

21 Days of Devotion

Deeper
& Wider

The Lakeway Church

21 Days of Devotion

Deeper & Wider

21 Days of Devotion

The Lakeway Church is at a crucial point in our growth as a body of believers. Our church has the vision of encouraging all people to pursue a lifelong, joyous relationship with Christ. Now, in the midst of one of the fastest growing areas in Texas, we are faced with the challenge and opportunity of expanding our capacity to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of this rapidly increasing population. As a church family, we cannot fulfill our role in this great undertaking without unity and divine guidance. Please use this devotional booklet as a guide while together we focus on seeking the Lord's wisdom and direction—as a congregation, as families, and as individuals.

The booklet is divided into three weeks that align with three of the marks of The Lakeway Church: Grow, Connect and Serve. Each part is designed to help you strengthen your relationship with God and understand His will for you in our Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign.

At the end of this Devotion Guide, you will find the Deeper & Wider *Family Discussion Guide*. You can use the guide to help lead your family in prayer, study and discussion as you discern God's will concerning your commitment to the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign. If you are a single adult, we encourage you to use this guide as well.

Week 1:
Grow

Pursuing a deeper knowledge of God

Week 2:
Connect

Living in meaningful relationships

Week 3:
Serve

Demonstrating the love of Christ
through word and deed

Grow

Pursuing a deeper
knowledge of God

Monday, Feb. 26

What is growing spiritually?

~*Psalms 19*

Background

The book of *Psalms* is a collection of songs, many praising God in response to His character and His actions. *Psalms 19* is attributed to David's reflection on God's revelation of Himself through natural and specific revelation.

Read *Psalms 19*

Questions for Meditation

- What does David recognize as a revelation of God's glory?
- What does David's reflection on this revelation lead to?
- What should be our response to God's revelation?

Concluding Thoughts

David declares that God's glory is displayed in nature, focusing on the wonder of God's glory displayed in Scripture. God's Word was given to help people better understand who God is and how to respond to Him. Instruction from God's Word should lead to a life lived in accord with His character.

David's thoughts on God's revelation from both nature and Scripture led him to desire to live in light of that revelation. Growing spiritually, therefore, is pursuing a deeper knowledge of God for the purpose of better reflecting His character in our daily lives.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will grow in your understanding of God and His desires for your life.
- Pray for us as a church to better mirror God's character as a response to the instruction we receive from His Word.
- Pray that we will be able to continue to provide space for many others to go Deeper & Wider in their relationship with God.

What is the purpose of growing spiritually?

~2 Timothy 3:14-17

Background

Paul wrote two letters to his disciple Timothy encouraging him in his faith and leadership of the church. In 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Paul testifies to Timothy's faithfulness to the teaching of the Word. He then directs Timothy to have confidence in what he has learned from the Scriptures.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Questions for Meditation

- From whom did Timothy learn and become convinced of his faith?
- How have you seen Scripture used in your life for teaching, rebuking, correction and training?
- How are you taking steps to strengthen your faith through Bible study?

Concluding Thoughts

Paul challenges Timothy to develop his faith through instruction grounded in Scripture. Paul's counsel was based on his desire that Timothy be equipped to perform the work God had prepared for him. What he had in mind was far more than the mere acquisition of knowledge.

Bible study might lead us to a new understanding of God's character or it might help us identify a pattern of sin in our lives. This, then, is the ultimate purpose of growing spiritually...that through a deepening knowledge of our God, we might live a life that is Deeper & Wider every day.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will continue to develop in your faith through Bible study and training you receive at The Lakeway Church.
- Pray that God will allow us to see the new facilities provide a place for more people to grow spiritually so that they can live in a way that honors God.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

How should we respond to growing spiritually?

~*Proverbs 1:1-7*

Background

The book of *Proverbs* is a compilation of wise sayings recorded in the form of poetry. The individual proverbs were written over a period of hundreds of years by many authors, although King Solomon wrote the most. They were compiled under the watchful eye of King Hezekiah. The book of *Proverbs* is in the *Old Testament*, which was given to help the children of Israel live in a right relationship with God.

Read *Proverbs 1:1-7*

Questions for Meditation

- How is a wise man described?
- What are some of the ways God has designed for us to receive wisdom?
- How would you put *Verse 7* in your own words?

Concluding Thoughts

According to the book of *Proverbs*, to walk in wisdom is to walk in a correct understanding of God and His creation. To be foolish is to live life without God and His guidance. The wise man uses Scripture as a guide to live a life that honors God...a life of obedience, which God blesses. To not follow instruction would be to live a life in rebellion to God, which is the life of a fool.

Our response to instruction should entail a desire to change, based on what we learn. This change is motivated by a love for God and what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. Instruction from God's Word should lead to a life that increasingly reflects God's character.

Prayer Points

- Pray to continue growing in your faith through the instruction you receive.
- Pray that our church will reflect God's character as we carry out our Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign.
- Pray that we will provide space for more people to receive instruction.

Growing spiritually on giving: What is it?

~2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Background

In the apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, written around 56 A.D., he encourages them to follow through on their promise to provide a gift to a group of saints in need. In *Chapter 8*, Paul recounts of the Macedonians' faithful giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Questions for Meditation

- What was the financial status of the Macedonians? How did the Macedonians view giving?
- What did the Macedonians do "first" that enhanced their desire to give?
- Can you think of a time that you gave sacrificially? How did it make you feel?

Concluding Thoughts

We learn from the example of the Macedonian believers that a lack of resources does not justify a lack of giving. Paul praises the Macedonians not because they gave generously from their surplus but because they gave sacrificially, beyond their ability, based on a limitless spring of joy found only in relationship with Christ.

In God's infinite wisdom, He has chosen to give us a role in the accomplishment of His purposes through the giving of ourselves and our financial resources. But we are not without reward in this endeavor. From Paul, we learn that God's grace is given to each of us so that we may enjoy the blessing inherent in giving to Him and His work. Through our gifts, we can experience the seemingly ironic truth stated by Jesus in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Prayer Points

- Pray that God will help you better understand what it means to give sacrificially and the joy it can bring.
- Pray that a spirit of generosity will permeate our church.
- Pray that the gifts of The Lakeway Church's people will be used to effectively reach our community to help them go Deeper & Wider and beyond for the kingdom of God.

Friday, Mar. 2

Growing spiritually on giving: What is its purpose?

~2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Background

2 Corinthians, authored by Paul around 56 A.D., was written in response to the Corinthian church's repentance from certain immoral behaviors discussed in *1 Corinthians*. As Paul writes to express his joy, he also encourages them to follow through on collecting an offering for God's work among the needy. This portion of *Chapter 8* deals with both the motives and the purposes of giving.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Questions for Meditation

- What purposes does Paul list for giving?
- Who has provided the model for giving? What is His example (*Verse 9*)?
- Why would God choose to use us to provide resources for His purposes when it would be much easier for Him to simply provide what is needed Himself?

Concluding Thoughts

God has chosen to give us the privilege of participating in His purposes through the giving of ourselves and our financial resources. As believers, we are admonished to excel in the area of giving (*Verse 7*) in order to demonstrate the reality of our love for God and His people (*Verse 8*), to imitate the sacrificial giving of Christ Himself (*Verse 9*), and to meet the needs of others (*Verse 14*).

With the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign, we are provided a perfect opportunity to demonstrate these principles at The Lakeway Church to build new facilities to allow for growth and reach more people for God's worship and service.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will excel in the area of gracious giving.
- Pray that the purposes for giving will be lived out within our church body.
- Pray that our gifts will increase The Lakeway Church's ministries for God's purposes.

Growing spiritually on giving: Does my attitude matter?

~2 *Corinthians* 9:6-7

Background

As Paul writes this portion of 2 *Corinthians*, he reemphasizes the fact that a correct understanding of the Gospel results in a lifestyle that is pleasing to God. As we see in *Chapter 9*, this lifestyle includes changes not only in behavior, but also in attitude.

Read 1 *Corinthians* 9:6-7

Questions for Meditation

- What principle does Paul provide regarding the size of a gift? Who must decide the amount?
- When one gives, what attitude pleases God?
- What attitude typifies your giving? In your experience, does it make a difference whether you give from a sense of obligation or compulsion instead of giving cheerfully?

Concluding Thoughts

The concept of giving a tithe (ten percent) is taught in the *Old Testament*. The *New Testament*, however, establishes a new paradigm that is less rigid, yet more challenging, than a tithe. Both paradigms recognize the spirit in which the gift was given as being of primary importance. God doesn't just like it when we exhibit an attitude of good cheer when we give...He loves it. God is most honored and glorified when we give out of a heart filled with love, grateful for all that He has done for us. He is fully aware of the joy and blessing that can be ours when we give in this manner. This is why our Lord said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Prayer Points

- Ask God to give you a sense of His desire for your giving.
- Pray that through the giving of our church, God is honored and glorified.
- Pray that through The Lakeway Church's corporate act of generosity, many will come to call upon the name of the Lord for the first time.

Sunday, Mar. 4

This Sunday at The Lakeway Church

We grow in our knowledge of Christ most effectively when we come together as God's people. God uses gifted teachers to instruct us in the life-changing truth of Scripture. Come to church this Sunday hungry to know Christ better through the nourishment of His Word.

Connect

Living in meaningful
relationship

Monday, Mar. 5

Were we created to connect?

~*Genesis 2:7, 15, 18-20*

Background

The book of *Genesis* is a record of God's creative action and initial dealings with humanity. In *Genesis 2* we read about a scene in the Garden of Eden where God is nearing the end of His creative work.

Read *Genesis 2:7, 15, 18-22*

Questions for Meditation

- Why did God say, "It is not good for the man to be alone"?
- Why did God show Adam all the other creatures in the garden before making this statement?
- Are you actively engaging in relationships that fulfill your need for fellowship? If not, will you seek out such relationships?

Concluding Thoughts

God created the human race in His own image. Just as God is relational, consisting of three coequal Persons, so too mankind was created with the need for relationships. During the creation process, everything was identified as "good" until God saw that the man did not have a "helper suitable" for him. God knew that Adam would need companionship beyond what he would have with the animals in Eden. Therefore, God specially created Eve to be Adam's companion in life.

Mankind no longer dwells in the Garden of Eden, but our need for fellowship has not changed. The local church is the context in which God desires believers to share their lives.

Prayer Points

- Pray for a heart that desires to connect deeper with other believers.
- Pray that The Lakeway Church will be a place where people can find meaningful fellowship.
- Pray that, as we respond, we will not lose our focus on sharing an eternal fellowship with others.

Why is connecting important?

~*Hebrews 10:23-25*

Background

The author and date of the book of *Hebrews* has been debated from early church times. Based on internal evidence, many scholars believe the book was written before 70 A.D. What we do know is that the author was used by God to give the church an important message: “the Christian faith and life is superior to living under the Law”. One specific area of faith and practice is addressed within these verses.

Read *Hebrews 10:23-25*

Questions for Meditation

- How is the idea of believers meeting together presented in this passage?
- Why is it important for Christians to meet together on a regular basis?
- How are you encouraging other believers to continue to walk closely with God?

Concluding Thoughts

The author states that meeting together is a practice we should continue to engage in. Many Christians attempt to live out their faith apart from a body of believers. Due to our sinful nature, we are prone to wander from God and His ways. In order to successfully maneuver through this life, we need help from others who are also on the journey of faith.

Connecting with other Christians is a blessing from God. Through these relationships, God teaches and trains us to be more like Christ.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the desire to connect with others in fellowship as part of your life.
- Pray that the surrounding community will notice our joy and unity.
- Pray that the new facilities will accommodate all who would choose to join our fellowship.

Wednesday, Mar. 7

How do we connect to strengthen the church?

~*Ephesians 4:11-13*

Background

There are several passages about spiritual gifts in the Scriptures. This section in *Ephesians* helps us to understand the purpose of the gifts. Paul wrote this letter to his beloved disciples in Ephesus, desiring that their lives would be a stark contrast to the idol-worshiping majority in the city. People came from all over to worship the goddess Artemis (or Diana) at her temple in Ephesus. The community of faith in this city had an opportunity to reflect by their lifestyles the One True God.

Read *Ephesians 4:11-13*

Questions for Meditation

- Which gifts are mentioned here?
- What are the purposes listed here for gifts? In other words, why were some given as apostles, pastors and teachers?
- In what ways are you exercising your gifts to benefit those around you, especially in your community of faith, your church?

Concluding Thoughts

As we fellowship and exercise our spiritual gifts in a local church body, we all mature. The exercise of our collective spiritual gifts is an essential component of a strong and vibrant church. As we serve one another and those in our community, we demonstrate the love of Christ in a very tangible way.

Prayer Points

- Ask God to help you know and develop your spiritual gifts.
- Pray for God to “grow us up” in unity of faith and knowledge of His Son as we do life together here at The Lakeway Church.
- Pray that God will move our hearts to participate in providing the resources needed for our church to reflect the One True God to as many as possible.

Why is forgiveness important to fellowship?

~*Colossians 3:12-13*

Background

The book of *Colossians* was written by the apostle Paul around 62 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul wrote a number of letters from prison, all addressing theological issues that needed to be clarified. The theme of this book speaks about Christ as head of the church, the center around whom all Christian living revolves.

Read *Colossians 3:12-13*

Questions for Meditation

- Why did Paul mention that believers are “chosen” by God?
- Why did Paul compare our forgiving others’ sins, to Jesus’ forgiveness of our sins?
- Do you find that you forgive easily, or do you hold grudges, allowing bitterness into your life?

Concluding Thoughts

If you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then you were chosen by God to receive salvation. The next time someone disappoints you, remember that you have been hand-picked by God and given the capability to respond in the power of the Holy Spirit. Be patient. Choose to show compassion and kindness. Be humble and gentle. Let go of all bitterness and forgive.

You cannot control another’s actions or reactions, but you can submit your own to the Lordship of Christ. Let’s show those outside the walls of our church that love and forgiveness can be found here.

Prayer Points

- Pray for a heart of love, grace and forgiveness.
- Pray that the community will notice the love and grace expressed in our fellowship and desire to worship with us.
- Pray that the new facilities will impart a welcoming, family atmosphere.

Friday, Mar. 9

How can believers connect to build a Deeper & Wider ministry?

~*Philippians 4:13-16*

Background

Paul was commissioned and sent out from his home church in Antioch (*Acts 13:1-3*). He visited and preached in Philippi, among other cities. The Philippians supported Paul and sent him gifts on more than one occasion. From prison Paul wrote to these dear believers, praising them for sharing in his hardships and meeting his needs.

Read *Philippians 4:13-16*

Questions for Meditation

- For what does Paul commend the Philippians?
- What benefit does Paul mention in *Verse 16*? What do you think this means?
- How has God led you to be a resource for others?

Concluding Thoughts

The faithful believers in Philippi sent monetary gifts to Paul on several occasions. Their gifts played an important role in the success of his ministry to Thessalonica and Corinth. The gifts and offerings of the Philippians were used in a way that extended their ministry reach beyond anything they could have imagined. There was a kingdom investment of eternal significance.

As part of the body of Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility to invest in God's kingdom.

Prayer Points

- Ask God to give you a heart ready to invest in the things important to Him, things that impact eternity.
- Pray that God will direct you into creative ways to support what He is doing through The Lakeway Church locally and globally.
- Pray for our investment as a church body in the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign.

Will we connect in eternity?

~*Revelation 21:1-4*

Background

The book of *Revelation* is an unveiling of God's end-times plan. In *Revelation 21:1-4*, we have a description of the New Jerusalem as the first things, including the heavens and earth as we now know them, pass away. They no longer exist. This is a glimpse of eternity.

Read *Revelation 21:1-4*

Questions for Meditation

- Who is present in this new holy city?
- What are some of the things that will be different?
- How does your understanding of this future impact your life in the present?

Concluding Thoughts

The Lamb of God, Jesus Himself, will dwell among us in the New Jerusalem. We shall be His people, and He will be among us. We will live in His presence for all eternity with no death or pain or crying. What a picture of our future! We have a glorious future; we will spend eternity with Christ.

We will live in fellowship forever with the Lamb of God.

Prayer Points

- Meditate on this beautiful picture of eternity as you slowly reread this passage.
- Pray that this picture of our future will encourage us to go Deeper & Wider in how we live our lives in the present.
- Pray that, as we think about the future of ministry through The Lakeway Church, God will direct our hearts to plan well and give generously.

Sunday, Mar. 11

This Sunday at The Lakeway Church

We grow in our love of Christ most dynamically through meaningful, spiritual relationships. God uses us to encourage, teach, and comfort one another across races, ages, and languages. Come to church this Sunday with a heart of compassion, seeking ways to minister the love of Christ in another's life.

Serve

Demonstrating the love of Christ
through word and deed

Monday, Mar. 12

Why express my faith?

~*Matthews 28:16-20*

Background

Matthew's account of Christ centers on His teaching. This is demonstrated as Matthew closes his book by focusing on Jesus' words to His disciples before He ascended into heaven.

Read *Matthew 28:16-20*

Questions for Meditation

- From Matthew's record, what is the state of the disciples at this time?
- What is Jesus' commandment to His disciples?
- How are we to live out this command today?

Concluding Thoughts

The emphasis of Jesus' command as He leaves His disciples is to make disciples. They are to do this through helping people place their faith in Christ and then grow in their faith. Jesus states that He will never leave them alone in the task He has commissioned them to do.

Today we are still to be about making disciples. We are to be making disciples as we are at work, as we spend time with our families, as we play sports, as we go throughout life. This does not mean that we always have a Bible open before us, but that our lives are being changed to be more like Christ, and that change is impacting the way we interact with others.

Prayer Points

- Ask God to help you make disciples as you go throughout your day.
- Pray that we, as a body of believers, will be making disciples as we worship, grow, connect, serve and invite as an expression of our faith in Christ.
- Pray that The Lakeway Church will have the space to continue equipping more people to be personally involved in making decisions for Christ.

What should motivate me to serve?

~*Ephesians 2:1-10*

Background

In *Ephesians*, Paul is writing to remind the new believers of a simple truth – that their relationship with God is established solely through Christ. He also reminds them how that should impact the way they live. In *Ephesians 2*, Paul discusses how the richness of our relationship with Christ – and the grace through which it comes – will naturally find expression in service toward others.

Read *Ephesians 2:1-10*

Questions for Meditation

- What was our state before Christ?
- How does that state highlight what is true now because of Christ?
- What does Paul say our response to God's grace should be?

Concluding Thoughts

Being saved from our sin by Christ is a wonderful gift! What we could not do for ourselves, Christ did on our behalf. Not only did God secure our relationship with Himself, but He also prepared works – good deeds – for us to demonstrate to others our new relationship.

The things we do after we trust Christ are to bring glory to God. They do not add to the gift of God's grace, but they are merely the response of a thankful heart. We were not saved for disobedience but to live a life of thankfulness to God and the works He has prepared for us.

Prayer Points

- Pray that we, both personally and as a church, will discover more of the works that God has for us.
- Pray that the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign we are entering into will be a means of expressing God's heart to serve those who do not know Him.

Wednesday, Mar. 14

Do I have to be a mature believer to serve?

~*Philippians 1:3-11*

Background

One of the recurring themes found in the book of *Philippians* is joy. This is amazing when you realize that when Paul was writing to the church at this time, he was chained to a guard and under house arrest. In *Philippians 1:3-11*, Paul describes his heart for the young church at Philippi.

Read *Philippians 1:3-11*

Questions for Meditation

- Why is Paul joyful for the Philippian Christians?
- What does Paul pray for the Philippian Christians?
- How are you sharing Christ with others as you grow in your faith?

Concluding Thoughts

Paul had a heartfelt connection with the believers at Philippi. They had been partners sharing God's love to the world through Christ. They were a long way from perfect, but they still were seeking to help others understand Christ.

Paul had great joy toward these Philippian Christians, even though they were young in their faith. Paul saw them as growing and knew that God would finish the work He started in their lives. They were sharing the joy of Christ with others as they developed in their relationship with God.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will find ways to share your relationship with Christ.
- Pray that believers at The Lakeway Church who are young in their spiritual pilgrimage will continue to grow in their walk with God.
- Pray that God will use this Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign to provide a place for many people to start and continue their relationship with Christ.

What is the role of prayer?

~*Ephesians 3:14-21*

Background

In *Ephesians 1-3*, Paul writes about several important theological truths that apply to those people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Because Paul is so moved as he reflects on these truths, he inserts a prayer for the believers of Ephesus, found in *3:14-21*.

Read *Ephesians 3:14-21*

Questions for Meditation

- What does Paul pray for the church in Ephesus?
- What is Paul's perspective on the power of God?
- How does your perspective on God's power compare to Paul's?

Concluding Thoughts

Paul prays that the church in Ephesus will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. This transformation will lead them to better reflect God's glory. Paul's prayer also shows us that the scope of our requests do not limit God.

Our conversation, or prayer, with God can change our hearts and our responses to life's circumstances. Correctly understanding theological truths should change our lives in such a way that we become more Christlike. One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to bring about this understanding and life-change.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will be strengthened in your faith by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that The Lakeway Church will experience the fullness that God has for us.
- Pray that God will surpass all our expectations in this Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign so that more people can join us in growing and serving in Christ.

Friday, Mar. 16

How has God equipped me to serve?

~Romans 12:3-8

Background

Romans is an expanded Gospel presentation exploring the theological impact of Christ's death on our behalf. Through Paul's reflection on the Gospel, we see the scope or impact that Christ has given believers. In *Romans 12*, Paul reminds us that we are one body because of the Gospel.

Read *Romans 12:3-8*

Questions for Meditation

- What is to be our attitude as we serve in accordance with the gifts God has given us?
- What is the purpose of the body?
- If The Lakeway Church lived out this passage, how would it impact the city of Lakeway?

Concluding Thoughts

Each part of our physical body has a purpose that contributes to the health of the entire body. This is also true of the spiritual body of the church. It can only function as God intended when all the members are actively engaged as part of the body.

God has equipped us as a church body to express His heart. When the individual members of the church use their God-given gifts, the result is that the body more fully reflects God's character.

Prayer Points

- Pray that you will understand how God has gifted you.
- Pray that the members of The Lakeway Church family will know and use their spiritual gifts.
- Pray for those who will join us as we expand our reach into Lakeway through this Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign.

What difference does Christ's resurrection make?

~1 Corinthians 15:1-14

Background

Paul was facing many troubling issues of immorality at the church in Corinth. According to Paul's thinking, a correct understanding of the Gospel leads to a changed lifestyle that is pleasing to God. This is why Paul closes his letter revisiting the simple truth of the Gospel in *1 Corinthians 15:1-14*.

Read *1 Corinthians 15:1-14*

Questions for Meditation

- How does Paul explain the key points of the Gospel?
- In Paul's thinking, how important is Christ's resurrection?
- How has the fact that Christ rose from the dead changed the way you live day to day?

Concluding Thoughts

The message of the Gospel is that Christ died for our sin and rose again so that we can have a relationship with God. Our lives should be lived differently because we have placed our faith in a risen Savior. We are to be a different people because we can have a relationship with the living Christ.

One application of this is that we invest and sacrifice to create space for others to come to know Christ and to worship God. From a worldly perspective, sacrifice for others doesn't make sense, but it models the wonderful news of the Gospel: Christ paid the penalty for our sins. What we could not do, Christ did on our behalf.

Prayer Points

- Pray that we will live differently because Jesus rose from the dead.
- Pray that we will be a church living out the reality of the resurrection of Christ.
- Pray that because Christ rose, we will create space for others to worship, grow, connect, serve and express the risen Christ.

Sunday, Mar. 18

Sunday at The Lakeway Church

We grow more Christlike only when we turn our hearts away from ourselves to serve others. God uses us to change lives! Come to church this Sunday ready to make a difference in the lives of others.

Family Discussion Guide

Holding a Family Discussion

Purpose

During this time, your family will pray, study and communicate with one another as you seek to discern God's will concerning your commitment to the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign. All family members should be present, with leadership provided by the head of your household.

Preparation

1. Each member of the family should prepare spiritually by spending time in study and prayer during their individual daily devotionals. Consider a period of fasting if you are physically able. This is a time to ask God what He would have you sacrificially give as part of the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign.
2. Set aside an hour for your family conference. Select a date between Monday, March 12 and Saturday, March 17 so that you will be prepared when Deeper & Wider commitment cards are collected on Sunday, March 18.

Process

Open the family conference in prayer, inviting God's presence and direction. Also, pray that a spirit of love, unity and selflessness will permeate this time together.

Ask each family member to respond to the following question: "What do you think is the most important thing about giving?" Write down the various responses.

Read and discuss the following Bible passages related to giving. Be sure to include everyone in the discussion. Write principles for giving that you draw from the verses in the space provided.

***Proverbs 3:9-10* (To whom do we give?):**

***1 Corinthians 16:2* (What principle governs the amount we give?):**

***2 Corinthians 9:6-7* (What attitude should underpin our giving?):**



Compare God's principles for giving (as written under the Bible verses) with the ideas shared by each family member earlier. Ask: "Has our study changed anyone's mind about giving?"

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Ask family members to talk about the sacrifices that they would be willing to make over the next three years in order to give to God through the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign. List the ideas below. Be sure to include each family member so that everyone has the opportunity to experience the joy of giving to God sacrificially.

Pray

Let each family member pray sentence prayers:

1. Thanking and praising God for His many blessings.
2. Asking God for direction and help in making family decisions according to His will.

Participate

Decide as a family what you will give and write down the amount on the Deeper & Wider commitment card. Close the family conference with a prayer of commitment, asking God to provide for your family as you step out in faith. Ask Him to help you find the joy inherent in biblical giving. And thank God that through your participation in the Deeper & Wider Capital Campaign lives will be changed for His glory.

Postlude

Now that you've completed your family conference and filled out your Deeper & Wider commitment card, don't forget to turn it in on Sunday, March 18. If you are unable to turn your commitment card in at that time, please drop it off at the church office or send it in the mail.

*May God be gracious
To us and bless us
And make His face
Shine on us -
So that Your ways
may be known on earth,
Your salvation
among all nations.*

~Psalm 67:1-2



2203 Lakeway Blvd. • Lakeway, TX 78734
512-261-6331 • www.lakewaychurch.org
