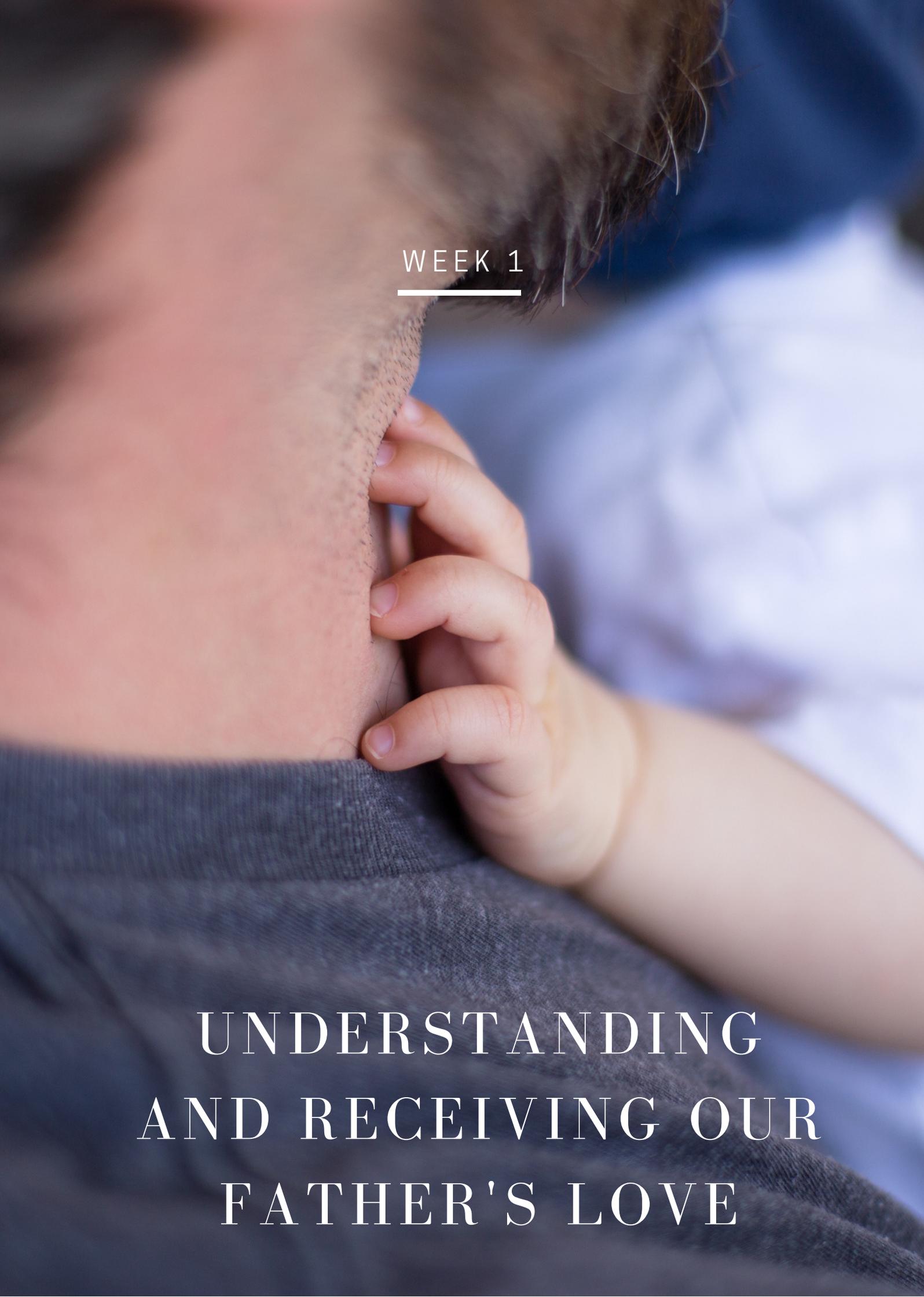


6-WEEK PRAYER GUIDE

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE



A close-up photograph of a person's neck and shoulder. A child's hand is resting on the person's neck, with fingers gently touching the skin. The person is wearing a dark grey t-shirt. The background is blurred, showing a blue and white patterned surface.

WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING
AND RECEIVING OUR
FATHER'S LOVE

DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR REVELATION OF OUR FATHER'S LOVE FOR YOU?

Do you want to go deeper in your understanding of our Father's perfect love for you? Are you ready and willing to receive an outpouring of His love into your life? Many of us today can have a tainted view of the Father's love because of our relationship with our earthly father. Is this you?

Papa God loves you, he has a tender and warm heart towards you as a son and daughter of Him. Do you know this tender love towards you? Or has it been tainted by another?

Maybe you think love is earned or conditional. You may think love is only given if you follow principles and rules. This is simply not true- this is the fruit of religion not the relationship with God the Father that the Word of God teaches.

Let's say a husband comes home to his wife and says "Here are some flowers" and the wife asks "Thank you, why did you give this to me?" and he says "Because you're my wife, and you have been doing things for me." Is that a loving relationship? That is not a loving relationship, but a dutiful relationship. Relationship is when the husband gives a gift of flowers not earned through task or duty, rather purely out of a loving relationship for his wife and his affection towards her. We hope this example shows you the difference between human religion and divine relationship with Father God.

The first inspiration for this week is to simply understand that your Heavenly Father is a good Father, He loves you and He wants you to know and receive His love in a deeper way.



He accepts you for who you are in Christ. If you have faith in Jesus, He doesn't see your shame and past, He sees His Son Jesus Christ and He dearly loves his Son.

When was the last time the Holy Spirit gave you a revelation from the Word of God?

A revelation is when the truth of God hits you on the inside, in your inner spirit.

In Ephesians 1, Paul calls this a “spirit of revelation and wisdom in the knowledge of Him.” He also prays as follows, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you”. Paul says here that our heart has eyes to show you more about God's love for you, who you are in Christ and what you are called for. Will you let the eyes of your heart see the riches of His love?

A God given revelation is simply when the penetrating truth of God's Word suddenly becomes real to you in your spirit.

It is like when a seed is planted in the ground, nurtured in good soil and watered well and then sprouts to life. This is similar to how a revelation works. When the Word of God is planted in a good heart, the living water of the Holy Spirit will help it spring to life.

During the OVERFLOW series, we are praying that the Spirit of God imparts to you a rich understanding of the Father's love so that you can receive more from Him.

Are you ready to receive from your Father?

A deep revelation in your spirit can only be received if you are open to receiving this gift. Are you willing to receive from Him? You might think "Well, I know my Father loves me, so this isn't really relevant to me." Could you know more of His love? There is a greater depth of God's love that can be revealed to us if we are willing to receive from Him.

"...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:17-18 (NIV)

The Father wants you to be rooted and established in His love, if we think we have arrived at a final place, then we need to humble ourselves and prepare to go deeper into the depths of our Father's love.

Do you want a deeper revelation of our Father's love?

We hope this week's inspiration doesn't just inspire you to understand our Father's love, but to receive an experience of His love also. For example, we can understand in our mind and heart that someone loves us, but there is also an experience of love we can receive. Think about it, you might know your family loves you but there is something more when you actually experience their love for you.

This love may express itself through spending quality time with you, physical affection, being kind to you or giving you gifts. In the same way, God wants you



to receive an experience of His love as He pours this out to you by the Spirit of God.

In the Word of God there many analogies where the Holy Spirit is compared to liquid-anointing oil, water and wine. Like all liquids, the Holy Spirit can be poured out to overflow in our lives. Many of us may have the Holy Spirit but are we filled with the Holy Spirit to the point of overflow?

“And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” Romans 5:5 (NIV)

God doesn't just have love, He is love. When the Holy Spirit fills us, He pours out His love so that we may be filled to overflowing.

Think on this again, are you filled with His Spirit to the point of overflowing ? Is there room for more of the Holy Spirit in your life? Is there anything holding you back from being completely filled by Him? Let's say you filled a cup of rocks with water, is that cup completely filled? Or is there more room for the Holy Spirit? Like rocks in a cup, we may have areas in our life that are holding us back from the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

What are the rocks in your life? Fear, sin, resentment, unforgiveness, jealousy, pain and/or trauma?

Please note the point of these questions is not to bring condemnation, but rather to see you experience greater freedom in Jesus!

Do you want these things flushed out of your system? Let the Father's love flow through the Holy Spirit and flush you clean of any sin or residual past that may be causing issues in your life.

The love of God will flush out all fear, anxiety, pain, unforgiveness and anything else that blocks you from having intimacy with the Lord.

“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Don't carry anything with you that may slow you down in this race of life- let Jesus take it all.

Jesus came to set us free. God loved you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for you AND to defeat the power of sin and death in our lives. Do you believe this? Then let this truth set you free!

If we are open to being filled with God's love, then we can be filled to the point of overflowing. This love is not just to be poured in us for ourselves, but to overflow to others around us. During the 40 days we will be sharing with you 5 other core themes from the Word of God about the Father's love, how His love can flow through you, and how that impacts lives and society around us. True and lasting change can only come from a place of intimacy with God the Father, and we hope these inspirations will draw you closer to Him and strengthen your relationship with God.

“Come near to God and He will come near to you.” James 4:8 (NIV)

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: FIND A QUIET PLACE

Find a quiet place free of distraction, where you can spend some time receiving a deep revelation of the Father's love.

Sometimes we can't receive because we don't trust the giver. If you are believing a lie about God's intentions towards you, then list these lies that the Holy Spirit is shining light on. Then combat those lies with God's truth. God is a Heavenly Father. Look for times where you can just sit and receive from the Father. Sit, be still, don't move. Find a place for sitting and being in His presence, read the Word of God, and pray that the Holy Spirit will bring life to the seed of God, the Word.

ACTIVATION 2: FLUSHING THINGS OUT

Bring before your Father the things you want flushed out of your life.

The Word says the Holy Spirit came to convict you of sin, righteousness and judgement. Any true move of God starts with repentance. If you are holding onto things done in the past or any sins, list them out before God. Bring them before your Father God, and think of the Cross of Christ. If we believe in the power of the blood of Jesus, He will wipe away our guilt and change us from the inside out. Jesus has come to nail that list to the cross! He has already defeated sin, sickness and death on the cross. Once you have written that list, cry out in a place of prayer "IT IS FINISHED" just as Jesus said when he died on the cross. As you do this, receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in you as you are filled with God's love.

ACTIVATION 3: PREPARE FOR OVERFLOW

Prepare yourself to be filled to overflowing.

Let there be an expectation of being filled to overflowing for others. God's love is not just for you, it's for others through you. God pours His love out on us, so that He can flow through us to others. What could be holding you back from sharing His love with others? Fear? If so, the Word of God says "He has not given you spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7 NIV). As you go through your day, if you feel God's love prompt you to help someone, share a Word, or even the Gospel to the unsaved, and don't let fear hold you back, but step out in faith and see what the Holy Spirit can do through you!

OVERFLOW



1

Pray that God would show you how He sees you and loves you as a perfect Father.

2

Pray to be filled with God's love so you can comprehend the heights and depths of the love in Christ Jesus.

3

Pray that God's love flushes out fear, unforgiveness, insecurity, and any other things that are not of Him.

4

Pray for an untainted and renewed revelation of the Father's love.

WEEK 2

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE





WEEK 2

RISE UP AS SONS
AND DAUGHTERS OF
THE LIVING GOD

WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD SAY ABOUT WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST?

Do you believe what the Word says about your identity in Christ? What other voices hinder us and stop us from taking a hold of the truth of our identity as revealed in God's Word? How can we step into everything Father God has prepared for His children?

We can let many voices speak into us today- the voices of friends, family, the culture and at times, we can even listen to the voice of Satan. How can we discern what is true and what is not?

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

As followers of Jesus, we need to believe that the unadulterated word of God can cut and divide what is of man and what is of God.

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27 (NIV)

When we hear God's Word, something should happen within a believer so that we know that His Word is truth. God made His truth to be something that cuts deeply into us and resonates with our spirits when we hear it. The reaction of a believer to the Word should be very different to the philosophy and doctrines of people.



He accepts you who for who you are in Christ. If you have faith in Jesus, He doesn't see your shame and past, He sees His Son Jesus Christ and He dearly loves his Son.

However, as believers of the truth, we still need to be careful of the deceitful lies of Satan, that would seek to imitate God's Word. Ever since the Garden of Eden, the Accuser has been lying to believers seeking to destroy them and their identity.

“He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44 (NIV)

Every believer should seek discernment when it comes to the lies of Satan, because his lies are not obvious at first but when believed can cause great error. He is a master deceiver, he will distort scriptures to try and lead many astray just as he tried to tempt Jesus in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). His deceit is very subtle, yet very tactical and an absolute counterfeit of the truth. In this passage we see Satan lead with the phrase “If you are the Son of God then...”. Make no mistake, there is no IF regarding the identity of Jesus- Jesus WAS and STILL IS the Son of God! Just as Christ Jesus hasn't changed, Satan hasn't seemed to have changed much also.

The devil is still going after people's identity. He wants you to question your identity in Christ, which is why we need to spend time rooting ourselves in God's Word for who we really are in Him.

What does the Word of God say about your identity in Christ?

In today's digital and conference heavy age, many people can go running around chasing after the next "word" or "prophecy" to bring clarity for their lives. While the spiritual gifts have an important role for building the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit will never bring any new revelation that is contrary to the Word of God. The role of the Holy Spirit is to amplify and reveal what the Word of God already says about who we are in Him and bring life to our every situation.

In the movie *The Bourne Identity*, the main character Jason Bourne, spends much of his time seeking to find out his true identity. He becomes consumed with the desire to know who he really is.

When we are born again we are given a new identity. It is time for us to step into a fuller revelation of this new identity. By knowing more about our true identity in Christ, we can receive greater clarity and peace for our lives. The knowledge of our true identity can also help us step into the full measure of what God has called us for. The more we know who and whose we are, the more we can see what we were made for.

"In the world, people look for their identity in a job, a ministry or a even a subculture. As believers in Christ, we should only look for our identity in Him. What we do, day in and day out, should flow out of whose we are, rather than define who we are."

How we define ourselves will determine how we approach life.

If we think we are what we do, we will always do more to find our value. If we think we are what people say, we will always try and please people instead of please God.

What does the Word of God say about our identity?

We are children of God. (1 John 3:1)

We are a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We are the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

We are accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:6)



We are free from sin (Romans 6:20-22)

We are his workmanship and masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)

We are co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17)

Do you believe what the Word of God says about your identity?

By discovering what God says about us, we can embrace His identity as sons and daughters of God and co-heirs with Christ. Knowing our identity can free us to carry out the good works that God has already prepared for us to do.

“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.” Galatians 4:6 (NIV)

Paul is saying here we are no longer slaves but sons. How does a son live differently to a slave? Sonship allows us to see ourselves as partners with God, rather than merely working for God, under bondage as we seek justification from our works.

“A slave does work to earn his living under obligation, a son is an owner and invests his time because he desires the wider benefit of his father’s business.”

One way of seeing sonship is as a partner with Christ, one where we are seeking to further our father’s business, the Kingdom of God. We aren’t “watching the clock” or worried about our “performance review”, we are in this venture with God. Our hope as sons and daughters of God is to see a growing and flourishing business for our Father.

If in such a company, you had a sense obligation, duty, and restriction, then you would be working as a slave, not a son or daughter. It’s time to move from a position of slavery to being a son and daughter of the King, so that we can see the expansion of His work, the Kingdom of God.

“Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”

Luke 2:49 (NKJV)

Are you ready to step up as a son and daughter of God for the sake of His Kingdom?

Romans 8:19 (NIV) says, “For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.” The earth is waiting for the rising up of sons and daughters and walk in their callings! Now is the time to step up and speak out as sons and daughters in our Father's Kingdom.

The expansion of the Kingdom of God on earth is our Father's main assignment. He wants to partner with you and all your siblings (the other sons and daughters), to see this assignment come to full completion. God is bringing His Kingdom on earth, and He is doing this right now through the Church, the body of Christ.

“Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” Luke 17:20-21 (NIV)

We are to be agents of the Kingdom and demonstrate His love, power and justice wherever we are as sons and daughters of the King of Kings.

Are you ready to take a step up for the Kingdom this year?

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: DESTROY THE LIES WITH THE TRUTH

Write a list of lies that you could be believing and counter them with the truth of God's Word.

We live in a time of ever increasing information where "the spirit of the age" (the devil), is taking hold of media and spreading lies and deceit. As Christians, we need to be careful what we listen to and believe. Your heart is like a garden- what you plant in your heart, will grow. If you plant seeds of truth, you will reap a harvest of spiritual fruit in your life. If you sow deceit from worldly wisdom, you will reap a harvest of death that can have eternal consequences.

Take a piece of paper now and draw a line down the middle. On one side, write as a heading the word "LIES." On the other side write the word "TRUTH". Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you the lies you could be believing, then on the other side counter those lies with truth of God's Word. Pray that those lies would be broken by the truth of God's Word!

ACTIVATION 2: SEARCH FOR YOUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Make a commitment to find out more of your true identity in Christ.

If you found out one morning you were in the family line of a King, what would you do? What would you want to know about your royal identity? How would that knowledge change your life? The truth is, when you came into the Kingdom, you were adopted into a royal family and now have access to royal blood, the blood of Jesus. You are now part of a new family and Kingdom where Jesus is the King, and you are His brother or sister. You can discover more about your new identity in this royal family by searching through the word of God. With this identity comes authority and with that authority comes responsibility. The King has delegated authority to you to see his Kingdom worked out on earth.

Start looking at the Word of God and you will find God revealing your new and true identity in Christ. Let the Word create a hunger for this truth and He will continually reveal your new identity in Him, to you.

As you find out who you are and your calling in Christ, prepare your heart for change and to move into all that God has called you for.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

“..you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” Esther 4:14 (NIV)

ACTIVATION 3: STEP UP AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Partner with Christ in the expansion of our Father's business, the Kingdom of God.

Know this, you have a part to play in His Kingdom. The Father wants his sons and daughters to expand the work of His Heavenly Kingdom. The Kingdom of God has rules and principles to live by, and this Kingdom comes with power, love, peace and justice. When people see the Kingdom of God demonstrated in the world, they will want to leave the Kingdom of darkness and enter this Kingdom of light. You are now a representative of this Kingdom and as you demonstrate His kingdom, be prepared to have people drawn towards entering His Kingdom with you!

Do you see yourself as a co-heir with Christ for the expansion of the Kingdom?

Romans 8:17 (NIV) says “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

The Good News is, that when people repent and believe in Jesus as Lord, they get immediate access to the Kingdom of God. It's time to demonstrate this Kingdom of God and share the good news of Jesus as the only way to enter in.

Will you take a step up and represent His Kingdom in love, power and justice? Will you invite all those around you to enter this Kingdom of God? Will you share the Good News of the King and demonstrate His ways as a self-sacrificial and loving leader?

In a time of unstable political and economic leadership in Australia and the nations, there has never been a better time to show Jesus as the perfect leader for all people's lives.

Let's share Jesus with anyone who does not know him as Lord and King!



5

Pray that the lies of Satan will be exposed and taken captive.



6

Pray for the Spirit of revelation and wisdom to reveal our identity in Christ Jesus.



7

Pray that we will stand against Satan and his schemes.



8

Pray that the Holy Spirit will deepen your understanding that you are your Father's precious son or daughter.

A photograph of a forest path with large numbers 9, 10, and 11 overlaid. The path is covered in fallen leaves and branches, leading through tall trees. The numbers are white and semi-transparent, allowing the background to show through them.

9

Pray our Father will enable us to reflect His likeness to live out our true identity, in how we think and act as His sons and daughters.

10

Pray for your identity in Christ to begin to affect your relationships, where you live, work and play, so you overflow His love - His Kingdom come.

11

Ask God to show you what He wants to set you free from so you can live abundantly.

WEEK 3

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE



A man is seen from the side, looking out a window. The window looks out onto a mural. The mural is divided into two horizontal panels. The top panel shows a figure in a red jacket and dark pants, possibly a soldier or a worker, standing in a field of tall grass or reeds. The bottom panel shows a large, green, leafy plant, possibly a fern or a similar species, growing in a field. The background of the mural is a brick wall. The text "WEEK 3" is centered over the top panel of the mural.

WEEK 3

HEARING THE FATHER'S
HEART FOR THE LOST
AND BROKEN

THE FATHER'S HEART IS BEATING FOR THE LOST. ARE WE LISTENING?

Does our Father's heartbeat for the lost, fill you with anguish? Are you moved with compassion for the lost in your neighbourhood? Will you respond to the Holy Spirit as He leads you to share the love of Christ with others?

A walk through one of our main cities in Australia or down the main street of any country town, will show the great need for the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we are born again, God takes our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. We cannot let our heart grow cold and hard for the lost, but must let God's love move on us to share the one true Saviour, Jesus.

People respond to the lost in many different ways. Religion responds with judgement. Complacency responds with ignorance. A child of God who is hearing the heart of their Father, will respond with anguish for the lost and this will lead them to action.

Founder of Teen Challenge and Time Square Church, David Wilkerson, shared in his sermon "*A Call to Anguish.*"

“A true prayer life begins at the place of anguish. You see, if you set your heart to pray, God's going to come and start sharing His heart with you.”

The truth is, when you come into a deep relationship with Father God, you start to hear His heartbeat. His heart beats strong for people who are separate from Him and do not know Him.

When you go about your day, does the Holy Spirit prompt you about specific people? What is He saying? What is He leading you to do?

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When you go about your day, does the Holy Spirit prompt you about specific people? What is He saying? What is He leading you to do?



Sometimes it's to share the Gospel. Sometimes it's to pray. Sometimes it's to share a word. Sometimes it's to share an act of kindness. Father God knows what to do at just the right time. Their right time! He knows when the harvest is ready and when people's hearts are prepared to receive the Word!

There is no one formula. Simply be led by the Holy Spirit as your Father knows what you should do, when you should share and how you should go about it.

When Jesus was on this earth, we see he was moved with compassion (Matthew 9:36). Love without action, is not love. Love is a verb, a doing word. How can we love if we don't act? This doesn't come from a sense of obligation, duty or performance but comes from a place where God's love has been poured into us and through us for the lost.

Jesus gave strong attention to the lost in His ministry. He shared three parables to express the importance of reaching those who have strayed from the Father: the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son.

In the parable of the lost coin, we see the lady who has lost her coin and searches for this one coin, calling her friends and neighbours to celebrate with her when she finds it (Luke 15:8-10).

In the parable of the lost sheep, we see the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep to find the one that has walked away (Luke 15:1-7).

In the parable of the lost son, we see the Father waiting patiently for one of his sons, his lost son, to return home (Luke 15:11-32).

Many of us have visions of seeing masses of people come to Jesus but Jesus shows us in these parables that He is about the one. We cannot reach the masses if we will not reach out for the one. He leaves the ninety-nine to find the one to bring them back to the fold.

Who is the one God is stirring in your heart?

Are you willing to search for them, to leave what you have to find them and to wait patiently for God to convict them and bring them home?

God's heart beats for those that have never met Him and for those that have rebelled against Him.

While reaching out to lost souls is critical, we also need to consider those who were with Jesus. When we read the Parable of the Lost Son, we see a son who rebelled against the Father. Someone who has been with the Father, but has hardened his heart. Some would call these people, "backslidden Christians."

When we see these people how do we respond? Are we like the older brother, judgemental and jealous of the grace that is offered to them? Or are we moved to wait for the return of these sons (and daughters), like the Father?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

Jesus' desire has always been to find and restore lost people.

Do you or someone you know have a passion for restoring second hand items?

Some people restore furniture and antiques, others restore cars or even motorcycles. In our materialistic and consumer-driven culture, we are so busy buying new things we sometimes forget there things that are older that can be restored into something beautiful again.



If you know someone who has a passion to restore old things, they primarily have two questions in mind: How can they find undervalued items that can be restored? and How can they go about restoring to become new again? While others can judge old items and think they are useless and ready for the rubbish tip, a restorer sees the potential to form something new again.

The primary assignment work of Jesus was to seek and save the lost. His assignment has not changed, he is still doing it today.

Father God is looking to the body of Christ to be conduits of love and mercy to the lost. Are we hearing his heartbeat? Will his heart move us to action?

How can say we love if we are not compelled to move with action?

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

The love of our Father will not only stir anguish for the lost, it will lead us to action. Will we act following the prompting of the Holy Spirit in us?

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BRING ANGUISH THAT LEADS TO ACTION

As the heart of the Father moves on us, let it flow through us to others.

What does a life led of the Holy Spirit look like? The book of Acts is a key to understanding what a Spirit-led life looks like. When the disciples of Jesus were baptised in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, we then see 3000 people come to faith in Jesus. Acts 1:8 is clear that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give believers power to be witnesses for Jesus.

In a highly pragmatic culture, we can lean towards planned and measured action. The Holy Spirit prompts us in the moment and we need be obedient to the Holy Spirit as He speaks and leads us. The leading of the Holy Spirit is far more spontaneous than many of us would like. Will you be obedient to the call of the Holy Spirit as we go about your day?

With human methods we could think that it might take 100 people to find the 1 lost soul who is ready for the Gospel. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, Father God will lead us to the right person at the right time.

Are you ready to be led by God to share the Gospel?

Spend some time in prayer and ask to be led of the Holy Spirit.

When you pray, listen to His heartbeat and keep listening as you go about your day.

Who is His heart beating for? Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What is His heart saying to you? Who is He highlighting?

What words is He giving you to say?

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

ACTIVATION 2: CONSIDER C.P.R FOR THOSE WHO HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM GOD

Let us be open to restoring those back to God with compassion and prayer.

What do we mean by C.P.R ? C.P.R stands for Compassion. Prayer. Restore.

While we want to keep seeing more souls come into the Kingdom, there are many who have been born again, but have walked away from their relationship with Jesus. They may have walked away from God because of a drifting faith, or for lacking proper fellowship or not going deeper in their relationship with God. In Australia, we see large numbers of young people awakening to the things of God. This is happening because they are finding who they are in Christ and are being stirred to go deeper in their relationship with God.

When people first believe and find “the real thing”, a relationship with God, they get set alight and alive for God. If they are then fed religion, they can quickly drift from God back into the world. Prayer is the key for people to come into a personal encounter with the living God to keep their flame alight.

Spend some time asking the Lord to give you compassion for the lost. Don't let your flame of compassion go out!

Spend some time praying for people who have backslidden, praying that they will have a personal encounter with the living God. We will not be moved beyond our fear, prejudice, or doubt, until our heart is filled to overflowing with His love.

Spend time actively working on helping them to experience restoration in their relationship with God. Send them a Bible verse, ask them over for a meal or continue to pray for them. It is your kindness that shows you are a true follower of Jesus.

ACTIVATION 3: START A 6x6 PRAYER FOCUS THIS YEAR

Become more focussed, targeted and specific when praying for the lost.

As we have shared, praying for the lost is like dynamite in the Kingdom. A friend of one of our team had left his faith in Christ and moved back into the world.

He knew his father, and his father was a diligent prayer warrior and evangelist. For years, the son didn't want anything to do with Jesus- his father could only pray and love his son. After years of being away from the Lord, the son was driving in his car by himself. All of a sudden the man's son had a direct encounter with the Lord. He said "It was like heaven come down into my car, waking me up." From that point, the son gained a renewed faith in Jesus and is now walking with God again.

There is power in persistent prayer!

If prayer is so effective, why have some of us stopped praying consistently? Our culture has trained us to expect "microwaved magic results", if something doesn't happen instantly we go "well, it didn't work".

Why don't things happen right away with God? Sometimes God is testing our faith and helping us grow. It does not mean He can't deliver on seeing people set free miraculously, clearly that still happens today! Prayer needs to be focussed and regular if we are to see fruit from it.

James 5:16 (NIV) says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

6x6 is a simple approach to focus your prayer. How it works is that you come up with a list of 6 people, you pray for each over 6 weeks. At the end of 6 weeks, you review the list and ask the Holy Spirit which names to keep on your list. For each person on the list you feel to remove, you add others onto the list.

Focussed prayer can bring breakthrough results. Will you commit to a 6x6 this year?

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

OVERFLOW



12

Pray for the lost across the world,
that they will respond to our Father
who is drawing them to Himself.

13

Pray that the Lord of the
Harvest will send out
more workers.

14

Pray that the Lord will move you
with compassion for the lost.

15

Pray you will discern who,
when, where Holy Spirit
leading you.



16

Pray you will accurately hear what our Father wants you to say to others.

17

Pray for opportunities to share your faith today.

18

Pray for an increase in souls saved Australia.

WEEK 4

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE





WEEK 4

POUR OUT HIS GRACE
AND MERCY TO THOSE
AROUND US

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CARE ABOUT THE LOST, WE MUST SHARE JESUS WITH THEM

One of the most crippling sayings of our time is this, “Always preach the gospel. When necessary, use words.” (This quote is regularly attributed to Francis of Assisi, though there are actually no records that he said this.)

For this to be a mantra for many in our age, is nothing short of disturbing because it goes completely against the Word of God. Romans 10:14 (NIV) says, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Being nice to someone doesn’t bring conviction to them or explain the way to salvation. We must use our words to share the Gospel.

However the reality is, according to Dr. Ryan Kozey, less than 5% of Christians have ever led someone to the Lord, and according to Clayton Church of Christ, less than 25% of Australian Christians share their faith regularly. If this is the case, then we must ask why, and we must ask how we can see an increase in evangelism to a world that desperately needs Jesus.

“After more than 10 years in ministry, we have found this, the two main reasons people do not share their faith is fear and not knowing how.”

First, let’s deal with fear.

In Week 3, we shared the concept of anguish that leads to action. Allow us to expand.

One of our team members hates snakes. He has a serious phobia of them. His common reaction to seeing a snake is to freeze up, or to run away. The other day, he was convinced he saw a snake in his backyard. Like we said, he HATES snakes but he LOVES his kids, and his kids play in his backyard. Upon seeing this snake, he quickly pulled on his boots, grabbed a shovel and stomped through his yard looking for this snake.

He overcame fear by allowing love to be his driving force.



When our anguish or our compassion or our love, is greater than our fear, it leads to action.

People who don't share their faith, often don't because their fear of people's opinions is greater than their love of the very same people. We need to move beyond fear towards action, but this is only possible when we allow God's love for the lost to fill us to overflowing and to become greater than our fear of people's opinions of us.

We will overcome fear once we have increased the level of love we have for others. The question is, how do we actually share our Father's love, once the opportunity arises??

There is no formulaic answer, but there are 6 tools and tips that can help.

1. Don't say 'no' for others

For whatever reason, we often assume others don't want to hear what we have to say. Yet the word of God says, eternity is written on the hearts of all people (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

People are hungry and thirsty for God, but they need you to tell them. Don't assume they don't want to hear the Gospel, assume they do!

We were presently surprised when we tested this reality out in Melbourne. We asked around six people what Jesus meant to them. We thought we would get very negative responses. Instead, three of the six we asked gave overwhelmingly positive responses, one engaged in further conversation, one attended a local outreach service for the first time, and one received Jesus as their Lord on the pavement! People are hungrier than we often realize.

2. Highlight the love of God

When you begin to share your faith, stress the love of God. John 3:16 says that "God so LOVED the world, that He gave His one and only Son." The media often paints God as judgmental, and His followers as hypocritical. Yes, God will judge the earth one day, but at present it is His love that He is clearly wanting to have on display, hence His sending of Jesus. When you share Jesus to others stress how much He loves them.

3. Share a Living Jesus, not a Formula

It can be easy to get into a routine when sharing the gospel is like presenting a formula instead of a living person, Jesus Christ. When you share Jesus, ask Jesus how He would like to be presented. Share a God that can be prayed to, a God that listens, a God that cares, not a 12-step program or a heavenly vending machine.

4. Keep it Simple

The Gospel is simple at its core. God made the earth perfect. The devil and humans broke it by going their own way. This "own way" when in opposition to God's, is called sin. Jesus came to take the penalty of this sin, which is death. He did this by dying on the cross and rising again. If you believe in Him and choose to follow Him as your Lord, you will have eternal life and can walk with God in this life and in eternity.

Don't overthink the simple Gospel, don't over complicate it.

5. Trust God's Activity

Trust that God is at work. He is building the church. He is drawing people to Himself. He is the Lord of the Harvest. You don't have to convince or coerce. Trust Him with the outcome of your obedience as you share Jesus with others.

6. Listen to Others and put them First

People know when you are trying to "convert them" and don't care about them as a person. Listen to others, hear their story and put them first. There is a saying, "People don't care what you know until they know that you care."

ACTIVATION 1: ASK GOD TO TAKE AWAY ANY FEAR BY REPLACING IT WITH HIS LOVE

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

One of our team recently found that his dog's drinking bowl was getting a little dirty. Not one to want to run his dog's bowl through the dishwasher (thankfully!), our team member moved his dog's bowl from under cover to out into the open, just before a big rain storm. Time in the presence of God can be likened to the length of time one leaves such a bowl out during a time of heavy rain. The longer this bowl was left out, the cleaner it became as it was filled to overflowing with water and all the muck was removed by the filling of water. Time with God has a similar effect. The longer one stays in His presence, the more fear is washed out, replaced with the living waters of God's perfect love. Not only will you become free from fear, but you will begin to overflow clean, refreshing, living water.

Are you ready to have fear washed out of your life and replaced with love?

Spend some time in prayer. Put aside time to simply stay in His presence. Ask God to remove any fear by replacing it with His love. Meditate on how much He loves you and how much he therefore loves others.

A great passage to meditate on is the woman at the well in John 4:1-42. Jesus comes to you in your brokenness and gives you living water that you get to share with others!

OVERFLOW

ACTIVATION 2: SHARE THE LOVE OF THE FATHER WITH SOMEONE TODAY

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

Ben Fitzgerald of Awakening Europe says, “We won’t all lead someone to Jesus every day, but we can plant a seed every day.”

As you go about your day today, ask the Lord to show you someone to share Jesus with. If you don’t feel a “prompting” don’t worry. Daz Chettle of Global Gospel Movement says, “I don’t wait for a divine appointment, I am a divine appointment.” His point being this, you may be the only Christian someone talks to today. You are their divine appointment.

Practically, this can look like this. As you're paying for your petrol, groceries, or morning coffee, ask your server, “How long have you worked here?” Then encourage them, “You are so good at your job, thanks for looking after me. I want to encourage you, God loves you so much and what you do and more importantly, who you are, matters to Him. Thank you.” Then wait and see if the Lord breathes on the conversation for it to go deeper. If not, at the very least you will have made their day and planted a big seed for the Kingdom of God in their heart.

Are you ready to be used by God?

Today, make a commitment to share the love of Jesus with at least one person. It’s as simple as, “Can I encourage you today? God loves you so much and so values you.” You could also wait for someone to share a need and then ask if you can pray for that need. For example, “I have a bad headache today”, can be followed by you asking, “Can I pray for you?” and then praying for them.

You could also take some time to ask someone more about their life and then share about your life and what His life means to yours.

Whatever this looks like, go for it today! It’s not a formula, and you don’t have to “lead them to the Lord” every time, but you can plant a seed.

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 3: SIGN UP TO SOME EVANGELISM TRAINING

It is often amazing how often we hear complaints about how much a training from a Christian organization costs, or how much time it takes for a church service to be over. Yet, people rarely complain about paying to be trained in their other passions and don't get upset when a good movie or meal goes for over an hour and a half.

Many Christians are happy to spend time, energy and money upskilling around finance, employment, or their hobbies. What could it look like to be upskilled as an evangelist?

Are you ready to go deeper as an evangelist?
Here are some websites we recommend you look into.

www.theglobalharvest.com
www.billygrahamonlinetraining.org/soe
www.godrevolution.com.au

19

Pray for all fear to leave you and for the love of Our Father to flood your heart.

20

Pray for opportunities to share our Father's love

21

Pray for your lost friends and relatives by name.

22

Pray for many to be equipped with tools for sharing the gospel.





23

Pray for local and global evangelists that to see the lost found in your city or abroad.

24

Pray for local and global evangelists who are working to see the lost found in your city or abroad.

25

Pray for those you share Jesus with to make decisions to follow Jesus. Pray for fruit from the seeds you are planting.

WEEK 5

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE



A man with short brown hair and a beard is shown in profile, looking down. In the background, a church service is taking place with people seated in pews. The text "WEEK 5" is centered above a horizontal line.

WEEK 5

BELONGING TO
THE FAMILY
OF GOD

THE LOST SONS & DAUGHTERS ARE WAITING TO BE EMBRACED BY OUR FATHER. WILL WE WELCOME THEM HOME?

Let us revisit the Parable of the Lost Son

While Jesus shared many parables, none has so captured the imagination of artists over the centuries than the moving story of a son who seeks mercy from his father after squandering his inheritance (see Luke 15: 11-32). One attempt to visually depict the tenderness of the father at his son's homecoming is found in the painting by Italian artist Il Guercino, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. At first, a tear streaming down the son's face arrests the viewer's attention. However it is the expression in the father's eyes powerfully portrayed by Il Guercino that becomes the dominant feature of the work. It is this mingling of sorrow and love that gives illumination to Christ's words "his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him" (Luke 15:20 NIV).

Four hundred years earlier to Jesus sharing this parable, the prophet Malachi described the days that would come where the reconciliation as noted between the father and his lost son, would be witnessed on a much larger scale on the earth.

"He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." Malachi 3:16 (NIV)

We are living in times where a move of God grounded in a revelation of the Father's love is being unleashed. As believers, our heart needs to be positioned to celebrate with our Father the return of our brothers and sisters who will come out of spiritual death into eternal and abundant life that is found only in restoration to the arms of Abba, Father.

Are we ready to also embrace the lost sons and daughters?

The older brother is notably absent from the banquet held by his father in the youngest son's honour. We are told by Jesus that it is the extravagant grace and love shown by the father to the younger brother that provokes the older son to anger. He is resentful and at the root of the son's grievance, is the feeling that his father has shortchanged him somehow, withholding blessing from him even though he has been a dutiful son. The father is grieved with his older son's reaction at his brother's return, especially when he has not kept anything from him. In the father's words to his older son "...everything I have is yours" (Luke 15:31 NIV). Are you like the older son and have never fully tasted the joy of being at home with the Father? Have you not yet taken hold of your spiritual inheritance?



Do we have a sense of belonging in His Body?

When we are saved, we become part of the family of God. The Bible describes this as becoming adopted as sons and daughters of the Father (Ephesians 1:5). Every spiritual blessing is ours in Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). All of a sudden we have brothers and sisters in Christ, a bond stronger than friendship as we share the same Heavenly Father.

“We love because he first loved us.” – 1 John 4:19

The same love that sustains the universe also nourishes and sustains the body of Christ. It is a transcendent and redemptive love, bringing wholeness to lives on earth as the Father's love is lavishly poured out (1 John 3:1).

Those who have walked with the Lord for many years should be able to think of long-standing Christian relationships that have expressed the love of the Father and have been built on prayer, sharing communion, and carrying each other's burdens. This fellowship is a sweet reminder of God's love for His church. Fruit-bearing relationships in the Lord are a microcosm of the church. In every region and city there is unlimited potential for life infused relationships.

When God the Father is not at the centre of our relationships all we have to offer is our natural affection and our love quickly depletes. When we abide in Christ, spending time with Him and learning of His ways, we will have fellowship with another, walking in the light as the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34 (NIV)

God did not create you to be isolated. He has a desire that we connect with His body. Despite our feelings about the church, or hurtful experiences we may have had with other believers, this command from Jesus is non-negotiable. As a disciple of Christ we are to love other disciples with the same love demonstrated to us. This does not mean that truth is compromised. It is the truth that God has forgiven us through the death and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus that sustains us in being kind and tenderhearted towards one another (Ephesians 4:32).

How can we foster holy community?

It is God's will that His church be known as a holy community on the earth. One of the hallmarks of the early church was their joy and sincere hearts in coming together daily to break bread (Acts 2:46). Celebrating the Lord's supper marked the early church as a sacred community, set apart for God. Should it surprise us that the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47)?

Holy community is only built when we let go of the judgements and prejudices that divide and grieve the Holy Spirit and freely love those around us. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906- 1945), German Pastor and Theologian wrote:

“The person who is in love with their vision of community will destroy community. But the person who loves the people around them will create community everywhere they go.”

It's a slippery slope when we start to pick and choose who we can love in the body of Christ. A pursuit of perfection in others can bring the exact opposite. Life and healing are substituted with death and destruction. A sober reminder of this is seen in the 1920s movement that emerged within the German Evangelical Church called the Deutsche Christen or 'German Christians'. Built on the antisemitism that was widespread in Europe at the time, this group sought to establish a 'perfect church' and embraced many of the nationalistic and racial aspects of Nazi ideology. How many of the German Christians would have foreseen that their embrace of an antisemitic agenda would later contribute to the Holocaust, where 6 million Jews were brutally murdered and where countless Christian brothers and sisters (including Bonhoeffer) met with a similar fate, who opposed Nazi rule?

A doctrine of "perfectionism" in the church, that is based on man's agenda can have nightmarish results on individuals, groups and cults. Trying to be our version of perfect and trying to be perfect in our strength leads to conformity rather than unity; domination and fear rather than godly submission to one another. The truth is churches are filled with people that will make us feel uncomfortable in the flesh, cause us inconvenience and even mistreat us while Christ is being formed in them. As Tim Keller, Founding Pastor of Redeemer Church in New York puts it:

"The mistaken belief that a person must "clean up" his or her own life in order to merit God's presence is not Christianity. This means, though, that the church will be filled with immature and broken people who still have a long way to go emotionally, morally, and spiritually."

How can we make ourselves continually vulnerable to a community that can at best test us and at worst, cause us deep wounds? There is perhaps no better guidance for living with the reality of broken and fractured relationships in the church than in the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

A richly gifted church, the carnality of the Corinthian believers was in their way to healing and Christ-centered relationships. They were prizing spiritual giftedness over character and elevating human leaders above their exaltation of Christ. The Corinthian church had not learned yet to operate as a body and the bad fruit included divisions, sickness and even early death (1 Corinthians 11:30).

The Apostle Paul makes very clear the pathway forward to life and purity. In his famous passage on the attributes of love in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul redirects the Corinthians' attention to the way of love which never fails.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 (NIV)

The way of love involves keeping short accounts with one another and becoming imitators of Our Father who has forgiven us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 4:32).



We need to live as one

When we are one with God, as Jesus prayed in John 17, we will be one with those who are one with Him. Learning to love God and live in His presence is our first command. His Spirit will lead us, as sons and daughter who reflect His likeness, to love others and to be able to be one with them. Then the hidden ones - the persecuted, sick or lonely - will be found and embraced into the body of Christ.

We don't want a spirit of uniformity - where we all look the same and speak the same lingo. Unity of the Spirit, is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit, where fear of man and control are replaced by love and freedom in Christ. No matter how spiritually gifted an individual or a group of Christians are, it is still only one part of a greater body where all parts are needed to function. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian church:

“The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don't need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don't need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.” 1 Corinthians 12: 21-23 (NIV)

When we unite as the family of God in love, a great power for evangelism can be unleashed. The family of God can live its high calling of being light in darkness, as we become a living testimony of Christ's undivided body. Only then can we love and so reach a broken and dying world. As Jesus assures us:

**“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13: 35 (NIV)**

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: LOVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN LOVED

Jesus has revealed the Father to us. He said to His disciples "If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:7 NIV).

Do we see the Father through Jesus Christ? Put another way, do we recognise that Jesus' compassionate kindness is a reflection of our Father's love and tender mercies? (John 3:16).

The classic hymn "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" reflects the sorrow and love that met when Jesus died at Calvary. He is the perfect reflection of the father's compassion described by Jesus in the parable of the Prodigal Son. His whole body on the cross "...His head, His hands, His feet" was a reflection of this costly love.

Jesus said: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

Will you forgive and love brothers and sisters in the church who have offended you?

Sometimes the biggest barriers to us stepping out and embracing other believers is that we have forgotten the mercy shown to us through God the Father. We can be unwilling to show grace to brothers and sisters who seek God's mercy and forgiveness even though we enjoy the riches of our Father on a daily basis.

Unforgiveness in our hearts towards a brother or sister in Christ corrodes our life in Christ and robs us of fellowship where Christ is in our midst. It is interesting that Jesus tells his disciples to forgive a brother (or sister) if they sin against you "seventy times seven" right after he notes the power of unity in prayer (see Matthew 18:18-22).

Listen to the hymn When I Survey The Wonderous Cross

Spend some time alone with the Lord meditating on the work accomplished by the Cross. Ask Him to reveal to you anything in your heart (pride, judgement, bitterness etc) that has blocked you from fellowshiping with other believers. Give any pain and hurt to our Father that may come up during this time and leave it at the foot of the Cross. Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDkuxElcpdl>

ACTIVATION 2: BRINGING THE GENERATIONS TOGETHER

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"
Galatians 3: 28 (NIV).

Here are the 3 activations for this week

Divisions in the body of Christ can become great hindrances to spiritual growth and life in Christ. While there are many divisions that can creep into the body of Christ, none has a more powerful effect on breaking down the blessings that come with family than the division between older and younger generations.

Building multigenerational communities where all can flourish and grow in their knowledge of Christ is in the heart of the Father. There are benefits of older and younger generations working together. Our differences can become strengths allowing us to more effectively reach the culture.

Are you actively encouraging someone younger and older than you?

Ask the Lord to show you someone you can sow into - someone from your local church or Christian community who is of a different generation than you. Seek the Father on ways you can encourage them through prayer, hospitality or sharing a constructive word.

If you are a new believer, do not feel like you cannot encourage someone who has been a Christian for many years. Chinese Church leader Watchman Nee (1903-1972) notes that he was amazed by the insights from the Scriptures shared by new believers but how this showed that all parts of the body of Christ were needed to function properly.

ACTIVATION 3: LEARNING TO STAY

Authentic relationships between believers in Christ were won for us at Calvary. Intuitively we know that genuine love for one another is priceless. Walking this out, day by day, with other believers however can bring challenges as Christ is formed in one another. If we are not careful, we can become easily offended and wander from Christian community to Christian community looking for the 'perfect church.'

We also live in a time where the online world makes it easier to become distracted with what is happening in other ministries or churches and stop us from being fully present in our local communities. We can be tempted to run from where God has planted us because we don't want to miss out on what God is doing elsewhere. Missionary to Hong Kong, Jackie Pullinger points out "We need people who will go, and stay until the end."

Where has God called you to be? Are you doing the works he has called you to in this place?

Spend some time with the Lord and ask Him for a fresh vision of the city or town you are planted in. The Apostle Paul says "godliness with contentment is great gain." (1 Timothy 6:6). Ask Our Father to help you remove any distractions that are robbing you of contentment in Him and are stopping you from being an effective witness in your local community.

A person is seen from behind, carrying a young child on their shoulders. They are looking out over a body of water towards a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and white. The person is wearing a dark-colored shirt, and the child is wearing a light-colored shirt with a patterned back. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

26

Praise God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Jesus.

27

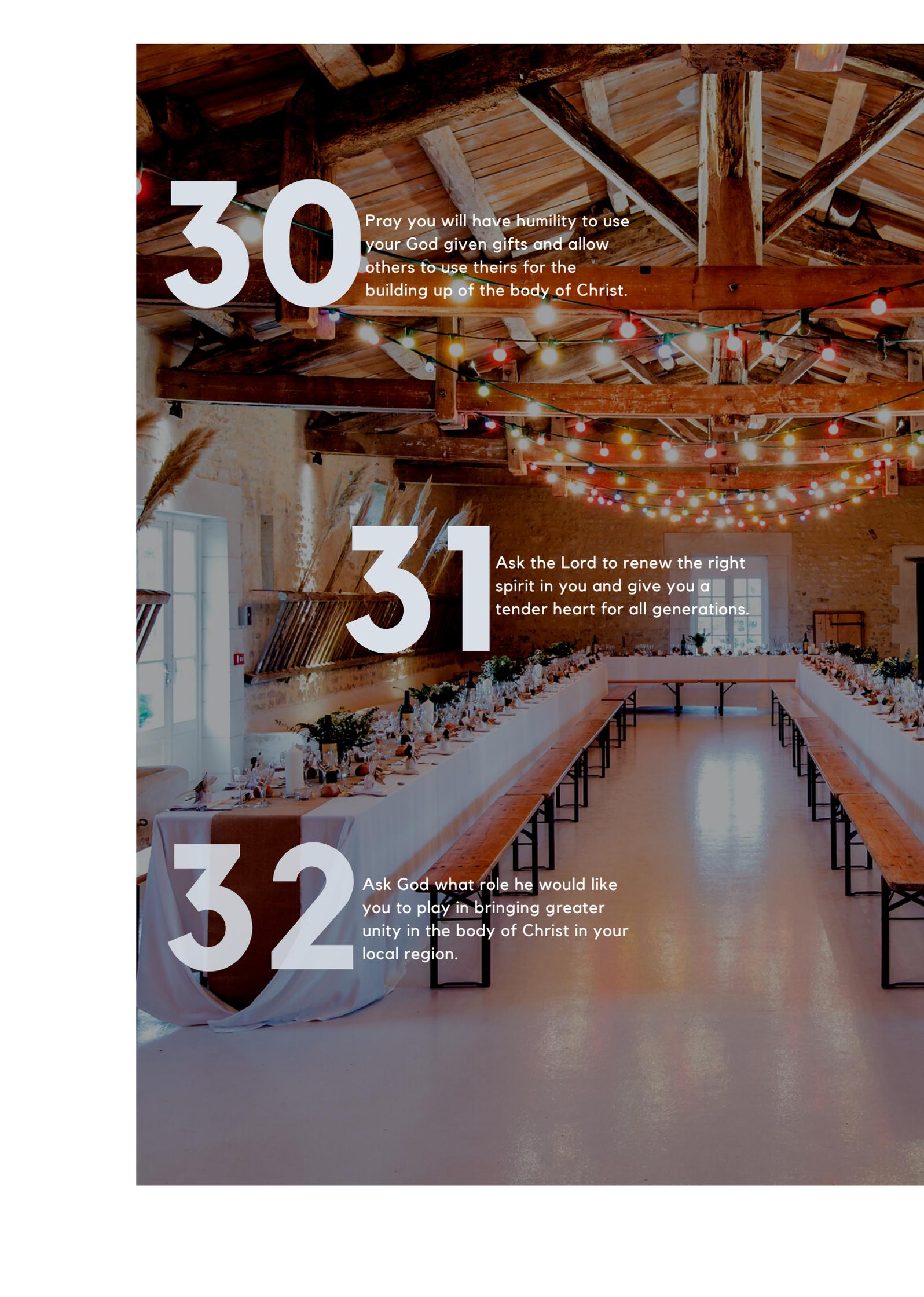
Give thanks to God our Father who predestined us for adoption of sonship through Jesus Christ and praise Him for His grace that He has freely given to us to the One he loves.

28

Ask our Father for a revelation of His loving kindness and let His presence wash you and overflow you.

29

Ask the Lord to forgive any hardness in your heart where you have held unforgiveness against a brother or sister in Christ.

A rustic dining room with a high wooden ceiling featuring exposed beams and rafters. Multiple strings of warm-toned string lights are draped across the room. Long wooden tables are covered with white tablecloths and set with white dishes, glassware, and small centerpieces. The walls are made of light-colored stone or plaster. Large windows are visible in the background.

30

Pray you will have humility to use your God given gifts and allow others to use theirs for the building up of the body of Christ.

31

Ask the Lord to renew the right spirit in you and give you a tender heart for all generations.

32

Ask God what role he would like you to play in bringing greater unity in the body of Christ in your local region.

WEEK 6

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE





WEEK 6

BECOME A
CATALYST FOR
THE KINGDOM
OF GOD WHERE
YOU ARE

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD INVADE THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD?

Do you want to see sickness disappear?

Do you want to see peace on earth?

Do you want to see an end to violence, abuse and pain?

Do you want to see the lost be found, following Jesus and finding family?

God does too! Jesus taught us to pray:

“Your [God’s] kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of our Father. In His Kingdom (as in heaven), we are expected and welcomed (John 14:1-3). In heaven we will have new bodies, free from sickness and sin (Isaiah 35:5, 6 / Philippians 3:21). In heaven we will have our own homes and gardens! (Isaiah 65:21). In heaven, God will be with us and God will wipe away all of our tears! (Revelation 21:1-4).

We should pray and work towards this being our reality now too! The Kingdom of Heaven is not just for someday, it is for today. Doesn't the above description of the Kingdom of God sound like the kind of world we want to live in now too? This is the kind of world Jesus asked us to pray for and that He demonstrated and called us to advance alongside Him. So often we equate our Christian lifestyle with going to church on a Sunday and the activities of our local congregation. However, the Bible seems to be a lot more concerned with advancing the Kingdom of God than simply attending “church”. The gospels mention church three times, the Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned more than 70 times!

The Kingdom of Heaven was never simply meant to be reserved for Sundays. Neither was it to be reserved solely for a Christian’s own home and family. The Kingdom of Heaven is to be displayed for all, in all spheres of society, so that all might know God.

Many of us have been taught that earth is a waiting room for heaven. It is more accurate to say that earth is a shadow of heaven, an entree to the main course, but it is not disconnected from God’s Kingdom! We are to contend for the Kingdom of Heaven to be made manifest here on earth!



Often a “waiting room” Christian mentality focusses believers on their own community, life, family and church. How can I be a better person? How can I be a better husband? How can I be a better “Christian”. A Kingdom Christian mentality says, how can I see my and my neighbor’s marriage be healthier? How can my town become a better town that reflects God’s glory more, how can our community become better people that know their identity in God? It is not simply enough for us as Christians to enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven, we are to share it and advance it everywhere we go. What does it look like to advance the Kingdom of Heaven?

1. It looks like us being purposeful, even forceful, when it comes to advancing it (Matthew 11:12).

We have to be purposeful in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. What does it look like to be a Kingdom minded neighbour, employer or employee, student, husband, father, wife, mother, or friend? What does it look like to vote for Kingdom advancement, not simply personal gain? What does it look like to handle our finances as if they belonged to the Kingdom of God, not ourselves?

If we want to see more people come into the Kingdom of God, we have to do what Jesus did and demonstrate the Kingdom of God in our lives, to all those around us.

People notice when you honour your spouse in public. People notice when you love your children. People notice when you live generously. People notice when you pay all of your taxes and don’t cut corners in business. People notice when the Kingdom of Heaven is on display, because it is the hidden desire of their hearts, to taste the Kingdom.



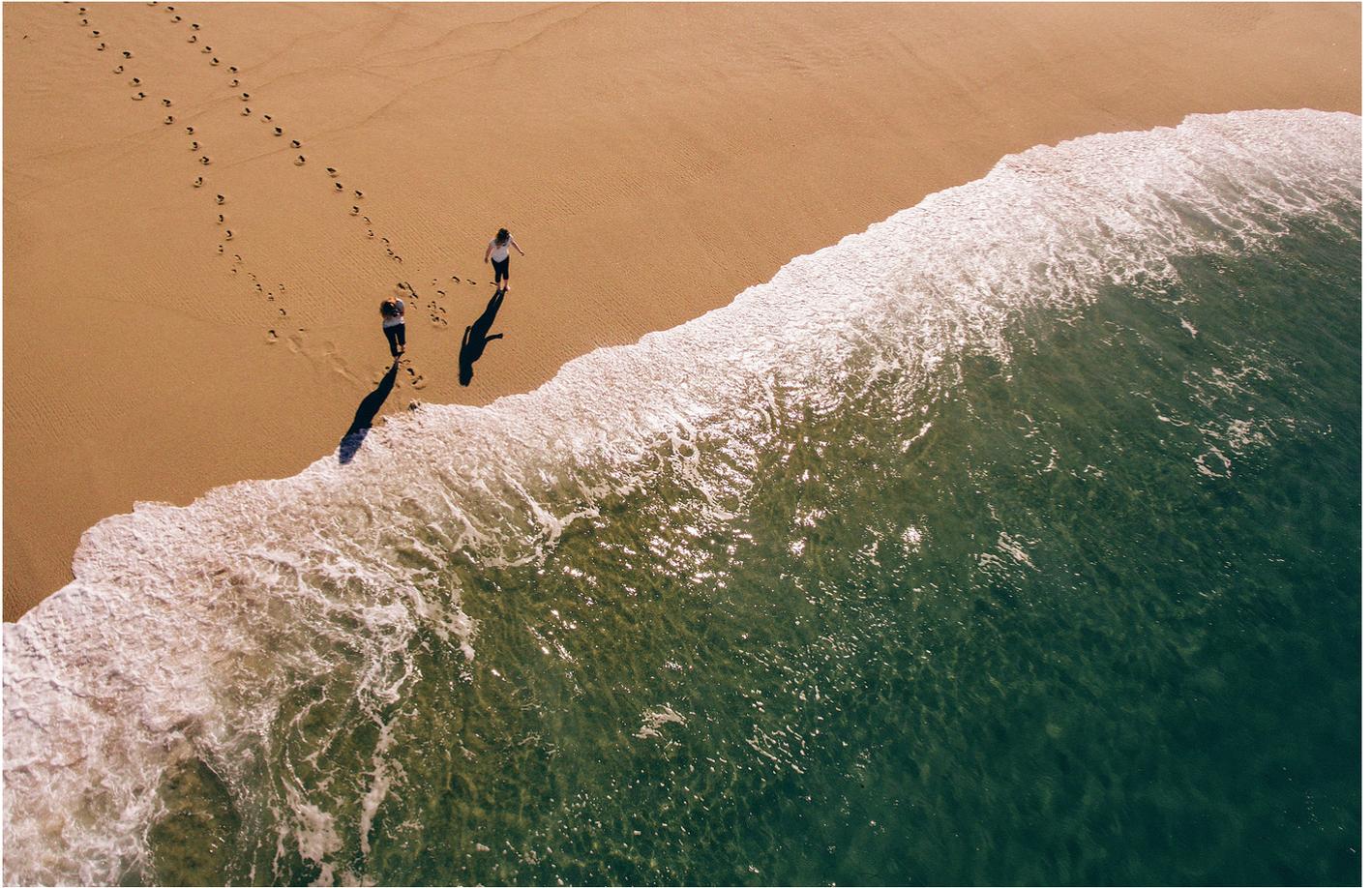
2. It looks like a transformed society, under a new King

There are two kingdoms in this world. The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of the world. But these Kingdoms were never meant to be separate. The Kingdom of God was meant to (and will) overtake the Kingdom of this world.

The more Christians retreat and seek to protect ourselves from the world, the more we are robbing the world of its potential to experience God's Kingdom. We are called to be salt and light, to make a difference. Salt literally changes the whole taste of a dish. Light literally changes the whole atmosphere of a room. We have the privilege and the opportunity to transform society and to bring it under a new King, a new Kingdom. We get to call society to a different and better way!

Where Christians are we can see suicide rates drop, crime drop, abuse drop, peace increase, the isolated find friends. Where Christians are we can see disease disappear and anxiety and fear replaced with perfect peace.

Where Christians are we can see the media be a mouthpiece for God, the political sphere advance heaven's values and agenda, families that flourish, schools that teach the Kingdom, entertainment that glorifies God and points people to Him. Where Christians are, we can see the Kingdom. Will you go into all the world?



3. It looks like you being fully alive

You were saved, not simply for heaven one day, but for heaven today. One of the crippling lies of our modern era is that becoming a Christian is all about a sinner's prayer that saves us a place in heaven when we die. No, the Christian life is about following Jesus and living as He did! Jesus did not ask His disciples to say a prayer, He asked them to follow Him and be a part of what He was doing. We are to live and preach the Kingdom, not simply salvation.

There is no greater joy than being a part of seeing His kingdom advanced. Think about it. Could there be a greater joy than playing a role in seeing a marriage restored? What an honour it would be to be the reason your neighbour doesn't beat their spouse anymore? What could be better than knowing that you were a part of seeing abortion ended and life valued? The Kingdom being advanced looks like you being activated to be all that you can be in Christ, with Christ, as His ambassador of the Kingdom!

Our heart is that you would be fully alive and fully on mission, everywhere you go. We believe that this is God's heart too!

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: PRAY FOR GOD'S POWER TO COME SO THAT HIS KINGDOM MIGHT BE DEMONSTRATED

Jesus both preached and demonstrated, the Kingdom. This often involved the miraculous. Are you hungry to be filled to overflow, not just with the Father's love, but also with God's power?

Take some time out to pray for God's power to come. You might like to join together with other believers and ask them to join you in prayer also. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you to overflowing with His power.

Scripture says we should eagerly desire spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1) and that God pours out His Spirit without measure (John 3:34). We should always be hungry to receive more.

Pray that the miraculous reality of heaven would invade your life and all those around you would be impacted by the power and presence of God flowing through you.

Look for opportunities to pray for the sick to be healed. Pray also for spiritually blind eyes to be supernaturally opened. Ask God for His power to come for you and through you so that you too might demonstrate the Kingdom this week.

ACTIVATION 2: REARRANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE TO REFLECT THE KINGDOM

This won't be easy, but it will be life changing for you and everyone around you! Spend some time looking at your life and what you spend your time doing.

Make a list of every responsibility you have and how you use your time. Now write down how those areas could better reflect the Kingdom of God? It might be worth even reconsidering what you are actually engaged in day to day.

Make a list with these four categories.

1. What do I need to stop doing that doesn't reflect the Kingdom of God?
2. What do I need to start doing that would help me reflect the Kingdom of God?
3. What do I need to continue doing or "turn up" so that I can better reflect the Kingdom of God?
4. What would it look like to see the God's Kingdom come into every area of your life, as it is in heaven?

Pray.

Now tell someone about the changes you are going to make and begin to make changes in your life so that His Kingdom might be on display.

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 3: COMMIT TO A LIFESTYLE OF OVERFLOW

Christianity is not simply a moment, nor is it a 40 day journey, it is a lifelong journey.

Everyday, ask the Lord to fill you to overflow so that you can't help but give away what you have. Commit to sharing the Kingdom of Heaven with others. A great way to do this is by praying everyday, "Lord let me share you with at least one person today!" Then seek out who you can share Jesus with each day.

This can be done through the sharing the gospel verbally, and through demonstrating it too, with miracles, signs and wonders. What could it look like to see Jesus be lifted up everywhere you are?

It's time for you to Overflow the Father's heart to all. We thank you for joining us on this journey. Let's keep connected. Head to www.partnersinprayer.org.au for ongoing updates.

OVERFLOW

An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest of green trees. A dark-colored car is driving away from the viewer on the road. The numbers 33, 34, 35, and 36 are overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, light gray font.

33

Thank God for who He is, all His goodness, His kindness and faithfulness to bring all things in the heaven and earth unto Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

34

Ask God for His Kingdom to come, His Will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).

35

Pray that God shows you how to demonstrate the Kingdom.

36

Pray for a clear calling for your sphere of influence.



37

Pray that you will have the courage to take risks in your faith to share with others what God has done in your life.

38

Pray that the atmosphere shifts in your marketplace environment.

39

Ask God for boldness to be a witness and to shine His light in your sphere of influence.

40

Thank God for all His goodness and faithfulness and ask Him to use you to establish His Kingdom on the earth.



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