

NEXT STEPS

DAY ONE:

READ

Philippians 4:4-9

Prayer simply means talking to God, and it's the starting point for following Him. Don't worry, you don't need to know any special words or fancy terminology, He's just interested in hearing from you. There are invitations to pray all throughout Scripture (including in the passage you just read). God wants us to talk to Him about anything and everything going on in our lives, yet we get so busy in life that we forget to stop and take Him up on the offer.

Talking to God can sometimes feel strange, and it can be difficult to know where to start. So, for week one, we are going to learn how to communicate with God together.

RESPOND

In today's passage, the Apostle Paul invites us to trade our worries in for prayer. Take a moment and reread Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Are you anxious about anything today? Take two minutes and talk to God about those things. Tomorrow, we'll talk more about how to do that, but for now, here is a script you can follow:

God, thank you for today. I have a lot going on right now, and so I pray that you would help me with _____. Lord, give me the strength to persevere through the pain and give me the perspective to be at peace in the middle of the chaos. In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECT

- Was that your first time praying? How did it go?
- Do you feel any different about the thing you were anxious about?

DAY 2: HOW DO I PRAY?

READ

Matthew 6

There is no right or wrong way to pray, but a little structure can be helpful. In Matthew 6, Jesus gives us a great model for prayer called 'The Lord's Prayer.' Today, we are going to practice using it as a model for our prayer life.

Before we pray it, let's take a moment and break down the five different parts of 'The Lord's Prayer.' This serves as a framework for you, you can speak to God in your own words.

- **Praise:** Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name
Jesus begins the prayer by fixing His attention on God. "Hallowed" means 'to exalt or praise.'
- **Surrender:** Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Next, Jesus invites us to surrender our own will and pray that God's will would be done.
- **Ask:** Give us today our daily bread.
Then Jesus asks for provision for the day.
- **Forgive:** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
This is the most challenging part of the prayer. We all have things we need to ask forgiveness for, but we also have people we need to forgive. Jesus challenges us to spend some time asking for forgiveness and forgiving others.
- **Protection:** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
Jesus ends his prayer by asking for God's protection throughout the day.

RESPOND

Spend five minutes. We have to practice praying to God, becoming aware of His presence, He is always listening!

REFLECT

- How was that experience? Did you notice anything new about the prayer that you've never considered before?
- What do you think it means to pray for daily bread? That line means something different for everyone each day. What does daily bread mean for you today?

DAY 3: PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

READ

James 4

Prayer actually works! In the passage you just read, James said, "You do not have because you do not ask God" (James 4:2). In some mysterious way, prayer really does change things. One short prayer may not fix every single thing, but when you start making prayer a part of your daily routine, things will begin to change. Mark Batterson says, "When regular people pray regularly, irregular things happen on a regular basis."

Do you have something you want to see happen in your life? A dream? A job? A relationship? Healing? Take some time to ask God for it. Remember, Jesus tells us, "...and whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith" (Matthew 21:22).

However, that doesn't mean God will always say yes. Sometimes what feels like an unanswered prayer is God's way of protecting you and setting you up for the good plans He has for your life.

RESPOND

Considering that our prayers change circumstances, take five minutes to pray for these three things right now:

- Pray that God would bless your friends/family.
- Pray that God would bring peace and prosperity to your city.
- Pray that God would bring unity to our world.

REFLECT

- Do you believe that prayer actually changes things? Why or why not?
- How do you feel after spending five minutes praying for your family and your city?

DAY 4: PRAYER CHANGES YOU

READ

1 John 5

Prayer doesn't just change our circumstances; it also changes us. The truth is we all have a lot of unprocessed pain and emotions we keep in the dark, where only unhealthy things grow.

Levi Lusko says, "Nothing healthy grows in the dark. Flowers, trees, fruits, and vegetables—the kind of things that you want to grow—they all require sunshine. Mold spores, fungi, moss, these are the kinds of things that thrive in dark environments."

Prayer is like a giant flashlight. When we take the time to pray, we are allowing God to shine a bright light on all the things we are feeling and going through. Prayer doesn't just change things; it also changes us. Every time we take a few moments to talk to God, we leave changed.

RESPOND

At the end of his letter, John reminds us, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14). Since God is listening to you right now, take five minutes and tell him how you are really feeling.

REFLECT

- How did knowing that God actually listens to you change the way you prayed?
- How do you feel after processing your emotions and current life circumstances with God for five minutes?

DAY 5: PRAYER BRINGS YOU CLOSER TO GOD

READ

Luke 17

Prayer doesn't just change our circumstances; it also brings us closer to God. This is part of God's brilliant design. He wants to have a relationship with us, so He created a way for us to spend time with him.

Parents serve as a great example for this concept. Parents want what is best for their kids, but they also love it when their kids ask them for help. This is how your Heavenly Father sees you! Don't be afraid to pray; never feel like you are bothering God. He loves it when you ask for his help!

RESPOND

One of the best ways to let prayer bring us closer to God is to practice gratitude by thanking God for all the good things in your life.

Make a list of 5 things you are thankful for, and then spend the next five minutes thanking God for each of them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

REFLECT

- How do you feel after spending a few minutes practicing gratitude? How did your gratitude bring you closer to God?
- How do you think our expressed gratitude makes God feel?

DAY 6: LEARNING TO HEAR FROM GOD

READ

Exodus 14

Did you know that sitting in silence and learning to listen to God's voice is a form of prayer? Prayer is supposed to be a dialogue, a conversation. Yet, so often we treat it as a one-way street where we do all the talking and none of the listening. Today, we are going to practice listening.

Sitting in silence isn't easy. As soon as you start, you'll probably have a hundred different thoughts running through your head. Don't worry, that's normal. Go easy on yourself, and remember, God loves it when we try. The most important thing is to keep showing up in our relationship with Him.

Learning to listen to God will get easier with practice, so let's try it together.

RESPOND

Read the following verse as many times as you need to, and then attempt to spend five minutes being still and listening.

Exodus 14:14 - The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

REFLECT

- How was that experience? Were you able to sit still for five minutes? If so, try bumping up the time to ten minutes tomorrow. If not, why do you think that was so difficult?
- What emotions did you experience as you attempted to sit still?

DAY 7: PRAYING FOR OTHER PEOPLE

READ

Exodus 32

- There is nothing wrong with praying for ourselves, but Scripture also invites us to pray for other people. We call this intercession—praying that God would move in people's lives. It's important that we do this because our prayers can actually change other people's lives by interceding on their behalf.

Exodus 32 is a powerful story about Moses praying for favor for the Israelites. He does this because, as we've already talked about, prayer actually works. Take a few minutes today to intercede for others, because we know that praying for other people is one of the best ways to get our eyes off of ourselves.

RESPOND

Spend five minutes praying for someone close to you. This could be your spouse, friend, roommate, parent, coworker, or anyone God is bringing to your mind right now. Ask God to bless them, provide for them, and remind them that they are loved.

REFLECT

- How do you feel after focusing your prayers on other people instead of yourself? Why do you think we tend to turn prayers back to being about us?
- Who is one person you want to commit to praying for this week?

WEEK 2 | DAY 8: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

READ

Hebrews 4

Diving into Scripture is one of the best ways to understand and hear from God. As the writer of Hebrews says, “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). The Bible (the Word of God) is alive and active, every time you sit down to read it, it is a way to hear from God.

The only downside is that it can be intimidating to know where to start. After all, the Bible is not one book. It is a library of 66 books written by 40 authors over the course of about 1,500 years. The whole thing can be a little overwhelming at first, but the most important thing to remember is that at the end of the day, the Bible tells one unified story about a loving God who went to great lengths to have a relationship with us. It’s a story of God’s faithfulness amid our constant rebellion, and the whole thing points to Jesus!

RESPOND

When it comes to studying Scripture, quality is more important than quantity. Sometimes the best thing to do is stop, think, and reflect on one single verse. Before we talk about the rest of Scripture, spend the next five minutes focusing on Hebrews 4:12.

“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).

Slowly read the verse three times, paying close attention to the words or phrases that stick out to you as you go.

REFLECT

- What part of Hebrews 4:12 grabbed your attention as you read? Why do you think that is?
- What do you think it means that the word of God is alive and active?

DAY 9: HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE?

READ

Psalm 1

Have you ever glanced into the cockpit of an airplane while boarding, and noticed all of the buttons, levers, lights, and dials? It's overwhelming. Without training, it would be nearly impossible to even know where to start.

At first, the Bible can feel the same way. There is so much to it that flying solo with the Word of God starts to feel like it should be reserved for experts—pastors, theologians, and scholars. But nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible is for all of us; you really can learn how to read it and be transformed by it.

One way to ensure that you get as much as possible out of Scripture is to follow these four steps every time you sit down to read:

- **Pray:** Before you start reading, ask God to speak to you through His Word.
- **Read:** Read things two times. The first time is just to get a feel for the passage, and the second time is to notice what grabs your attention.
- **Pause:** It's really important to move slowly through Scripture. Before you move on with your day, stop and think about what you just read.
- **Apply:** Decide on one practical way you can apply what you read to your day.

According to this Psalm, people who meditate on Scripture will be blessed, pure, stable, and full of delight. So, take the next five minutes to read, study, and think about the first two verses of Psalm 1.

RESPOND

Pray: Ask God to speak to you: "Father, would you please speak to me through Psalm 1."

- **Read:** Read Psalm 1 twice. The second time through, notice what sticks out to you.
- **Pause:** What is one thing you feel like God is speaking to you through Psalm 1?
- **Apply:** What is one practical way you can apply that takeaway to your life today?

REFLECT

- Which of these four steps is the hardest for you? Why do you think that is?
- Did you notice anything your second time reading Psalm 1 that you didn't see the first time?

DAY 10: WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE? (PART 1 – CREATION)

READ

Genesis 1-2

One of the reasons the Bible is so intimidating is that there are so many different parts and pieces to it. Understanding the big story of Scripture is one of the most helpful ways to start.

Over the next four days, we are going to walk through the big story of Scripture together.

- Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- Fall (Genesis 3-Malachi)
- Redemption (Matthew-John)
- Restoration (Acts-Revelation)

The first page of the Bible tells the incredible story of God creating the Heavens and the Earth. When God began speaking, all of creation started to take shape. This first chapter has a very noticeable pattern:

And God said...

And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

The pattern repeats for days 1-5, but then on day six, the structure suddenly changes. This shift is intentional. The author is telling us to pay attention because whatever happens on day six is extra important. What does God create on day six? Genesis 1:27 tells us:

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God created you and me in His image and gave us a very important job. He called us to continue carrying out his creation!

RESPOND

Close your eyes and spend two minutes picturing God creating the entire world and calling it good. Then picture him creating human beings in his own image and calling us really good.

REFLECT

- What stuck out to you about the first page of the Bible?
- What do these two chapters teach us about God?

DAY 11: WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE? (PART 2 – THE FALL)

READ

Genesis 3

The second part of the Bible is the Fall.

- Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- Fall (Genesis 3-Malachi)
- Redemption (Matthew-John)
- Restoration (Acts-Revelation)

Genesis 3 is the moment everything fell apart. Adam and Eve decided to ignore God's instructions and live their own way. Ever since that moment, humans have had to struggle with their desire to decide for themselves what is right and wrong.

This is the moment it became clear that humans can't follow God on their own. The rest of the Old Testament gives example after example of this pattern. Despite our best efforts, humans constantly and continually fall short of the glory of God. By the end of the Old Testament, it's clear that we need help—we need a Savior.

RESPOND

Adam and Eve's mistake was thinking they knew better than God. If we are honest, we make that same mistake all the time. What is one way (big or small) you are currently resisting God's intentions for your life? Take two minutes to confess that to God.

REFLECT

- Why do you think God put the tree in the Garden in the first place?
- What does this story teach us about human nature?

DAY 12: WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE? (PART 3 – REDEMPTION)

READ

Matthew 26-27

Part three of the Bible is the story of Jesus coming to redeem the world.

- Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- Fall (Genesis 3-Malachi)
- Redemption (Matthew-John)
- Restoration (Acts-Revelation)

Sin separated us from God. When it became clear that we would not be able to bridge the gap with our good behaviour, God decided to come to us. He stepped out of Heaven and made His dwelling place with us to show us how to be human, and then he laid down His life for all of us.

The Savior made the ultimate sacrifice.

Today's chapters may have been difficult to read. In the Old Testament, faithful Jewish men and women would atone for their sins by sacrificing animals. However, those sacrifices wouldn't last—they were a temporary solution. After living a sinless life for 33 years, Jesus got sentenced to death on the cross.

As tough as these two chapters are, they are vital to the story. This is the moment God made the ultimate sacrifice for us once and for all. While reflecting on this moment, Paul later wrote, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

RESPOND

Take a few minutes and memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21:

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

You may find it helpful to write this verse on a piece of paper a few times and then repeat it out loud. Memorize it in your mind until it sinks into your heart.

REFLECT

- What emotions did you experience while reading about Jesus on the cross?
- How do these two chapters fit into the bigger story of Scripture?

DAY 13: WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE? (PART 4 – RESTORATION)

READ

Revelation 21-22

The final piece of the Bible is the story of restoration.

- Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- Fall (Genesis 3-Malachi)
- Redemption (Matthew-John)
- Restoration (Acts-Revelation)

The final two chapters of the Bible bring us back to the first two. Remember, in Genesis 1 and 2, before everything fell apart, Adam and Eve were in a Garden, in perfect communion with God. Now, at the end of the story, that Garden has become a city, and once again, God is dwelling with His people.

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21:3).

The end of the story is really good news! It’s a reminder that no matter how bad things get, God will ultimately win in the end!

RESPOND

Most of the things we worry about today won’t matter in a thousand years. When you take time to develop an “eternal perspective,” it gets easier to stop stressing out about all the little things that go wrong.

Reread Revelation 21:1-5. Take a few minutes to visualize what eternity is going to be like; as you do, take note of how you feel about the things going on in your life right now.

REFLECT

- What verse stuck out to you the most from Revelation 21:1-5? Why do you think that is?
- What is one thing you are worried or stressed about today that won’t matter in eternity?

14: MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

READ

Colossians 3

Sometimes it feels like there is a giant chasm between our minds and our hearts. It's one thing to understand a concept intellectually, but it's another thing to let that truth sink into our hearts and become a part of who we are.

One of the best ways to assist in that process is to memorize Scripture. These days, our phones remember everything for us, so memorization is becoming a lost art. But this was a really important practice for Jesus (which came in handy when Satan tried to tempt Him in the wilderness and Jesus used scripture that He had memorized to counter Satan's claims). As followers of Jesus, memorizing Scripture should also be important to us.

RESPOND

Choose one of these truths about God and decide to commit it to memory. You may find it helpful to speak the verse out loud or write it down a few times. It's only a few words, but don't rush this process. Let the verse imprint itself on your long-term memory.

The LORD is my protector. (Psalm 18:2)

God is love. (John 4:16)

The Lord is my strength and my shield. (Psalm 28:7)

REFLECT

- Which of those three verses resonated with you the most today? Why do you think that is?
- How was that process? Does memorization come easy to you, or does it take some work?

WEEK 3 | DAY 15: BETTER TOGETHER

READ

Matthew 4

You have to follow Jesus for yourself, but you were never created to follow Jesus by yourself. Community is a core piece of being a Christian.

In Matthew 4, when Jesus was ready to begin His ministry, the first thing He did was gather a group of people to go on the journey with Him. Jesus gave us a model for ministry, showing us that we are better together.

Notice that Jesus didn't start with the elite students, those who graduated at the top of their class, or those with the most impressive resumes. Instead, He chose four fishermen, who the Bible calls "unschooled, ordinary men" (Acts 4:13). Jesus isn't looking for the best of the best, He is looking for people who are willing to say yes. He doesn't invite only the qualified individuals, He invites all of us into His story, and then He equips us to walk alongside Him.

At Living Word Church, we proudly say that, like Peter, John, and the rest of the disciples, we are a bunch of imperfect people pursuing a perfect God together!

RESPOND

The Bible says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). Stop for a moment and make a list of the people in your life who are pushing you in your faith. Say a quick prayer of gratitude for those people, and then send them a text and thank them for being such faithful friends.

REFLECT

Who are the people in your life who are pushing you in your faith? What are some of the things you have learned from them?

Are you willing to be that person for other people? Who is one person God may be calling you to encourage or mentor? How can you take the lessons you've learned over the last few weeks and pass them on to them?

DAY 16: DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH?

READ

Acts 2

After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, the disciples got to work, starting churches wherever they could to help carry the Gospel (the story of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection) to the ends of the earth. The Book of Acts tells the story of all their adventures and the lessons they learned along the way.

At the end of Acts 2, we get a snapshot of the early church—a picture of the church in its original form. And if you reread Acts 2:42-47, you'll notice that the church was centered around community. The followers of Jesus knew how important it was to be in each other's lives, so they were constantly meeting to pray, eat, and do life together.

Today, it's so easy to isolate ourselves. To stay home and try to live out our faith on our own. But we need each other. That's why it's so important that you get to church every week; it's an opportunity to get together and continue encouraging one another. As Hebrews 10:25 says, "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do."

RESPOND

Reread Acts 2:46

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

Identify three people in your life who you would consider a part of your community (friends, family, and people you care deeply about). Invite them all over for dinner and thank them for being such a big part of your life. If you don't have a community like this yet, think of ways that you could connect with individuals and groups that are a part of church!

REFLECT

- What are some words you would use to describe the early church?
- Why do you think it's important to continue attending church and meeting with other believers?

DAY 17: GET IN A WORD GROUP

READ

Proverbs 13

Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future.

You've probably heard that saying a thousand times. It's a classic line for a reason; who you spend your time with influences you (positively or negatively) and often reveals what your future may look like. And although that line is not in the Bible, Scripture is packed full of similar sayings. Proverbs 13:20 says, "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

Scripture makes it simple: We were created to pursue the plans of God with the people of God. If you do life with people who are running away from God, you'll probably start running away from God too. But if you do life with people who are trying to get closer to God, you will get closer to God.

So it's time to find some people to be in your corner.

RESPOND

At Living Word Church, Word Groups are how we make a big church feel small. Word Groups are typically 10-15 people who commit to meeting together once a week to hang out, read the Bible, check-in, and pray for each other.

If you go to our groups page right now, you will find a list of available Groups. Find one, jump in, and get some people in your corner.

REFLECT

- Why do you think the Bible emphasizes community so much? Have you ever had a season of life where your community was strong? How did that community help you?
- Are you ready to get in a Group? Does any part of joining a group intimidate you? Why or why not?

DAY 18: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

READ

Matthew 22

At Living Word Church, we exist to make Heaven more crowded. We believe faith isn't something to keep to ourselves, so we are a group of imperfect people trying to tell as many people as possible about a perfect God.

One of the best ways to help people understand the Gospel is to be a tangible picture of God's love. In Matthew 22, some religious leaders tried to trap Jesus in his words. To test him, they asked him which commandment was the most important. But he passed the test with ease, responding, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40).

That's a great passage to memorize because Jesus summed up the Bible in a few short verses. Love God and love your neighbor. One of the best ways to share Jesus with others is to show your neighbor that you genuinely care about them.

RESPOND

Reach out to one person today and show them God's love in a tangible way. There are all sorts of ways to do this:

Write someone an encouraging note or send them a text.

Think of someone you know who is hurting, and surprise them with something meaningful to them (a card, a meal, or just your time).

Get creative with it and have fun! Don't ask or expect anything in return. Just do it because, according to Jesus, that's what we are on this Earth to do!

REFLECT

- What tangible step are you going to take today to love your neighbor?
- How do you honestly feel about this exercise? Are you excited? Nervous? Does it feel like a waste of time? Why do you think that is?

DAY 19: HOW DO I INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH?

READ

John 9

In the chapter you just read, there is a great story about Jesus healing a blind man. However, he healed the man on the Sabbath, which was against the rules in those days. When the Pharisees (the religious leaders) found out about it, they investigated and then questioned the man who was healed. The man responded, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25).

The man wasn't worried about having all the right answers for the religious leaders. Instead, he was way more interested in talking about the power of God. All this man knew was that Jesus changed the trajectory of his life, and now, he wanted everyone to know about it.

At Living Word, we are passionate about helping people experience God. That's why we put so much work into making our weekend experience an enjoyable, relatable, and powerful time.

One of the easiest ways to make disciples is to invite a friend or family member to come with you to church. If you have to bribe them with breakfast before or lunch after, do it. If they need a ride, offer to pick them up. Just get them to church and then start praying that God would speak to them in a profound way!

Inviting someone to church can be scary, but God promises to comfort us as we go. Few things allow you to experience the presence of God more than inviting someone to church.

RESPOND

Make a list of three people you'd love to see come to Living Word with you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Send them each a separate text. In the text, thank them for being such a good friend, let them know how much you care about them, and then invite them to come to church with you this weekend. Don't be discouraged if they turn you down at first, it may take time. We have heard countless stories of people who reach out to a friend or neighbor months after first being invited to church.

REFLECT

- How do you think your friends, family, or coworkers are going to respond to your invite?
- How does this process make you feel? Nervous? Anxious? Excited?

DAY 20: SHOULD I GET BAPTIZED?

READ

Acts 8

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward transformation; it signifies that our former way of life is put to death and that a new life has begun because of what Jesus did on the cross. Just as Jesus died, was buried, and then raised to new life, we go into the water to signify dying to our old selves in order to live for God.

It isn't about our perfection; it's about God's perfection. It's a public announcement that you are an imperfect person pursuing a perfect God.

This is also one of the best ways to let your family and friends know that you've decided to follow Jesus. It's a practical way to be a light in the world because it gives you a great excuse to invite your friends to church. Ask them to join us for baptism weekend, and then let them experience the power of your testimony (the story of how God has transformed your life)!

At Living Word, Baptism very important to us and a time to celebrate with you. Keep your ears open for the next date or approach us if you feel God is speaking to your heart to follow Christ through the baptism.

RESPOND

If you haven't already been baptized, it is one of the best ways to declare your love for God. Sign up for the next baptism weekend at Living Word. But don't just sign up. Invite everyone you can think of to come to celebrate with you!

REFLECT

- Have you been baptized before? What was the experience like?
- Are you ready to get baptized? If not, what is one thing holding you back?

DAY 21: WHY SHOULD I SERVE?

READ

John 13

In the story you just read, Jesus showed us what true leadership looks like. The night before Jesus went to the cross, He could've made everything about Himself, but instead, he grabbed a basin of water and started washing his disciples' feet. No one wanted that job. In the first century, whenever there was a social hierarchy, the person on the very bottom got stuck washing feet.

Jesus completely flipped it.

The world teaches us to make everything about ourselves, but Jesus taught us the opposite. Jesus said, "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). True, abundant life isn't found in making life about you; it's found in laying down your life for something greater.

Serving is one of the best ways to get our eyes off ourselves and put them back on God!

RESPOND

There are lots of ways to serve at Living Word Church and in your community, but sometimes it can be difficult to figure out where to start.

The Bible says you are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), God knit you together (Psalm 139:13), and He has a plan and purpose for your life (Jeremiah 29:11).

The challenge is figuring out what serving looks like for you. Here are three questions that will help you begin the conversation. Take a few minutes and formulate responses to each of these questions:

- What am I really good at?
- What am I really passionate about?
- What needs do I see in the world?

REFLECT

- Take a moment and think about your answers to those three questions. Did you see any overlap between the three? What was one of the common themes?
- What is one practical way you can serve someone else this week?