship with our church family), and OUT (relationship with our **ONES**). The second is a sacrificial financial commitment above and beyond your regular giving to the church. We are not asking for equal gifts from all in our church family, but rather equal sacrifice consistent with how God has blessed you financially. Our leadership team is praying for 100% participation with these two commitments from our church family!

WHAT PROCESS DID THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP GO THROUGH TO ARRIVE AT THE NOW VISION CAMPAIGN?

Our pastors, senior staff leaders, and church council engaged in a multi-year process to establish the Taking New Ground vision for Thanksgiving Church. As a part of this vision several initiative teams have been launched exploring things like how we welcome our guests on the weekend, how we structure worship services, retooling our church campus buildings, online presence, and so much more. The **NOW Vision Campaign** is the next step in Taking New Ground.





WHY DOES OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP WANT TO DEDICATE A CAMPAIGN TO THESE PRIORITIES SPECIFICALLY?

Our mission at Thanksgiving is to be a church that reaches out and gathers people into God's family, as well as equips disciples. Accomplishing that mission involves us following the lead of Jesus in meeting people where they are and allowing the Holy Spirit to show them how and where to move. There is much that can facilitate that process and much that can hinder it. We believe the Light House acquisition and the campus changes will better facilitate gathering, connecting, equipping, and training those whom God is calling.

WHY DOES THANKSGIVING CHURCH NEED CHANGES TO OUR CAMPUS RIGHT NOW?

One need that we believe will remain for the church and those we serve going forward is space for connection, community, and worshiping together. This need will be even more prevalent considering the challenges we have all faced the past few years. The retooling of our campus will add significant multi-use community space, a more dynamic and accessible worship experience on the weekends, and will remove obstacles to connecting with each other and our guests on campus. We believe these changes and upgrades to the campus are vital in our mission to reach one more for Jesus and connect with our community. Several initiative teams, prayer and discernment retreats, reading and research, discussions with professional consultants and architects, and the touring of other church campuses have contributed to each of the planned changes to our campus.



IS IT FEASIBLE TO HAVE THE CONSTRUCTION WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN MULTIPLE PHASES INSTEAD OF ALL AT ONCE?

Our leadership team diligently sought a way to approach this project in phases. However, due to the nature of these campus changes and how they all interconnect, it makes more fiscal sense to accomplish them together in one project. Responsible adjustments to the project details will be made if needed.

WILL THE CHURCH NEED TO TAKE ON DEBT TO ACCOMPLISH THE WORK IN THIS CAMPAIGN?

We are trusting God to provide all that we need for this campaign. We do anticipate the plan will involve some long-term debt. This will be done responsibly just as it has in the past at Thanksgiving Church. Interest rates remaining low will help allow for manageable payments that should be funded with campaign and not operational budget dollars. Our campaign goal of \$2.5 million will fund about 40% of the campus changes we have planned, so we do anticipate needing additional campaigns in the years to come. This plan is consistent with previous campaigns to fund campus changes most notably the addition of the Family Life Center (now called the Worship Center and our Explorers lower level) nearly 20 years ago. God has always worked through this congregation to bring His vision to reality!



OUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO FUNDING THE CAMPAIGN WILL LAST THREE YEARS, BUT WHEN WILL THE CAMPAIGN PROJECTS BE STARTED?

After witnessing the sacrificial gift of our church family, work will begin. We have been working with our architect for some time now. The project will start as soon as our contractor's schedule allows.

HOW WILL THE CONSTRUCTION NEEDED FOR THESE CAMPUS CHANGES IMPACT OUR WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS?

Our leadership team will work diligently to keep disruptions to our current worship services and weekly events to a minimum. We will need to adapt in some ways as construction progresses. We see those temporary adaptations as a sacrifice we can all make to take new ground for the Kingdom!

WHERE CAN I ACCESS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOW VISION CAMPAIGN?

The best way to find more information about the campaign is to visit the web page tlconnect.church/now. You can also find that page by visiting tlconnect.church and clicking on the "NOW" icon.



CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Often times we hear a phrase like “Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Sacrifice” and think, “If they only knew how little money I have,” or “I’m giving all I can—I can’t give anymore,” or “I can barely make it on what I earn. There’s no way I can give to the project.” Believe us, we understand the concerns and empathize with you. That’s why we developed a list of creative ways to give that you may have overlooked.

Each one requires sacrifice, but like King David said, “I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!” –1 Chronicles 21:24

1. Be a Coupon Clipper. Food is probably the largest expense we have each month. Using food coupons can save \$30-\$40 per week. Donating that \$30 a week over three years totals \$4,680.
2. Give up a “routine.” For example, a gourmet coffee each day for three years can cost over \$3,000.
3. Commit your income tax refund check for the three year period.
4. Commit an estimated raise in salary over the next three years.
5. Adjust your vacations. For one or more years of the 3-year period, do something close and inexpensive like day-trips or picnics. Or take a 3-day vacation instead of a week and save on the airfare and hotel costs. This can save \$1,000 to \$2,000 easily.
6. 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 project after the bill is paid off. A \$100 payment per month over three years is \$3,600.
7. Cut down to basic cable instead of premium cable with movie channels. Premium cable could be as much as \$150 a month. By cutting back to basic cable, you could save up to \$4,000 over three years.
8. Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to the project. For example, delaying the purchase of a newer-model vehicle for a year or two could enable you to contribute \$5,000 to \$6,000 to the project.

9. Make a “dollar per week increase.” If you’re concerned about making a large commitment, this will help build faith. Start with \$1 the first week, then two, then three. Pray for wisdom in where the next dollar will come from. Over two years, you would give over \$5,400.
10. Donate your collectibles. You may have treasures sitting in your home, such as coins, stamps, baseball cards, art or other collections of worth. Consider parting with these items by getting them appraised, selling them, and donating the revenue to the project.
11. Donate land and/or real estate. Selling land or real estate of which you are not getting use may generate tens of thousands of dollars or more. Donate other assets of worth. Do you have jewelry, or an extra boat, car or motorcycle? Prayerfully consider donating them to the church to defray the cost of the project.
12. Make a contribution of shares of stock. This will avoid paying capital gains taxes and provide you with a tax deductible contribution.





STUDY WITH US

As Thanksgiving's leadership team, we invite you to focus with us for the next six weeks on the **NOW Vision Campaign**. 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 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 **ONE**. Your **ONE** is a person whom God has laid on your heart to pray for, come alongside and share life with. You are encouraged to identify your **ONE**. To assist you, we are offering this Weekly Devotional, complete with a Daily Prayer Guide, Tips for Engagement, and Additional Prayer, Meditation and Worship resources.

We are asking you to pray for the church and for the **NOW Vision Campaign**. This campaign is ultimately about welcoming people into the family of God with the transforming work of Jesus Christ. In order to build and create a connecting venue and community engagement, finances are an important part of the vision. As we approach commitment weekend on May 14-15, pray for God to speak to you on how you can contribute financially to the **NOW Vision Campaign**.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

The following can be used for either a family, group or individual devotional.

- Week One: The Calling of Matthew - *Matthew 9:9-13*
- Week Two: The Cornerstone and a Chosen People - *1 Peter 2:6-10*
- Week Three: The Good Samaritan - *Luke 10:25-37*
- Week Four: The Woman at the Well - *John 4:1-42*
- Week Five: Feeding of the Five Thousand - *John 6:1-13*
- Week Six: Building the Temple - *1 Chronicles 29*

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Each day of the week will include a scripture and a model prayer. These are to help as you identify and pray for your **ONE**. Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to the **NOW Vision Campaign** as well. The goal is relational and financial. We want to reach others with the love of God and build structures and spaces that welcome people into God's Kingdom.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Each week includes suggestions for finding your **ONE**, ways to approach him or her, and how to start a conversation or come alongside them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each week we will explore ways to enhance the weekly devotional, seek God and His Word, and go deeper in worship.

UPCOMING WAYS TO ENGAGE

- **Prayer + Worship Night** - Wednesday May 11 at 6:30 pm in the Worship Center.
- **40 Hours of Prayer** - Wednesday May 11 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 am on Friday May 13. We encourage you to sign up to pray for at least one hour during the 40 Hours of Prayer event. You will have an option to pray in the Chapel or at home. More information to come - be sure to check for updates at tlconnect.church/now.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 | THE CALLING OF MATTHEW

Open your Bible to Matthew 9:9–13, the story of the Calling of Matthew. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- We read about how Jesus called Matthew to follow Him. Matthew was a Jew and a tax collector, meaning he had to some extent abandoned his heritage to work for the enemy of his people. He would have been disliked by every other Jew and disowned by his family. It would have been a lonely (though wealthy) life for Matthew.
- Yet, in one instant, Matthew’s life was changed by an encounter with the Messiah. Jesus called him and Matthew followed. Jesus is the friend of sinners and had dinner at their table. This was shocking to the overly religious Pharisees, who would never be caught dead with tax collectors and sinners. 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.
- This is the purpose of the church, to follow the example of Jesus and make disciples of our neighbors. We gather to hear the Word of God, which extends mercy to the sinful. We are all broken and need a Savior. We need Jesus **NOW**. Our friends, neighbors, coworkers, even our enemies, need Jesus **NOW**.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving’s emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus’ approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. Matthew instantly responded to the call of Jesus. What makes it difficult for you to follow Him today?
2. How will you respond to God’s call in your life?
3. How can you follow Jesus’ example? Who can you invite into the community of believers?

PRAYER

Thank God for choosing you to follow Him. Ask God to give you strength this week to reach out to someone you can share your journey with as a follower of Jesus. Ask God to give you the words to speak and a posture of grace for your interactions with your **ONE**.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY, APRIL 25

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

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. 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. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

"Let all that you do be done in love." —1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)

Lord, help me to love like You in words and deeds. Let my actions 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 stumble, You are there. I praise You for Your mercy and love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." —Romans 8:28 (ESV)

Lord, You are good and Your mercy endures 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. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." —Ephesians 3:14–19 (ESV)

Lord, I pray this passage for spiritual strength. Dwell in my heart, and help me to walk in the fullness of Your grace, mercy and love. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." —Psalm 121:1–2 (ESV)

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, and 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 he or she may know You more deeply. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

“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 (ESV)

Lord, help me to be a disciple that makes disciples, as You have taught me in Your Word. Give me courage and words to speak as I interact with my **ONE**. I know You are with me, and I believe in Your promises, which are for all people. Help me share Your love with them. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAY: Pray for God to bring new people into your life who 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.

WORSHIP: Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *I Am* and *Good God Almighty* by Crowder and *Oceans* by Hillsong UNITED.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When you consider how to approach your **ONE**, simply treat him or her as a friend. Invite your **ONE** 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 look for opportunities to encourage and provide him or her with the hope and love of Jesus.



SUNDAY, MAY 1 | THE CORNERSTONE AND A CHOSEN PEOPLE

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 2:6–10, the story of The Cornerstone and a Chosen People. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- Christ is the chief cornerstone, as ordained by God.
- Those who trust in Jesus will not be put to shame.
- Christ is the means of salvation for all who believe, and He is the means of judgment for those who reject the gospel.
- The cornerstone is the standard by which everything is measured, and Jesus is the only one who ensures salvation.
- As God's people, we were chosen and called out of darkness to walk in His light. We are God's people, and we receive His mercy.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving's emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus' approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. How can you challenge your **ONE** to find his or her identity in Christ? How can you encourage him or her to trust in Jesus?
2. What does it mean to be called out of darkness and to walk in the light?
3. How can you encourage our youth to think of Jesus as their cornerstone, the One on whom to build their life?

PRAYER

Pray for your family and your commitment to pray for your **ONE**. Ask the Lord to open your heart and to help you know what to pray for regarding your **ONE**. Continue to pray every day that your **ONE** will find his or her identity in Christ Jesus, would desire to follow Him, and would understand He is the only way to salvation.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY, MAY 2

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." –1 Peter 3:15–16 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, I ask You to raise up other Christians to share their faith and love with my **ONE**. Help me to share my faith and articulate how and why I trust in Jesus. Help _____ understand when he or she trusts in Jesus, he or she will not be put to shame. Jesus is the only one who can take away sin and shame. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me....'" –John 14:6 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, thank You for salvation. Thank You that Jesus is the way to salvation. Remove any unbelief in my **ONE**. Help him or her to see Christ is The Way, The Truth and The Life. He is the means of salvation for all who believe. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

"... See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic...." –Isaiah 28:16 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, remove any doubt within me. Grant me boldness to share with _____ how Jesus is the chief cornerstone, the one on whom to build one's life. Help _____ understand Jesus was rejected by this world, but God made Him the cornerstone. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" –John 8:12 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, show me Your truth, and help me walk in Your love, grace and mercy. Help my **ONE** desire to walk in Your light, love, grace and mercy and to leave any darkness behind. Give _____ the desire to read Your Word and to know You better each and every day. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." –Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, surround _____ with Your love. Help him or her sense Your presence.. Thank You for softening and opening his or her heart. Heal any brokenness that he or she may be feeling. May _____ receive Your love, grace, healing, and mercy and grow in a relationship with You. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” –Romans 1:16 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, help my **ONE** find his or her identity solely in You. Help _____ understand Jesus is the only way. Give him or her the desire to draw close to Jesus and to truly know Him, walk with Him and fully trust in Him. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAY: Ask God to bring people to your mind to pray for and to encourage. Ask him to help you be a light to them and to others in this dark world.

MEDITATE: Meditate on John 8:12 and think about what it means to walk in Jesus, the Light of the World, and to never walk in darkness again. What does it mean to walk in the light?

WORSHIP: Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *By Our Love* by FOR KING & COUNTRY and *In Christ Alone* by Kristian Stanfill.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When thinking about your **ONE**, think about what it means to be a light and what it is like to show God’s love, grace, and mercy. Reach out to your **ONE** by phone, email, text or another preferred form of communication, and see how he or she is doing. Ask if there’s a need for anything or if you can pray about anything in particular. Be a light that shines by being positive and showing love.



SUNDAY, MAY 8 | THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Open your Bible to Luke 10:25–37, the story of the Good Samaritan. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- Be aware of the dialogue between Jesus and the man who asked the question. Make note of the implications of the cultural shift Jesus brought to light with the Samaritan's actions.
- Jesus was approached by an "expert in the law" wanting to know how to inherit eternal life. It appeared he was either attempting to set up Jesus, test His credibility or perhaps be affirmed in his own scholarly opinion.
- Jesus responded with two questions. He asked the man what the law stated and also what was the man's interpretation of the law. Jesus validated him for his precise response. Yet, the man was seeking further justification from the Lord and inquired, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus' response was illustrated through a story that had an unexpected lesson for the calculating expert.
- Jesus shared the story of the Good Samaritan. For a Jewish audience, this story had an unprecedented twist, which led to the lesson that love has no cultural boundaries. In fact, Jesus had come to demonstrate God's love has no boundaries; it is meant for all. As Jesus said in John 3:16 (NLT): "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."
- The expert in the law was so restricted in his thinking and in his heart that when asked by Jesus who was his neighbor, he merely replied, "... the one who had mercy on him." He was either unwilling or unable to allow the word Samaritan to cross his lips.
- Unlike the priest and the Levite, the Samaritan wasn't concerned about the messiness or timeliness of the situation. He was moved by compassion to care deeply for the victim and tend to his many needs.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving's emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus' approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. We often get stuck within our own boundaries (economic, social, cultural, generational), which inhibits our awareness and willingness to act when others are in need of companionship or assistance. Who are the **ONES** on the side of the road who are hurting and in need of mercy? What boundaries can you cross to demonstrate compassion and mercy?

2. Most of the time, opportunities to help others can conflict with our own schedules. What steps can you take to be more available when God calls you into action, which is often **NOW**?

PRAYER

Pray for your family and your commitment to this task. Pray the Lord will open your heart and mind to identify the **ONE** in your life. Pray for opportunities to cross boundaries, to show compassion and mercy, and to demonstrate God's love for your **ONE**. Pray for your mind and heart to be open to take action, not only when an ongoing opportunity arises but when there might be an opportunity to create a new action.

NOTES



THIS WEEK'S DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY, MAY 9

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
—Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)

"We love because he first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Father, out of Your love for me, You created me. Out of Your love for me, You have commanded me to love You with the very organ You created within me ... my heart. I pray that with every beat of my heart I am fully aware that just as my blood is being circulated throughout my body, my love for You flows through my entire being. I realize, Lord, that without a pumping heart, I would cease to exist. I also realize, Lord, that without You in my heart, I would cease to love. Thank You for loving me, so that I may love You in return. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

"The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself...'" —Mark 12:31 (GNT)

Father, You instructed me to love—to love You, love others and love myself. Loving myself can be challenging. Sometimes I love myself too much and sometimes not at all. How I feel about myself impacts the way I love others. If I love myself too much, I place myself above others. If I love myself too little, I place myself below others. Help me to focus on loving You. It's through Your perfect love that I begin to understand who I am and who You created me to be. In Your love, I feel accepted, valued and worthy. It's through You that I begin to accept these truths for myself and for others. When I live into these truths, I am more equipped to love others. I pray I experience the fullness of Your love, and I graciously extend that love to those You place in my path. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

"...My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you...." —John 15:12 (NIV)

Father, sometimes it's a struggle to love others. Help me remember Your love dwells within me, and it is through Your love I am able to love. Help me see others through Your eyes, not my own. When I look at someone through my own eyes, I only see him or her through my own experiences, ego and insecurities. Point out to me where my struggle is inhibiting my ability to love. Then help me see people the way You see them and the way You created them. May Your love flow from me to others. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." —Philippians 2:4 (NLT)

Father, it is so easy to become solely focused on my own path, my own agenda and myself. My to-do list can become so long I block opportunities for You to intersect

in my daily life. I blindly walk down the road and, in haste, ignore the hurt and brokenness lying in my path. Lord, open my eyes and my heart to those who yearn for encouragement, seek guidance, need some type of assistance, and are desperate to be touched, either physically or spiritually. I pray for the prompting to go out of my way and reach out to those You have placed in my path. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

"...If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear." –1 John 3:17 (MSG)

Father, prepare me for opportunities to demonstrate Your love to others. Stir up words in my heart to speak encouragement into the life of someone who is having a difficult day. Hold my tongue, so I may attentively listen as someone pours out hurt or frustration. Clear away distractions so I may see an opportunity to share a random act of kindness. Alter my perspective so I may see a situation through another's eyes, so that person may experience love. The world needs Your love. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." –1 Corinthians 13:7 (ESV)

Father, help me remember that love protects, love has confidence things will work out, love expects good things will happen and love perseveres. Amen. (Based on 1 Corinthians 13:7 (MSG))

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAY: Pray God will continue to reveal to you His deep and abiding love, and that He will provide people and opportunities for you to share and demonstrate His unconditional and relentless love.

MEDITATE: Meditate on how God has loved you throughout your life, through different circumstances and individuals you may not have even realized at the time. Reflect on how you have been able to share His love with others. Look up Bible stories and verses that exemplify God's love for His people.

WORSHIP: Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *Reckless Love* by Cory Asbury, *How He Loves* by the David Crowder Band, *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever* by MercyMe, *How Deep the Father's Love* by Stuart Townend, and *What the World Needs Now* by Dionne Warwick.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Ask God what holds you back from reaching out to others. Ask Him to show you where you struggle receiving His love and sharing His love. Pray He would direct you to new opportunities and unexpected boundaries you need to step across to be His love.

SUNDAY, MAY 15 | THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Open your Bible to John 4:1–42, the story of the Woman at the Well. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- Between Galilee and Judea lay Samaria, the land of a centuries-old, bitter Jewish feud. Jesus traveled this way intentionally. Upon arrival near Sychar, the disciples went to get lunch while a weary, thirsty Jesus stayed behind at the well, where He encountered a woman. For Jesus, a Jewish rabbi, to speak publicly to a Samaritan—much less a woman—would have been astonishing. But Jesus broke down barriers more than once.
- The woman came to draw water at noon (an uncommon time) at the well, which wasn't the closest to Sychar. She had a troublesome past and a bad reputation, so she was probably avoiding the local women's judgment. Jesus struck up a conversation by appealing to her sympathy, asking for water. She engaged with Him because she responded to his compassion and warmth.
- When Jesus described the living water He provided, she understood it in physical not spiritual terms. She jokingly asked to be given this water so she wouldn't have to draw water daily. Living water had long been symbolic for the Living God, but she was unschooled and misunderstood the term's significance.
- The time for joking was over, and Jesus stunningly revealed her history. Jesus made it personal, forcing her to face her sin. Some truths we need to uncover through our own understanding, so Jesus gently led her to discover her need for forgiveness and that he was the awaited Messiah, the Savior of the World.
- The woman was so excited she left her water jar and ran to spread the news immediately in Sychar. She couldn't wait to tell them, "He told me everything I ever did." They all came with her because of the message, and consequently, Jesus stayed two days and many others were saved.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving's emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus' approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. There were many Jewish restrictions during Jesus' time about who they could associate with, eat with, even speak to. What social restrictions do we still have to conquer in today's society? How do we break down barriers and step outside our comfort zone to reach those God has placed in our path?

2. Jesus—without judgment, ridicule or blame—reached into this woman’s heart and showed her the consequences of her sin. He taught her the eternal solution was a saving relationship with Him. She could never be so bad she couldn’t be saved. How can you use Jesus’ methods to show your **ONE** this truth? How can you help when your **ONE** opens up and shares with you?
3. Verses 37–38 tell us we need to spread the Word **NOW** by sharing our personal witness with others, but we may not be around for the harvest. We only have to sow—the harvest belongs to God—but witnessing for Christ will never be a waste. How do you conquer your fear of following this directive?

PRAYER

Establish a daily prayer time if you don’t have one. While we are to pray continually throughout our days (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18), scheduling daily time with God is vital for strengthening your own faith walk. Using the following Prayer Guide, pray about your **ONE** using the knowledge you now have about him or her, and pray for success in your efforts to reach out.

NOTES



THIS WEEK'S DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY, MAY 16

"For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." –2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, help me see my life with You does not begin when I complete the race and gain heaven (Hebrews 12:1). Help me understand I am walking with You **NOW** because I am Your child. As I learn more about You, keep Your presence before me as my constant companion. Prepare me for the good works You have for me to do by giving me boldness, compassion, patience, knowledge and direction. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

"...Therefore go 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 (NIV)

Lord, help me realize this gift of grace carries a responsibility with it, a responsibility to reach out to others **NOW**. There are still many people today who are shunned because of various judgments by others. Remind me my responsibility is not to judge but to share my personal story and spread Your love to everyone. Keep me mindful that this opportunity is about others gaining the kingdom. Help me understand everyone needs Your living water because no one is an outcast. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

"And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." –2 Corinthians 5:19b–20 (NIV)

Father, it's difficult to take that hard look at myself and understand I will never be good enough to earn a right standing with You. I stand in awe that You knew this long ago, and You sent Your son to die for me. I praise You and acknowledge Your sovereignty over my life. I know You have a plan, and I am now one of Your ambassadors. Help me as I reach out to _____. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." –Ephesians 6:19–20 (NIV)

Dear Lord, help me not to be afraid to share my personal story with _____. Reaching out requires boldness, and I am weak and afraid. Forgive my fear, and give me peace, strength and wisdom. Remind me to listen more than I talk and to offer help in the ways I can. Direct my words so You will be known in everything I say. Remind me to listen closely for the Spirit's leading, and may You bless the outcome. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” –Matthew 9:36–38 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, when I think of our world today, I am nearly overwhelmed by the task at hand. It becomes increasingly difficult to reach others in this day of great distraction and dissension. Help me to not get discouraged if _____ doesn't come to salvation now. I know my responsibility is to share my story with those in my sphere of influence. I know the harvest belongs to You, and everything is according to Your timing. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” –2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, thank You for everything You have given me. From the morning sun to my material blessings to my family, all good things are from You. I know we can't "outgive" You, and You will bless our efforts. As I ponder my commitment to Thanksgiving's **NOW Vision Campaign**, help me remember to give generously and cheerfully but not according to anyone else's standards. May we gather a bounty to take new ground for You. Amen!

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAY: Pray for God to show you additional people to reach besides your **ONE**. Pray for ears that hear the Spirit's leading and a heart filled with obedience as you go through your day.

MEDITATE: Meditate on other Biblical Stories about the all-seeing God, such as Genesis 16:13. Hagar, who was banished to the desert, encounters God in the wilderness. She said: *“You are the God who sees me ... I have now seen the One who sees me.”* Or Psalm 139, which teaches us just how intimately God knows us, even before we are born. Look for additional scriptures to learn more about the God who knows our every thought.

WORSHIP: Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *Living Waters and In Christ Alone* with Keith & Kristyn Getty. Search online for more traditional songs—such as *Amazing Grace, They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love and Change My Heart, Oh God*—to study the lyrics and worship our mighty God.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

If you don't know your **ONE** intimately, this is an excellent time to make a personal connection. Remember this is about your **ONE**, and building a relationship first is crucial. Use questions—and not just “yes or no” questions. Begin with words such as How, What and Why, and phrases such as, “Tell me” and “Share with me.” Remind yourself you're also gaining a friend and a fellow Christian.

SUNDAY, MAY 22 | FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

Open your Bible to John 6:1–13, the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- Jesus' closest followers wanted to send the crowds away and even expressed doubt, but Jesus said, "Feed them now." Through blind faith, a young boy gave what little he had, and God, remaining true to his promise, provided.
- Jesus was fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah "raining down bread from heaven" (Exodus 16:4). Through His continued miracles, He was reinforcing His claim as Messiah.
- Jesus sat with his disciples on a mountainside. As He looked up, He saw a great crowd approaching. Even after a long day, Jesus took time to pray and put the needs of the crowd above His own.
- As the crowds grew larger, so too, did the disciples' doubt and anxiety. Jesus asked them where they should buy food for them all, as a mere test of their faith. He then asked them to gather what they could find and bring it to Him.
- A young boy, having only five loaves of bread and two fish, freely gave what he had to Jesus. Blessing the young boy's faithfulness, Jesus looked to heaven and asked the Lord to multiply it.
- After God multiplied the food, everyone in the crowd ate. When they all had enough, the remains were gathered and filled twelve baskets.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving's emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus' approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. Think about Jesus' day that day. He had been teaching all day, then went to rest with His disciples on the mountainside. As He saw the crowds approach, He put their needs above His own. How often do we get so busy with our lives or so easily distracted that we forget to make time for Jesus? How often do we put our own needs above others? How can we be more intentional in spending time with Jesus?
2. In this story, Jesus' disciples questioned God's power. Quite often, we as Christ followers are filled with doubt when things seem dim. Instead of looking to Him to fill a need, we try to carry the burden alone, leading to the same feelings the disciples had. In these times, how can you be reminded of God's promise that He will provide and strengthen your faithfulness in the waiting?

3. Jesus never asks for more than we have. We have all been in a situation where we have been asked to give more, but we justify the means for why we “couldn’t.” How can you learn to trust God more in your day-to-day life and live more fully into His plan for you?

PRAYER

God, thank You for giving us grace in our everyday lives and meeting us right where we are. We know we are sinners, but because of Your love for us, You sent Your son to die that we may be saved. Help us to passionately pursue You in the same way You passionately pursue us. We know with You nothing is impossible, and we pray You would continue Your miracles today. We are grateful for the many blessings You have given us, but we are also aware of the pain and heartache in our world. We ask that You would comfort those in times of trial, and help them to turn to You and seek Your face. We pray for boldness and courage to speak Your name to those we encounter, praying that all would learn of Your miraculous wonders and come to know You as the Great I Am. Amen.

NOTES



THIS WEEK'S DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

MONDAY, MAY 23

*"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
–Philippians 4:19 (NIV)*

Father in heaven, Your Word tells us we will want for nothing if we look to You and ask for what we need. Thank You for providing for my **ONE** and for helping us both know what it means to have a loving God who provides. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 24

*"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."
–Psalm 9:10 (NIV)*

Heavenly Father, help _____ know You for the loving and trustworthy God You are. Thank You for never leaving us both and showing us what it means to have a Heavenly Father. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

*"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"
–Matthew 19:26 (NIV)*

Dear Lord, thank You for doing the impossible. Thank You for continuing to be the God of all. I pray _____ may come to know You in ways only You can imagine, and in times of trial, turn to You for healing and strength. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

"But the word of God continued to spread and flourish." –Acts 12:24 (NIV)

Father God, thank You for Your Living Word. Help me to live by Your Word and teach others Your ways. I pray that _____ may see You in me and come to know You as his or her Heavenly Father. Use me, God, as a living conduit for Your Word, and give me the courage to go and speak Your name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

"He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish." –John 21:6 (NIV)

Dear Jesus, You never fail to come through on Your promise. Thank You for being my provider and giving me so much more than I could ever ask for. I pray abundant blessings upon _____, that he or she may see Your miracles and delight in Your generosity. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

“He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.” –Deuteronomy 10:21 (NIV)

Lord God, thank You for all You’ve done. Through Your Word, I have come to know all the miraculous things You have done. Thank You for continuing to remind me of Your goodness and mercy. Thank You for being the God of possible. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of Your family. Thank You for putting _____ on my heart and allowing me to pray for him or her. Thank You for the opportunity to walk beside _____ on this journey. What joy it will bring when he or she is united with his or her Father! Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAY: God would give you boldness when speaking to others about Him. Ask Him to place on your heart those close to you who need to hear of His grace and forgiveness.

MEDITATE: Meditate on all the amazing things God has done in your life. Focus on the blessings in life and try to change your perspective on all the “bad.” Seeing how God has used the chaos in your life will further strengthen your faith.

WORSHIP: Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *God Provides* by Tamela Mann, *No Impossible With You* by I Am They, *Desert Song* by Hillsong Worship, *Faithful Now* by Vertical Worship, and the traditional hymn *How Great Thou Art*.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When you think of your **ONE** and where he or she is right now, think of how Jesus lived out His life. Jesus always made it a point to meet people where they were and didn’t condemn them for their sins. Instead, He pursued them and helped them to turn from their sinful ways. He exemplified this many times throughout the Bible (see Mark 2:13-17, Luke 7:37-38, Luke 15:7 and John 4:5-42.) You may not always feel like you have the right words to say, but trust that God will use you to speak to him or her. Sometimes just being real with someone is the best way for them to see Christ in you.



SUNDAY, MAY 29 | BUILDING THE TEMPLE

Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 29, the story of building a temple for the Lord. Engage your family or friends by reading and discussing this important story together. Pay special attention to the following points:

- It would be a monumental task and undertaking to build a temple. This passage reminds us everything we have is from the Lord. He enables us to generously give for building His church. All praise and glory belong to God.
- Israel had waited a long time to build a permanent temple for the Lord. The structure was to be beautiful and majestic. It was not for man but for the Lord God. It was not to confine God to a building but to glorify and honor Him.
- It would take much planning and coordination to build and complete the task. Everyone contributed to the building of the temple with materials, money and precious stones. The people rejoiced at the ability to freely and generously give.
- King David praised the Lord in the presence of the assembly. He acknowledged everything in heaven and on earth belongs to the Lord. God is lavish and abundantly gives us everything we need and more. We are to be good stewards of all God has given us.
- The whole assembly bowed down to praise and worship the Lord. It is right to praise the Lord with lives and a community dedicated to Him.

DISCUSSION

Review Thanksgiving's emphasis on reaching out to your **ONE**. Think about your **ONE** and focus on how you can use Jesus' approach and interaction to reach him or her.

1. Consider what stewardship means to you. How might that explain that everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God? His desire is for you to wisely manage what He has given to you.
2. God is generous and gives abundantly. Our motives and attitudes matter to God. What does it mean to give freely and wholeheartedly to God? How is God leading you to generously contribute to the **NOW Vision Campaign**?
3. God is worthy of praise and worship. How can you live your life in a community that honors God and is dedicated to Him?

PRAYER

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. (*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, aka the *Doxology*, Thomas Ken, author)

God, we praise and honor You. Thank You for Your abundant love. You are generous and gracious and provide for all our needs. Everything we have is from Your hand. You are relentless in Your goodness and mercy toward us. Thank You for opening our hearts to give generously for the building, not only the physical structures but for the people You are welcoming into Your kingdom. May we boldly enter Your gates with thanksgiving and Your courts with praise. We give thanks to God and praise His name. For the Lord is good, His love endures forever and His faithfulness continues through all generations. Now, our God, we give You thanks and praise Your glorious name. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER, MEDITATION AND WORSHIP

PRAISE: Praise God for who He is and what He has done. Pray for His love and generosity to abound in your heart and life. In humility and gratitude, thank Him for providing for you and for His church.

MEDITATE: Meditate on God's promises. He is our Jehovah Jireh, which means "the Lord will provide." Psalm 111 speaks of God's provision for our needs and our redemption. All glory, power, honor and eternal praise belongs to Him.

WORSHIP: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NIV).

Listen to these worship songs on your favorite streaming service: *There's Joy in the House of the Lord* by Phil Wickham, *Holy Is the Lord* by Chris Tomlin, *Days of Elijah* by Robin Mark, and **NOW** by Thanksgiving Church Worship.

NOTES

 THANKSGIVING