

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

-EPHESIANS 3:20-21



I am amazed and thankful for all we have seen in the last two years at Mercy Hill Church. It has certainly been a ride! Mercy Hill launched in 2012 with a vision to preach the Gospel in the Triad. By God's grace we have seen the Gospel message transform lives from all walks of life. What started two years ago as a gathering of 30 folks in a home God has now grown to a church meeting in 4 services with over 30 community groups gathering during the week!

With rapid growth we have come to a unique moment in the life of our church. Simply put, if we are to see God continue to move among us in this way we need to take significant steps to make room for more people. Right now we are maxed out in terms of seating capacity and that brings us to a choice: we can settle for what we have seen already or take a dare on God and ask Him to give us what we need to see more.

I am convinced the next logical step for Mercy Hill is to double the seating capacity of our church while maintaining our strategic location. This allows us to grow in the short term and create a launching pad to send out campuses and church plants in the future. The steps we need to take as a church are laid out in the following pages of this book. I hope you will read and consider your part in what God is doing here. My family is bought into this project deeply. And I don't just mean with our emotions and energy, but with our finances as well. For Anna and I, we praise God for this opportunity to sacrifice for the mission because we know not every church has these strategic opportunities. We want to make the most of this opportunity in our lives.

Over the years I spent working at the Summit Church in RDU, it was instilled in me that unique moments in ministry call for audacious faith. It is clear that God is moving among us and we must continually ask, what does "immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine" look like for the Triad region of North Carolina? As a pastor I always want to push to expect great things from God. I believe with all my heart, now is the time to attempt something great for God as well. I sincerely hope you will join us on this journey.

- Andrew Hopper Lead Pastor

HISTORY OF MERCY HILL

June 2012, The Ridge Church decides to roll its assets into Mercy Hill enabling our second full time hire. (*Since this time the staff has grown from 2 to 14)

Sept 2012, Mercy Hill officially celebrates their launch! The month's average attendance was 157 meeting at night at Bur-mil park.

March 2013, Mercy Hill celebrates its first Easter breaking previous attendance records with 331 in total attendance.

May 2012, the Summit Church in RDU commissions and sends a team of 30 Summit members

to plant Mercy Hill Church.

June 2012, the launch team begins gathering in Greensboro at the Hopper's house on Sunday nights.

October 2012, Mercy Hill launches 5 community groups. (*Within 24 months these initial groups had multiplied to 35!)

May 2013, Mercy Hill sends out its first international mission team. (*Since that time 25 people have been sent on short term trips and 5 people to be missionaries long term)



THE ISSUE

As God continues to show off at Mercy Hill, a major issue is upon us. In the last two years Mercy Hill has grown 511%! Simply put, with that growth we are out of space and out of options. We've already taken the intermediate steps we can by moving locations and launching new services. Without opening up new seats now, we will jeopardize our ability to reach new people in the Triad.

Studies have shown that when a venue's attendance exceeds 80% of its capacity, it is hard for new people to come and stick. Walking into a room already overly full gives them an unintended message loud and clear that there is just no place for them here. In our peak service times we grossly exceed this 80% rule each week.

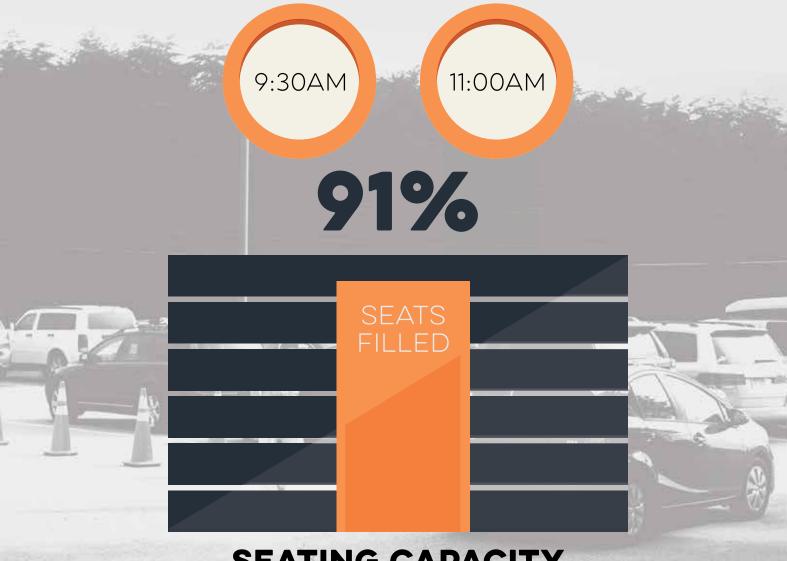
511%

YEAR GROWTH 2012 2014

THE ISSUE

We are out of space, but more people need to hear the life transforming message of the Gospel. It is unacceptable for us not to respond right now. Every single week an average of 20 first time guests walk through the doors at Mercy Hill. What message are we sending them? These are people who need the Gospel as much as the rest of us, but if we do not take sacrificial and immediate steps now, they may not be given that opportunity.

PEAK SERVICE TIMES



SEATING CAPACITY

(SEPTEMBER 2014)



So what is the solution? We can settle for what we have seen God already do among us or we can sacrifice and push to make the room for more people. We are convinced the next logical step for Mercy Hill is two fold: double the seating capacity of our church while maintaining our strategic location. This allows us to grow in the short term and create a launching pad to send out campuses and church plants in the future.

1. DOUBLE THE SEATING CAPACITY

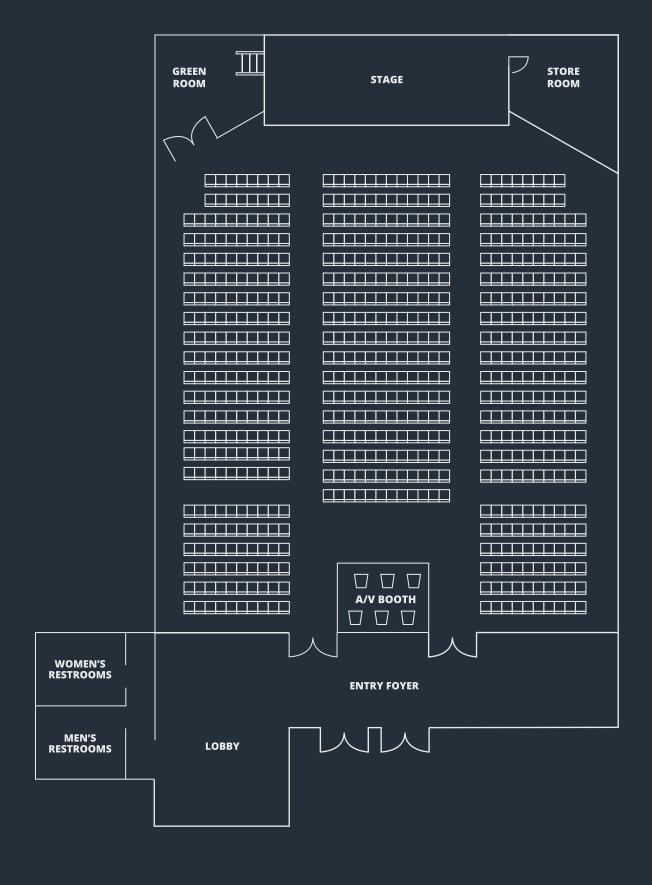
Our current facility holds less than 300 people. The renovated facility will hold 600.

2. SAME STRATEGIC LOCATION

Because our church is made up of people of every corner of the Triad, a central location in the Triad is important.



CAPACITY



THE GOAL \$600K

The need is urgent but the solution is at hand if God's people will heed the call to generosity. The cost of this new venue is \$600,000 in total. But here is the catch; to complete this project as quickly as needed \$300,000 must be raised before the end of 2014. To be clear, this money is over and above our church's normal giving. If we can raise the \$600,000 over 2015, with \$300,000 coming in up front, we believe we will launch this new venue in the Spring of 2015!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY DECEMBER 7, 2014

On this day the people of Mercy Hill will come together and give their two-part "For His Name" commitment.

- FIRST, THEY WILL COMMIT TO WHAT THEY WILL GIVE BY THE END OF 2014.
- SECOND, THEY WILL COMMIT TO WHAT THEY WILL GIVE, ABOVE AND BEYOND THEIR NORMAL GIVING, OVER THE COURSE OF 2015.

\$300,000 BY END OF 2014 \$300,000 JAN-DEC



2015



How did we decide on six hundred for the occupancy of the new space?

We believe that 600 is just the right number to enable us to get well over 1500 adults in our congregation. This will then create a launching pad to plant new campuses and eventually plant churches.

Is there a specific time frame when the new up-fit will be done?

The time frame for the project is mostly dependent on how much of the 600K can come in by the end of 2014. If around 300k comes in by the end of 2014 we would hope to have the venue finished in the Spring of 2015. If not, then we would hope the venue would be finished by the Fall of 2015.

Why have we decided to up-fit a rental space instead of trying to find a building to purchase?

While we believe that buying a building may be in our future, the most cost effective plan at this time is to up-fit a rental space. We have negotiated a really good lease with great terms that enable us to be in this space for many years at a great cost.

What happens if we raise more than the 600k during the course of "For His Name"?

We hope that we do raise more than 600k! We know that the growth that will come because of the new space will require further facility updates, staffing increases, and even the opportunity to start a new Mercy Hill campus. Any "overage" will be used for those things.

Once we move into the new space what will we use our current space for?

We will be able to use our current space for additional needed kids space.

What architect and contractor are we using for the project?

We are using ESPA Architects and Planners and Bar Construction. Both have come highly recommended and have worked in the Triad for many years.

Assuming God continues to grow our church what is the next step beyond the new venue?

We hope that our new venue is a launching pad for continued growth! The next steps beyond the venue will probably be a Mercy Hill campus.

What kind of environment do we hope to create with the new venue (i.e. what will it be like)?

Our new space will be more of a "battleship" than a "cruiseliner." We believe that in light of global lostness we have to balance excellence with good enough.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

We know that to reach a goal of this size everyone at Mercy Hill needs to participate and be a part of what God is doing through our church. In order to be a radically generous people during this season we will have to believe deeply in the power of the gospel to create in us a spirit of generosity, trust what God teaches about generosity, and understand how generosity fuels the mission.

BELIEVE THE GOSPEL PRODUCES GENEROSITY

At Mercy Hill Church we believe that generosity with one's finances should flow out of and be a response to a heart changed by the gospel. There is no greater motivation for being generous with our resources than understanding the way that Jesus has been generous with us. Gospel-based generosity produces cheerful and sacrificial giving.

1. CHEERFUL GIVING

When giving is done out of a response to what Jesus has done, then giving becomes cheerful. Giving is not something we have to do but something we get to do, as a way to serve Jesus! For people that have been changed by the gospel, a time to give above and beyond normal giving should be a time of excitement and joy.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

2. SACRIFICIAL GIVING

When giving is done out of a response to the gospel then giving will necessarily be sacrificial. The motivation for sacrificial giving is that Jesus was willing to die in our place. When our hearts love Jesus more than anything else we are freed from the common myth that money provides true security and acceptance in this life. When we see Jesus' worth in the gospel then no matter the ask God puts on our lives we will value Him as worth it.

TRUST WHAT GOD TEACHES ABOUT GENEROSITY

A fundamental truth for us to understand as a church during this season is that everything belongs to God and we manage His possessions. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

1. EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

We actually don't "own" anything in this life. The Bible teaches that we simply manage what God owns. God is the one who owns it all. As Psalm 24:1 says "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." When we make the mental shift to thinking about our stuff as not our own but God's it enables us to rightly think about generosity.

2. WE MANAGE HIS POSSESSIONS

God has gifted each of us with our resources, spiritual gifting, time, family, and even the gospel. In each of these the Bible calls us to steward the resources and gifts that God has given us for the sake of His mission and His kingdom. Deuteronomy 8:18 states, "But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

UNDERSTAND HOW GENEROSITY FUELS THE MISSION

The last important truth that we need to rally around as a church during this season is the reality that our generosity fuels the mission. As a church we have seen this truth in action every step of the way over the last two years. When Mercy Hill renovated our current location, within two weeks of moving our church doubled in size. This is just one of many examples of generosity fueling the mission and enabling us to reach more people with the gospel. Because generosity fuels the mission, we believe in proportional and disciplined giving.

1. PROPORTIONAL GIVING

Because of the size of the task we are faced with as a church each person at Mercy Hill will need to be generous in proportion to how God has been generous to them. God has blessed each of us differently when it comes to monetary possessions. In light of this, no gift is too small and no gift is too large. God simply calls each of us to respond and give out of what He has given us. Paul says, "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have" (2 Cor. 8:12).

2. DISCIPLINED GIVING

Because of the size of our goal, and its importance to continue to further our mission, our church will have to be disciplined in the way we give. We are asking that each person give above and beyond their normal giving for all of 2015. Paul notes the importance in disciplined giving when writing to the Corinthians. "Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made" (1 Cor. 16:1-2).



HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU GIVE?

The success of "For His Name" depends on the entirety of Mercy Hill Church giving in a way that is over and above our current level of giving. The process of deciding what amount to give is exciting, because generosity fuels the mission, and joyful, because it is a response to the gospel. Yet the process is also challenging because of the sacrifice it will require of us. Below are some questions to ask yourself as you and your family are thinking through the specific amount of your gift.

IS THIS GIFT A TRUE RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL?

We truly believe that our primary motivation to give should be what Jesus has given us in the gospel. Our generosity can in no way repay what Jesus has done for us, nor should we try. But it is important to ask ourselves if our gift is a right and true response to what Jesus has done for us in the gospel.

IS THIS GIFT PROPORTIONAL?

Ultimately, our gift is not about quantity but faith and sacrifice. God is calling each of us to equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Each person needs to give according to the way that God has blessed them with monetary means. For some of us God has blessed us greatly financially so that we can be a blessing to others. So the question we need to ask is whether our gift is proportional to the way that God has blessed us.

IS THIS GIFT SUFFICIENT OR EXTRAVAGANT?

C.S. Lewis once stated, "I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little." Our culture calls us to live extravagantly and if we have anything left over then we should give sufficiently. Christ calls us to the opposite lifestyle. Christ calls us to live sufficiently and to give extravagantly. Therefore, we should ask ourselves, is this gift sufficient or extravagant?

BUT WHAT IF I JUST CAN'T GIVE?

Giving is challenging, and may even seem impossible at first. However, with prayer, creativity, and sacrifice, giving to "For His Name" is possible for everyone at Mercy Hill! You may be able to use some of the following ideas to help you think creatively about giving to "For His Name."

IDEA 1 MAKE SMALL CHANGES

We all could drink less Starbucks, eat out less, and do things to creatively find ways to give to the mission.



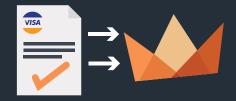
IDEA 2 REVIEW CURRENT PRIORITIES

One way to give is to postpone a planned expense like a new car, home remodel, or major purchase. Or you may need to rearrange priorities and give up something in your current budget like cable.



IDEA 3 REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES

Once a short-term expense has ended, such as a loan or a credit card bill, redirect this new cash flow to the "For His Name" initiative.



IDEA 4 INCREASED GIVING WITH INCREASED INCOME

Sometimes we know of bonuses, raises, tax returns or other events in our lives that will increase our cash flow in the next twelve months. Families can decide to delay increasing their lifestyle for a short period in order to give to the project.



IDEA 5 DONATE ASSETS

Some people may have trouble giving cash but could give other assets such as stocks or bonds.



Generosity Initiative

Reaching our goal could look many different ways. Here's one example:

Commitments	Amount of Each Commitm	ent	
1	60,000	The same of the sa	60,000
1	50,000	75	50,000
1	45,000	12	45,000
1	35,000		35,000
3	25,000		75,000
4	18,000		72,000
5	15,000		75,000
6	12,000		72,000
6	7,500		72,000
12	5,000		60,000
15	2,500	di	37,500
20	1,200	10	24,000
50 or more	any amount	1	ALL OTHERS

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

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Week 1

His Glory: No matter the ask, He is worth it



Sermon Notes			



HIS GLORY: NO MATTER THE ASK, HE IS WORTH IT

OPENING QUESTION

In the past two years Mercy Hill has experienced tremendous growth. How does God receive glory through a growing church?

• What has been a spiritual defining moment for you at Mercy Hill?

READ: ISAIAH 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Isaiah's response to being in the presence of God was "Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips."

- Why do you think he reacted this way?
- When you think about God's holiness and your sinfulness, what emotions are stirred up in you?

In verse 8 the Lord said to Isaiah "Who should I send? Who will go for Us?"

- Do you think Isaiah may have responded differently to the Lord's request if he had not just encountered the weight of God's glory? Why?
- What is it about some people's experience that when they encounter the gospel they are willing to do anything for Jesus?

How do we experience God's glory most clearly in what Jesus has done in the gospel? (Note: John 1:14)

• Share of a time when you understood or experienced God's glory most clearly in your life.

Do you feel like you could honestly say to God "no matter what You ask of me, I will do it ...because of your glory?"

• What are some specific areas in our lives that we may not want God to ask something of us?

CLOSING QUESTION

How does God's glory affect how you are thinking about your involvement in the "For His Name" initiative?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Pray that the weight of God's glory would be at the forefront of our minds as we journey through this sermon series.
- 2) In view of God's glory revealed through Christ, pray that we would each be obedient to whatever He asks us to do.

Week 2

Our Joy: Pursuing God's glory is pursuing our joy



Sermon Not	es			



OUR JOY: PURSUING GOD'S GLORY IS PURSUING OUR JOY

OPENING QUESTION

Share a joyful experience you have had seeing God at work at Mercy Hill.

READ: LUKE 18:18-25 (THE RICH YOUNG RULER)
LUKE 19:1-9 (ZACCHAEUS)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Peoples use of money is one Jesus' favorite topics to discuss in the gospels. How does someone's use of money reflect what they find significance in?

In the story of the rich young ruler and the story of Zacchaeus both men had great wealth.

• How did each of their reactions to giving their money reflect their understanding of the person of Jesus?

Jesus challenged the rich young ruler; in this challenge he would gain Jesus but he would lose his wealth.

• Why did the rich young ruler see this as an overall loss for his life?

Once salvation came to Zacchaeus' life, his natural response was to give and he gave joyfully—not grudgingly.

- Is this a natural progression for those who have encountered the living God? Why?
- What impact did you think Zacchaeus' generosity had on those he had previously wronged?

The rich young ruler walked away when he was asked to lay it all down. What would be that one thing that would be hardest for you to lay down if Jesus asked you to?

CLOSING QUESTION

How does pursuing your own joy affect your involvement in the "For His Name" initiative?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Pray that as we collectively pursue God's glory our joy would well up and overflow into this community.
- 2) Pray for those who are pursuing joy in places other than Jesus.

Week 3Our Generosity: Joy in God produces generosity



Sermon Notes			
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OUR GENEROSITY: JOY IN GOD PRODUCES GENEROSITY

OPENING QUESTION

Is there a person in your life who has been extremely generous to you, or have you observed someone else's extreme generosity on display?

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There is a perception in our culture that you have to be well-off to give to others. Would you agree that this is how many people view generosity? Why is that?

Verse 2 indicates that the Macedonians possessed deep joy despite their severe affliction and extreme poverty and that out of that joy overflowed generosity.

- What was the source of their joy?
- What is the link between joy in God and our generosity?

Verse 4 indicates that the Macedonians were eager to be involved in the collection of money for those in need.

• If we are honest with ourselves, what is our reaction when we are asked to give of our finances, does it produce joy or guilt? Explain.

Verse 5 states that the Macedonians gave not only of their finances, but in addition they gave themselves to God and to Paul. Their entire lives (not just their finances) were characterized by generosity.

- Would you agree that true generosity is a lifestyle thing? Why?
- · What things do you feel you are most generous with and what things do you think you are least generous with?

Verse 9 reminds us that "The Lord Jesus Christ; although He was rich, for your sake became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich."

- How is true giving ultimately gospel-centered?
- What are incorrect motivations for giving?

CLOSING QUESTION

Share your thought process about how you are deciding to give to the "For His Name" initiative?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Pray that our lives and Mercy Hill Church as a whole would be characterized by generosity.
- 2) Pray that God would continue to give us each a proper understanding of generosity.

Week 4His Mission: Generosity advances the mission



Sermon Notes			



HIS MISSION: GENEROSITY ADVANCES THE MISSION

OPENING QUESTION

Share an example of a way that you have seen generosity impact the mission of God.

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We see in verse 6 that there is a correlation between sowing generously and reaping generously. Is this a formula for certain wealth or rather biblical wisdom for life? Discuss.

Why does Paul not want people to give reluctantly or under compulsion?

God does not need our money but rather wants our hearts.

• What do you think cheerful giving looks like in the Christian life?

Re-read verses 8-11. How does Paul see our generosity playing a part in us growing in Godliness?

How does being generous mimic the character of God?

CLOSING QUESTION

We see in verse 12 that not only was a need met but the result was God's name being made famous among the recipients of the Corinthian's generosity.

• How do you see God's name being made famous through the generosity of the "For His Name" initiative?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Pray for all of the lives that will be impacted by the gospel through the "For His Name" initiative.
- 2) Pray that through the "For His Name" initiative we would increase not only our seating capacity but our sending capacity.

The daily guide is broken up into a Scripture verse to meditate and think on and then one or two prayer points to guide your prayer time. Will you join us over the next **four weeks** by taking just **four minutes** a day to pray in His name to see amazing things happen for His name?

THE GLORY OF GOD - WEEK 1 (NOV 16-21)

Monday, November 16: Read Exodus 15:11

Pray: That God would show us over the next four weeks His majesty, glory and greatness through His revealed Word.

Tuesday, November 17: Read Psalm 48:1

Pray: And reflect on the greatness of God seen in the gospel and in your life. Praise God for His greatness.

Wednesday, November 18: Read Colossians 1:15-20

Pray: And reflect on the glory of God revealed through Jesus.

Thursday, November 19: Read Isaiah 43:7

Pray: Thank God that He has created you for His glory.

Friday & Saturday, November 20-21: Read Job 38-39

Pray: And reflect on the specific ways that God is glorious.

OUR JOY IN GOD - WEEK 2 (NOV 23-28)

Monday, November 23: Read John 14:6

Pray: That God would reveal areas in our life where we look to "other things" for joy. That we would find our ultimate joy in Jesus.

Tuesday, November 24: Psalm 28:7

Pray: Ask God to remind you that strength and joy are found in Him alone.

Wednesday, November 25: Psalm 130:7

Pray: That you would see God's unfailing love and put your joy, hope and trust in Him.

Thursday, November 26: Read Luke 2:8-11

Pray: For those around us here in Greensboro and around the world would find joy in Christ.

Friday & Saturday, November 27-28: Read Luke 1:46-55

Pray: Like Mary did and rejoice in the One whom pure joy is found.

THE GENEROSITY OF GOD - WEEK 3 (NOV 30-DEC 5)

Monday, November 30: Read Matthew 7:11

Pray: God would remind you that He is a good Father. That He would clearly remind you of the good gifts He bestows upon you.

Tuesday, December 1: Read Philippians 4:19

Pray: And thank God that He has provided for our greatest need – deliverance from sin – in the gospel. Thank God for the specific ways He provides for us on a daily basis.

Wednesday, December 2: Read Matthew 6:19-24

Pray: That God would give us an eternal perspective about what's important and what's not. That God would help us to serve Him with every part of our life.

Thursday, December 3: Read James 1:17

Pray: And thank God - the Giver of good gifts. Ask God to make your heart generous as He has been eternally generous towards us.

Friday & Saturday, December 4-5: Read 2 Samuel 22

Pray: God would show you specifically His goodness, provision, and generosity in your life.

THE MISSION OF GOD - WEEK 4 (DEC 7-12)

Monday, December 7: Read Matthew 28:18

Pray: That God would help us remember by whose authority we have been sent.

Tuesday, December 8: Read Matthew 28:19-20

Pray: That God would remind us of our mission.

That God would make us generous to leverage our resources for His mission.

Wednesday, December 9: Ephesians 2-10

Pray: And thank God that He uses you for His mission.

That God would make us generous to use our gifts and abilities for His mission.

Thursday, December 10: Read Psalm 67:1-3

Pray: That the gospel would be known in every corner of the earth.

That God would use us as a church to see all nations praise His name.

Friday & Saturday, December 11-12: Read Isaiah 12

Pray: That God would give us a clear reminder of what He has done in saving us.

Our reminder of the gospel would push us forward to be on mission for the gospel.





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