

## *Summer of Personal Worship*

### **WEEK 4 – THE LOST**

This series is called a personal journey because it is about self-examination, which can lead to wonderful transformation. We have spent the last few weeks reflecting on our own relationship with God and talking with Him about who we are. We pray you have been challenged to ask yourself what you believe and acknowledge that you need God to help you with your faith. Hopefully you have asked Him for empowerment to not only live the Gospel day-to-day but to share the Good News.

We are meant to share our faith and maybe over the last few weeks you have admitted to yourself that you don't do well in that area. You may have come up with many reasons why you can't or don't share your faith but the truth is, these were not reason but excuses. Moses went toe-to-toe with Pharaoh to free God's chosen people and not only did God empower him to do the task, He prepared the way for him to go. We may not think our responsibility is as valuable as Moses's, but every lost soul is precious to God. He chooses all kinds of people to participate in His work on earth. He has prepared the way for people to listen to our story and now wants us to get up off our knees and go free His people.

Over the next week we will focus on the lost; those who do not know Jesus as their personal saviour. As a follower of Christ you can be a witness to those individuals both by your words and your actions. Trust God is with you and wants you to be a part of His work. He has taken into consideration our personalities, our strengths and our weakness and still wants to use us to tell others about His promises.

May God bless you with wisdom and power this week

#### **Day 1**

Review the material below (scripture, reflection video, praise song and prayer) so as to prepare yourself for the upcoming week. Take some time to reflect on each piece and consider revisiting them from time to time during the week. Let them speak to your heart about the need to share Jesus with the lost.

#### **SCRIPTURE - Luke 19:10 New International Version (NIV)**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”*

#### **REFLECTION VIDEO - *Life is hard – you are changing***

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

#### **PRAISE SONG - *God of this city***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEFGGr1S8SkAg>

**PRAAYER** - Consider adopting this as your daily prayer for the week (written by Debbie McDaniel):

*Dear God, You know our hearts, you hear our prayers, and care about all that concerns us. You understand the burden we carry and how we want, more than anything, to see*

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*our loved ones come to you. Help us to remember that you love them more than we ever could. And you desire to extend your great love and forgiveness, your mercy and hope. Thank you that nothing is too difficult for you. Thank you that your power is unlimited and you came to set the captives free. Thank you that you wait, arms open, for the prodigal to return, that you look for his arrival to lavishly celebrate that he's come home. Thank you for the gift of our Savior, God with us. Thank you for your goodness and love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

### **Day 2 - Bystander**

Have you ever caught yourself staring at a stranger and wondering if they knew Jesus as their saviour and then feel a nudging to go have a chat with them? Have you ever listened to an unsaved friend talk about their daily struggles and sense of hopelessness and felt the need to tell them how Jesus can bring hope and purpose to their lives? Have you watched your family members drift away from their faith and spoke with God asking what you could do to help them change their direction? Have you prayed USE ME and soon after responded to a prompting to join a ministry? If you have not done any of these things, will you ask yourself **Why not?** Are you acting like Jonah, fleeing God's call to you?

If you are just content to go to church every Sunday and even engaged in an active prayer and bible study regimes during the week, you are basically a bystander, watching God's kingdom and choosing not to play your expected role in it.

As we begin this week praying for those who don't know Jesus, we must also be talking to God about what we can do. The following scripture ends with a request to prayer for more helpers to share the Gospel, but I challenge you to pray, believing you are already one of the harvesters and that you are seeking more to join you. When you pray bring specific names to God.

*"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

***Matthew 9:37-38***

### **Day 3 - Testimony**

If you have spent any time in church, you will have heard your pastor say that we all have a testimony to share with those who do not know Jesus. One of the simplest way to share Jesus is to tell your story and how He saved you. This story should not be long and contain at least three parts (1) What your life was like before you found Jesus, (2) How you choose to follow Jesus, and (3) What has changed with you since you became a follower.

Many fear "the encounter", the time we talk with someone about Jesus. Our stories can be easily transitioned into conversations we have with friends or even strangers without worry of quoting scripture and explaining theology. Our story is the best testimony and it is a great idea to prepare it in advance so that when God places someone in your path, you will be prepared.

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Read the following scripture and take some time to reflect in what it means to you. Maybe watch the video again and then prepare your story. Ask God to give you courage and discernment to share your story.

*“Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” 1 John 5:10-12*

### **Day 4 - Focus**

Our hope of the resurrection isn't just for the future when we physically die and go to heaven; it's also for now, while we're living on earth and struggling with sin. Wouldn't you want that hope for others? Will you let these promises of an eternal life and daily hope help you focus this week's theme of the lost?

We encounter people daily who may not realize that they are on a path to eternal separation from God or that their hopelessness can be eased with a dynamic relationship with Jesus. We know we cannot save people nor are we responsible for their decisions but, we are asked by God to share the Good News of the Gospel, which could introduce them to a relationship with Jesus. Think about how their life could be better if they knew Jesus and how their eternity can be horrific without Him.

The following verses speak to the future and for today. Set some time aside to reflect on what they mean to you and how you are living your life. Then think of someone you know and mediate on these verses with them in mind.

***Eternal:** “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them” John 3:36*

***Present:** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

### **Day 5 - Prodigal**

When our children or other family members are away from God, it's natural for us to want to tell them all the reasons they should change *now!* If they are wayward, doing what comes naturally to us won't capture their heart. We face a spiritual battle, and we must fight for them with superior firepower—with prayer that's bolstered by rejoicing, praising and declaring the Word of God, which is His war strategy for giving you and our family victory.

God has a great life waiting for us and our family. Just stay in His presence, stand on His Word and begin to rejoice. Read the following verse and be encouraged. Talk with God asking for guidance and strength to not only pray for those who have fallen away, but to give you wisdom as to what you can do.

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*This is what the LORD says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded” declares the LORD.*

*“They will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your descendants,” declares the LORD.*

*“Your children will return to their own land” **Jeremiah 31:16-17***

### **Day 6 - Intercede**

Do you pray for a work colleague? Maybe you have given up praying for them or maybe you have never started. Some of us are so baffled about how to share the gospel and have given up trying before even starting. Most Christians will work all their lives in secular jobs and should see this as an advantage. Every day they find themselves working besides people who may have never heard the presentation of the gospel. Some may have heard the gospel, but are nowhere near to understanding or accepting it. Imagine what would happen if we all started praying consistently for our work colleagues to know the Lord.

The following scripture is quoted when our pastors ask us to pray for others. It can seem very impersonal if we interpret this to pray for those on this planet who are not saved. However we can personalize it and put faces to the people, kings and rules. Take some time to read and reflect on this verse, watch the motivational and song videos, and then visualize colleagues whom you will pray for. Maybe make a list of names and write down exactly what you want God to do for them.

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” **1 Timothy 2:1-4***

### **Day 7 - Love our neighbour**

A few years ago my wife placed a sign on our front door that read “You are now entering your mission field”. It is visible every time we leave our home and offers a great reminder that those outside our front door may be lost and need Jesus. Our neighbourhood is not unique as it has the same issues as many communities around the world. However, because we share the same community as our neighbours, we have something in common. This allows opportunity for conversation and fellowship and creates an opening to love them as God guides you.

This week we have a document called *Neighbour Prayer Chart*. It offers a way to pray for our neighbours. Read this week’s verse and meditate on it asking God to reveal how you can be obedient in your own community. Fill in the chart and start praying for your neighbours.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:30-31***

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**Love thy neighbour**

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”  
Galatians 5:14

<b>NEIGHBOURS LIVING BEHIND YOU</b>		
	<b>YOU</b>	
<b>Neighbours living in front of you</b>		

**Instructions**

1. Fill this chart with names of neighbours who occupy the homes around you. You will have to modify the chart based on the type and location of your accommodation.
2. Use your accommodation and the centre and then record your neighbour to the left and right of you and those behind and front of your home.
3. To fill the chart you need to know their names. If you do not know their names at this time, try to find a way to identify them so you know who they are. However be mindful how you identify them. Use something that would not embarrass if they happened to see your chart one day. We want to visualize our neighbours when we pray and this association method is especially practical if you are an introvert and uncomfortable about intruding yourselves to others (we will pray about this).

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4. Be forewarned that as you pray, the Holy Spirit will prompt you to do more. We can't be personal friends with all our neighbours however God may guide you to connect with someone in particular.
5. Don't force yourself. Pray about doing this and when the time feels right start. If this chart and methodology does not seem right, don't worry but do find a method that helps you pray for your neighbours.
6. Pray as God leads you and as often as feel right. Prayer walking in your neighbourhood gives you the opportunity to visualize their homes and may prompt you to specific prayers about these neighbours.
7. Remember that you are not doing this because you have to but because you want to love your neighbours as God desires.