



SENT

ADVANCING THE MISSION IN TURBULENT TIMES

Hello church!

Things look radically different for us. It is important to remember that even if we cannot gather together on Sunday, our identity and mission as God's Church remains the same. Our identity and mission have not changed, even if our methods have (fellowship, community worship, missions, etc.). This can be seen as something negative or we can prayerfully see this as an opportunity for God to work and grow us through. I prefer the latter.

This guide is a tool to help us spend some intentional time with God as a family. This guide is closely follows our weekly sermon series, so be sure to stay connected with the messages. Below is a brief explanation for how to utilize your time well. Please call or email if you have any question, concerns, or issues.

In love,
Skyler Elmer

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EXPLANATION OF WEEKLY BIBLE READING STRUCTURE

Begin with Prayer: This is time for slowing down and quieting yourself before God. Don't ask for anything. Take 2 minutes to be still before God before asking for things from God. Take into your mind and heart that God is here and desires to be with you. After 2 minutes take a few more minutes inviting God to speak to you, to give you openness, and readiness to receive His Word. This step is about preparing yourself to be with God. You might find it helpful to play a worship song in this time.

Read the Bible: This is your time to engage God in His Word. Don't speed read! Read slowly and methodically. Take God's Word in like you would when eating the best food you've ever had. Take one bite at a time, savoring all the flavors.

Reflection: This is a time to connect God's word with our lives. Spend time reflecting on what you read, questions you have, and what it all means for you. This is a critical aspect to our reading of the Bible. God does not wish to just dispense information to us, but to transform us (Rom. 12:1-2). This is the time for us to think about that transformation. A good method you can use is called **S.O.A.P.**. Here is how it works.

Scripture: Write down one verse that spoke to you as you read the Scriptures.

Observation: Write down what captured your attention from your reading (a word, verse, concept, impression, etc.). Did God speak to you as you were reading? What did you learn?

Application: Write about any part from the Scriptures that can apply to your life? What will change if you apply it?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer asking God to help you understand and apply His word for your life

Close in Prayer: End the way you began: be still. Think about what you read and what God might be trying to say to you today. Spend some time asking God to help you live out his mission in this turbulent time.

INSTRUCTION ON TAKING COMMUNION & OFFERINGS AT HOME

Communion is a time where we get to reflect on Jesus giving his life for us on the cross and rising from the grave. The Sunday that we are not able to gather, we will take communion together in the comfort of our homes. You can use water, juice, pop, crackers, bread, chips, etc. The point is not about the food/drinks you choose but honoring the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. When you have the two elements take some time to reflect on Scripture (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26), and say a prayer.

Offerings is a time to give back to God a portion of what we have out of worship to God (showing our dependency on him) and are continued support of the ministry of our church. There are a variety of ways to give a tithe and offering. First, you can mail a check to the church. Second, you can drop of a offering to the church office. Third, you can set up an automatic payment through your bank. Fourth, you can use our PayPal button on our Give tab on the website.

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Week 1

Sermon: Advancement in Calamity

Bible: Acts 8

1. SERMON NOTES:

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Reflection: How did God speak to you through today's message? What truths did you need to hear today?

Challenges: In what way is God calling you to advance His Mission in this turbulent time?

Practices:

1. Pray (please contact the church for any prayer requests you have).
2. Remember the church financially.
3. Read the Bible Reading Plan.
4. Contact 5 people (write down a minimum of 5 people you can contact this week - include neighbors in this list) and ask them how they are doing and how you can be praying for them.

3. WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

Overview: This week's theme is about God advancing His Kingdom through, in spite of, and in the midst of calamity. We focused our attention on the persecution in Acts 8 and how the scattering of the church actually enabled the church toward a greater mission. Thus further fulfilling God's commission in Acts 1:8. This week as you begin this Bible reading plan be thinking about how God was working to advance His kingdom through, in spite of, and in the midst of all kinds of calamities and challenges they faced.

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IN TURBULENT TIMES

DAY 1

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

O:

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 8-9

A:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

P:

O:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

A:

DAY 3

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 2
-

P:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 2

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

O:

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 1
- Nehemiah 2

A:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

P:

SENT

ADVANCING THE MISSION
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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 4

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 3

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

O:

A:

P:

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A:

P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 6

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 5

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 5

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 4

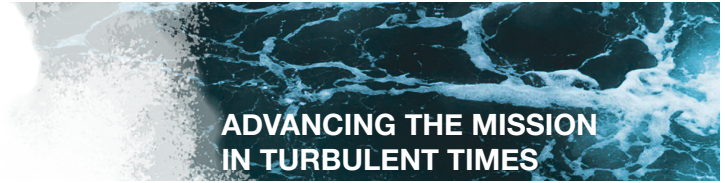
Reflection (10 minutes)

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P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

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Week 2

Sermon: Interrupting Heaven

Bible: Acts 12

1. SERMON NOTES:

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Reflection: How did God speak to you through today's message? What truths did you need to hear today?

Challenges: In what way is God calling you to interrupt heaven in this turbulent time?

Practices:

1. Write down three people you can contact each week to pray with for 10-15 minutes:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
2. When you talk to each other pray for the following:
 1. Pray for effective efforts to slow the virus
 2. Pray for the Church, locally and globally.
 3. Pray for Revival in this season. (Think of two people who are not Christians and pray for them by name)
3. Read the Bible Reading Plan.

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3. WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

Overview: This weeks theme is about interrupting heaven with our prayer. The pattern we find in Acts 12 is that God moved in response to the earnest prayers of His Church. As a church with many obstacles and challenges ahead of us, we cannot afford to not be in prayer. As Martin Luther once said, "I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." Church devote yourself to fervent prayer.

DAY 1

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 6
- Luke 18:1-8
- Romans 12:9-13

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

O:

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P:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 2

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 7
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 3

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

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- Acts 10
- 2 Kings 6:8-23

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 5

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

P:

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 12
- Colossians 4:2-6
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

DAY 4

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 11
- 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 41-45
- James 5:13-18

O:

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

A:

O:

P:

SENT



ADVANCING THE MISSION
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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 6

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 13
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- Philippians 4:6-7

Reflection (10 minutes)

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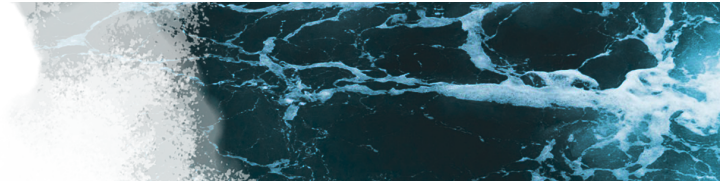
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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

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Week 3

When the unexpected gives us hope

Bible: Acts 17

1. SERMON NOTES:

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Reflection: How did God speak to you through today's message? What truths did you need to hear today?

Challenges: In what way is God challenging your thinking about this interruption in your life?

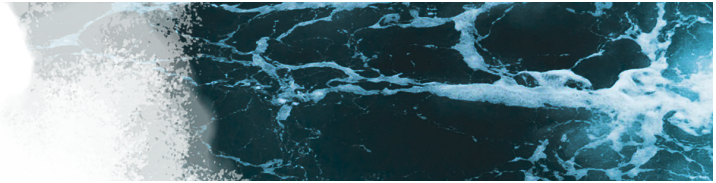
Practices:

1. What decision do you need to make today?
 1. Be a good steward of this season by growing spiritually and sharing God with others.
 2. Being openminded about Jesus. If so tune in next week as we talk about Jesus' resurrection
 3. Accepting Christ: The pattern we have in scripture is believe, repent, confess, and be baptized. Contact us (or a pastor in your area) to discuss the decision you need to make.

INSTRUCTION FOR TAKING COMMUNION THIS FRIDAY

1. COME WITH AN OPEN HEART
2. HAVE SOMETHING READY THAT CAN RESEMBLE THE **JUICE** (WATER, POP, GRAPE JUICE, ORANGE JUICE, MILK, ETC.) AND THE **BREAD** (SLICE OF BREAD, CRACKERS, CHIPS, ETC.)
3. TUNE IN TO CHURCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE FOR COMMUNION VIDEO AT 6:25 (BEGINS AT 6:30). SKYLER ELMER WILL LEAD US IN A TIME OF COMMUNION TOGETHER.

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3. HOLY WEEK BIBLE READING PLAN

PALM SUNDAY

On the Sunday before Easter take a few minutes after breakfast, lunch or dinner to celebrate the Messiah's arrival.

Read: John 12:12-15

Discuss: Pose these questions to better understand the reading:

- Q: What did the people shout as Jesus entered the city riding a donkey?
- Q: Why do you think the people were so excited about Jesus' arrival?
- Q: Do you think the people realized Jesus would need to die on a cross in order to bring them salvation?

Activity for Kids:

A parent stands at the top of the stairs and tells the children he/she wants them to join him/her upstairs in "heaven." But the kids can't touch the stairs or the railing. Let them mull over the dilemma. If they can't figure out the solution, coach them to ask the parent to come downstairs and carry the kids up on his/her back. Explain that Jesus came down to us to make a way because we could not do it ourselves.

Pray: Turn the excited anticipation of the Palm Sunday crowd into your family's prayer by reading aloud the following. "Dear Lord, we know that you are the One who came to bring us salvation. We know that you are the true King of our lives. We praise you this day for coming down to us so that we could spend eternity with you."

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner or bedtime to focus the family on key events from the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry.

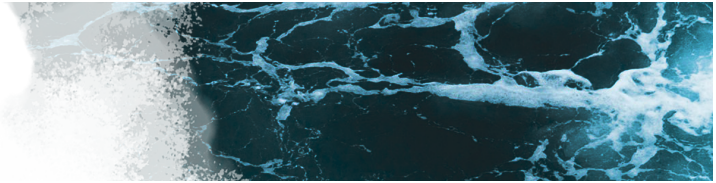
Monday: Read John 13:1-17.

In ancient households the lowest job of all was to wash the feet of guests. Usually this task was only carried out by servants. Discuss the many ways Jesus humbled Himself while on earth. Take turns washing one another's feet and read Philippians 2:5-8 before praying "Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself for us. Help us to do the same with one another. Amen."

Tuesday: Read John 17:20-23.

Jesus actually prayed for those of us who would believe in Him in the future. He asked His Father to help us show unity by loving each other. Discuss how your family can show love to each other in a way that pictures God's love. (Couples should read Ephesians 5:31-33 to reinforce how marriage is intended to be a picture of the

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relationship between Christ and His bride, the Church.) Pray “Lord Jesus, help our family to reflect the kind of selfless love you prayed for us. Amen.”

Wednesday: Read Luke 22:47-54.

Even while Jesus is being wrongfully arrested, He shows love and compassion for the arresting soldiers. Pray “Lord Jesus, help us to show compassion and to love one another even when others treat us wrongly. Amen.”

Thursday: Read Luke 23:13-34.

Pilate condemned Jesus because he feared a riot among the people. These were many of the same people who shouted “Hosanna” just a few days earlier as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. Later, while on the cross, Jesus prayed for Pilate, the soldiers, and the crowd when He said “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Pray “Lord Jesus, thank you for being willing to forgive us even when we do the most terrible things. Give us the grace to also forgive one another. Amen.”

GOOD FRIDAY: Read: **Luke 22-23 (Follow the S.O.A.P. method)**

Take COMMUNION 6:30 (Video on Facebook OR Website)

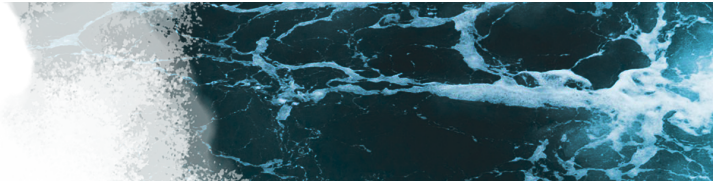
FOR FAMILIES

A few options for focusing on why Jesus died on a cross...

With Young Children

1. First, ask one of the children to help you create a cross using the boards, hammer and nails.
2. Next, call the family together and read Romans 3:23 from the Bible... “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
3. Ask each person whether or not they have ever sinned. For younger children, explain the concept of sin as “when we do something wrong that goes against the good that God wants for us.”
4. After discussing the concept of sin, invite each person to take a piece of paper and write words that represent some of the sins they have committed – such as lying, hitting, stealing, saying bad words, etc. Younger children can just draw a picture of a mean face, hitting another person, etc.
5. Now invite an older child or parent to read Romans 6:23 and John 3:16 aloud.
6. Invite each person to “nail their sins to the cross” to symbolize what happened when Jesus died for us.
7. Once the sin pages are nailed to the cross, ask everyone to lay their hands on the cross and pray a brief prayer of thanks to God for what Jesus did for us on Good Friday.
8. Memorize this jingle – “Jesus took my sins away, on the cross that Good Friday.”
9. With Older Children:

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1. Watch a film such as *The Passion of the Christ* depicting Jesus' trial, scourging and death. Talk about the film and then pray together, "Lord Jesus, thank you for the sacrifice you make on our behalf. Amen."

SILENT SATURDAY

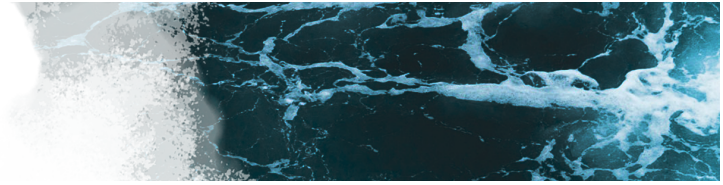
Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner or bedtime to reflect on what it was like for Jesus' followers after they lay Him in the tomb.

- **Read:** Matthew 27:57-66
- **Discuss:** Have each member of the family name one person who knew Jesus and describe what they must have been thinking/feeling on the day before His resurrection. (i.e. Peter felt guilty for denying Jesus, Mary felt grief over losing her beloved son, Pilate felt nervous for condemning an innocent man.)
- **Pray:** "Lord Jesus, thank you for going into the grave so that we could overcome death! Amen."

EASTER SUNDAY

Attend an Easter service together as a family. 10:00 AM on Church's Facebook page. Afterwards it will be on the Church's website. Then enjoy an egg hunt and favorite meal to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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Week 4

When Life Gets redefined

Bible: Acts 15

1. SERMON NOTES:

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

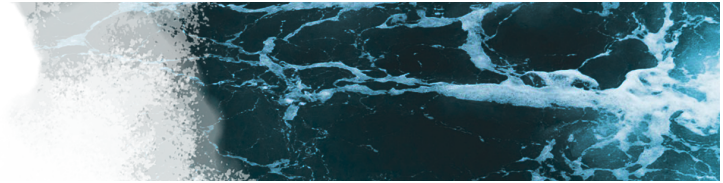
Reflection: How did God speak to you through today's message? What truths did you need to hear today?

Challenges: In what ways has this pandemic caused life to be different for you? How

Practices:

1. Continue to contact people to pray for/with.
2. Pray for the following:
 1. Pray for effective efforts to slow the virus
 2. Pray for the Church, locally and globally.
 3. Pray for Revival in this season. (Think of two people who are not Christians and pray for them by name)
3. Join us this Wednesday for our Facebook Live on the Lord's Prayer
4. Read the Bible Reading Plan.

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3. WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

DAY 1

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 20-21
- Psalm 67

Reflection (10 minutes)

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 3

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 24-25
- Isaiah 42:6

Reflection (10 minutes)

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 2

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 22-23
- Isaiah 2:2

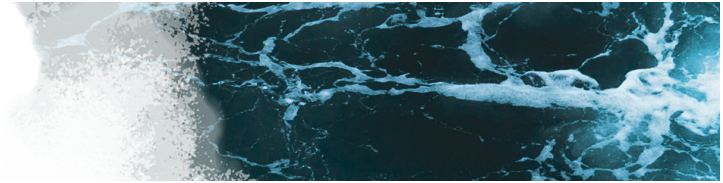
Reflection (10 minutes)

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

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DAY 5

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 27
- Malachi 1:11

Reflection (10 minutes)

S:

Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

DAY 4

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 26
- Isaiah 49:22

Reflection (10 minutes)

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

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DAY 6

Begin with Prayer (5 minutes)

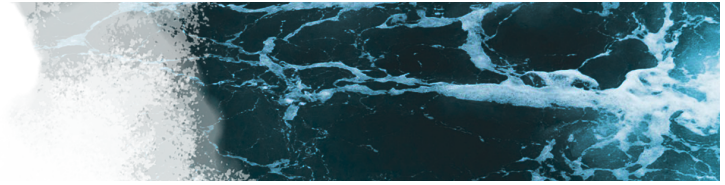
Read the Bible (10-15 minutes)

- Acts 28
- Galatians 3:23-29

Reflection (10 minutes)

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Close in Prayer (5 minutes)