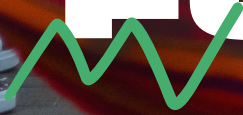


TEACHING SERIES GUIDE



FOR *the*
FUTURE





EVERY NATION
FAITH CITY

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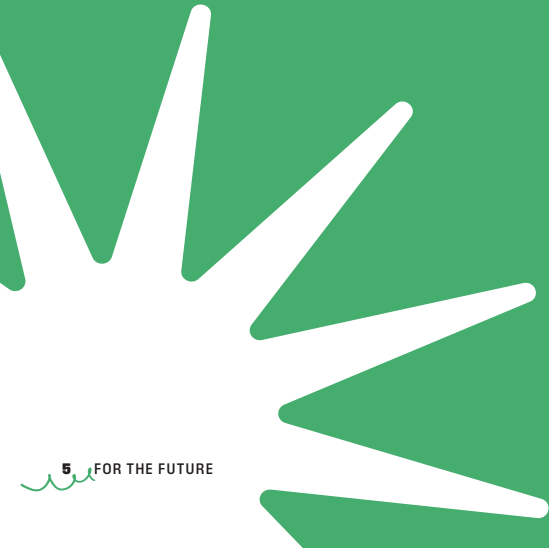
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Isaiah 58:12



You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, **rebuild** and **renovate**,



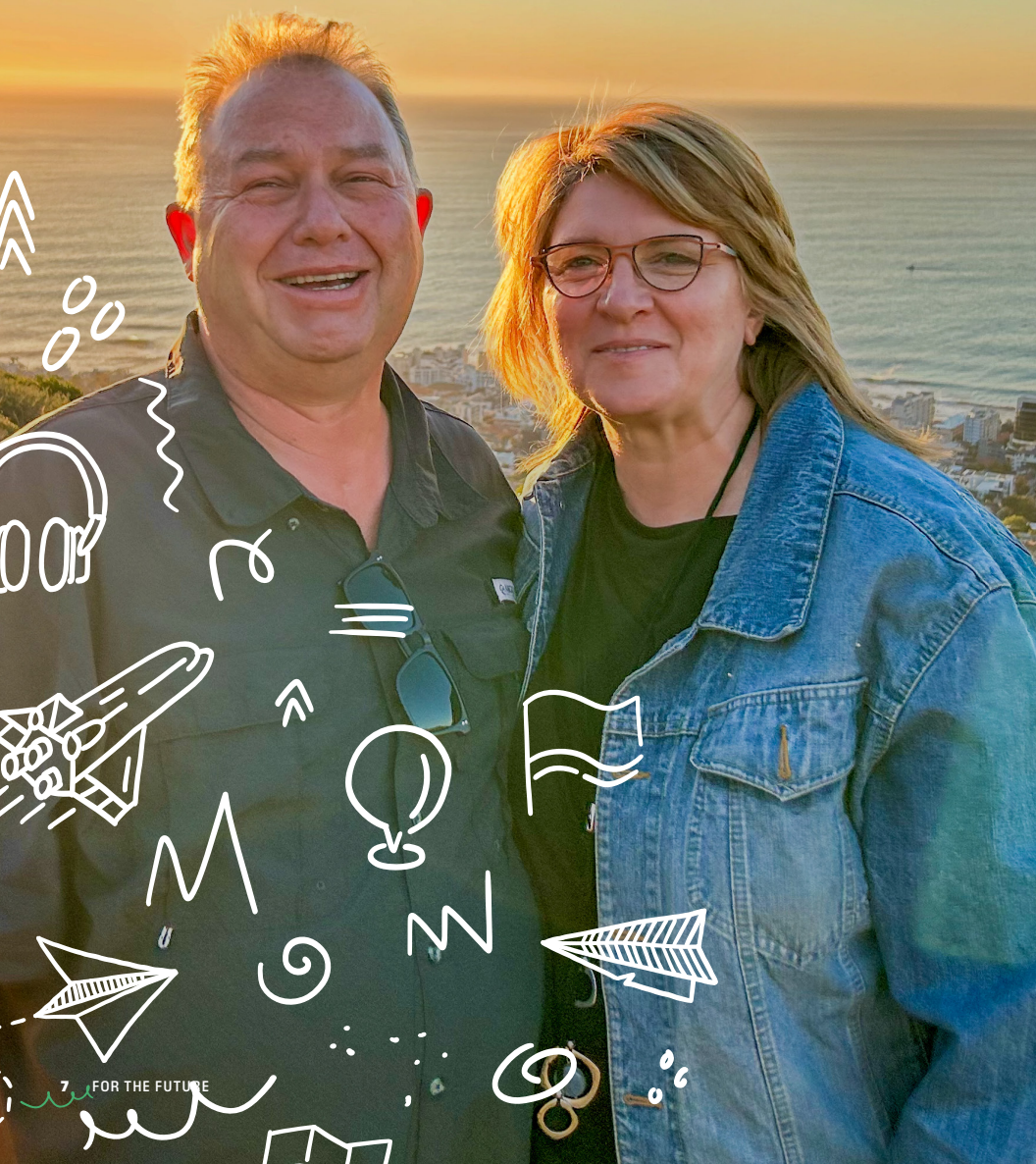
For the Future...


is a city-wide journey to inspire us to live and give beyond ourselves. This journey includes a six week message series, small group experience, and daily devotional. No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring us to

***BRING SUPERNATURAL
TRANSFORMATION TO OUR WORLD
ONE PERSON AT A TIME.***

Together, we'll grow in our relationship with God and build our faith as we look beyond where we are now and trust God with what's to come. Join us as we discover what God wants us to do in our family, church, and community as we build *For the Future*.

A Spiritual Journey For the Future





I can hardly express how thrilled I am that you've chosen to embark on this journey with us! My heartfelt prayer is that you see the essence of For the Future. It's about each of us hearing from the Lord, and gaining His perspective for our church, our families, and our community. Throughout Scripture, we witness God's deep love for His people. His desire is always for us to grow in FAITH and to grow TOGETHER.

So, I want to challenge you to fully commit to walking this road with me. The heart of our church has always been about Bringing Supernatural Transformation to our world, one person at a time. This isn't our first journey, and it certainly won't be our last. God has called us to impact this region, bringing His hope and life to all who surround us. That's why I'm inviting you to embrace this church-wide journey over the next six weeks.

Here's what I'm asking of you:

1. Be present in church each Sunday for the next six weeks—and bring this guide with you!
2. Join a For the Future Connect Group.
3. Commit to the daily devotionals.

I can assure you, you won't regret it. With God's help and your participation, we'll see His vision become a reality. While each of us can make a difference individually, when we come together, our faith creates an extraordinary impact and leaves a legacy that will shape generations.

Thank you for stepping into this journey with us as we seek to uncover what God has in store for our faith, our families, our church, and our community. My prayer is that during this season, you encounter God in a fresh and transformative way and discover that He's calling you to trust Him For the Future.

Dr. Willem Nel
Visionary Lead Pastor

Stories of Lives Changed

Throughout this guide, you will find stories of changed lives from our own people at Every Nation Faith City. These stories remind us of the incredible things God is continually doing through our church to reach people for Jesus and help them find belonging in a spiritual family. We hope these stories inspire and encourage you as we go on this journey together!

Share Your Story



We want to hear YOUR story too! Be sure to let us know what God speaks to you during *For the Future*.

Share your thoughts and stories with us at
www.enfc.co.za/for-the-future



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The *For the Future* Guide has everything you need to go on the journey: weekly message notes, connect group guides, and a daily devotional.

Weekly Message Notes

Each week begins with fill-in-the-blanks from the weekend message and a place to take your own notes. Use this space to jot down anything God speaks to you during the message series.

Connect Group Guides

Next, you will find the key thought, key verse, and discussion questions you will use in your Connect Group during the week. Be sure to bring your guide with you to your Small Group.

Not in a Small Group yet? Find one near you by visiting

www.enfc.co.za/get-connected

Daily Devotional

Finally, you will find the devotional we will read together as a church, beginning **Monday, 10 February 2025**. The daily devotional takes place five days a week, Monday through Friday. Spend a few minutes reflecting on the questions each day. In addition, there is a place where you can write down anything God is saying to you.



Our Vision



Since 1992, Every Nation Faith City has been dedicated to bringing supernatural transformation to our world, one person at a time. We believe that the local church is God's chosen vessel for this mission. Church is more than a place to attend; it's a spiritual family where everyone belongs.

Over the past 33 years, we have witnessed countless lives transformed and individuals finding a home within our spiritual family. Our journey began in 1992 as the Potchefstroom Student Church, transitioned into His People Potchefstroom in 1998, and in 2017, we embraced the name Every Nation Faith City. This change reflects our commitment to being a multi-site, multi-generational, and multi-cultural spiritual family, continually multiplying as a missional movement.

Throughout these seasons, our vision has remained steadfast: *bringing supernatural transformation to our world, one person at a time*. Today, with sites in Potchefstroom, Vanderbijlpark, and Parys, we are more committed than ever to reaching people and inviting them into our spiritual family. There's a place for you and your family to share in this vision because we know that we are better together!



Over the Last Year



546 TO
752 average weekly attendance



120
Youth
Salvations



**8 City
Wide**
weekly services



From
419 to 603
people in
connect groups



800+
weekly online reach



105
Baptisms

Project Overview

It's time to Rebuild, Raise up, Repair and Restore.

The past few years have brought their share of challenges for Every Nation Faith City. Challenging, and yet this has been a time of refining.

Through it all, one truth has remained clear: the church is not a building or a service; it is people. People who have faced their own trials and emerged stronger; people who have experienced loss yet found the courage to rebuild; people who know what it means to reach out and help their neighbours restore what was broken.

But our work is not yet done. Our mission remains unchanged – a mission to bring supernatural transformation to our world, one person at a time across Potchefstroom, the Vaal, and Parys. It is a

call to rebuild families and strengthen faith. It is a call to raise up hope and homes in our communities. It is a call to repair broken relationships and restore hearts to the Father.

For the Future is a city-wide campaign to raise the R8 million needed to fund three critical expansion projects. These projects will enable us—the people of God—to continue reaching people and building lives in greater measure.

While we celebrate all that God has done through us in the past, we believe He is calling us to step forward with faith into what He has planned for the future. Together, let us rise to the challenge and trust Him to do even greater things through us now and in the years to come.

Project Goal: R8M

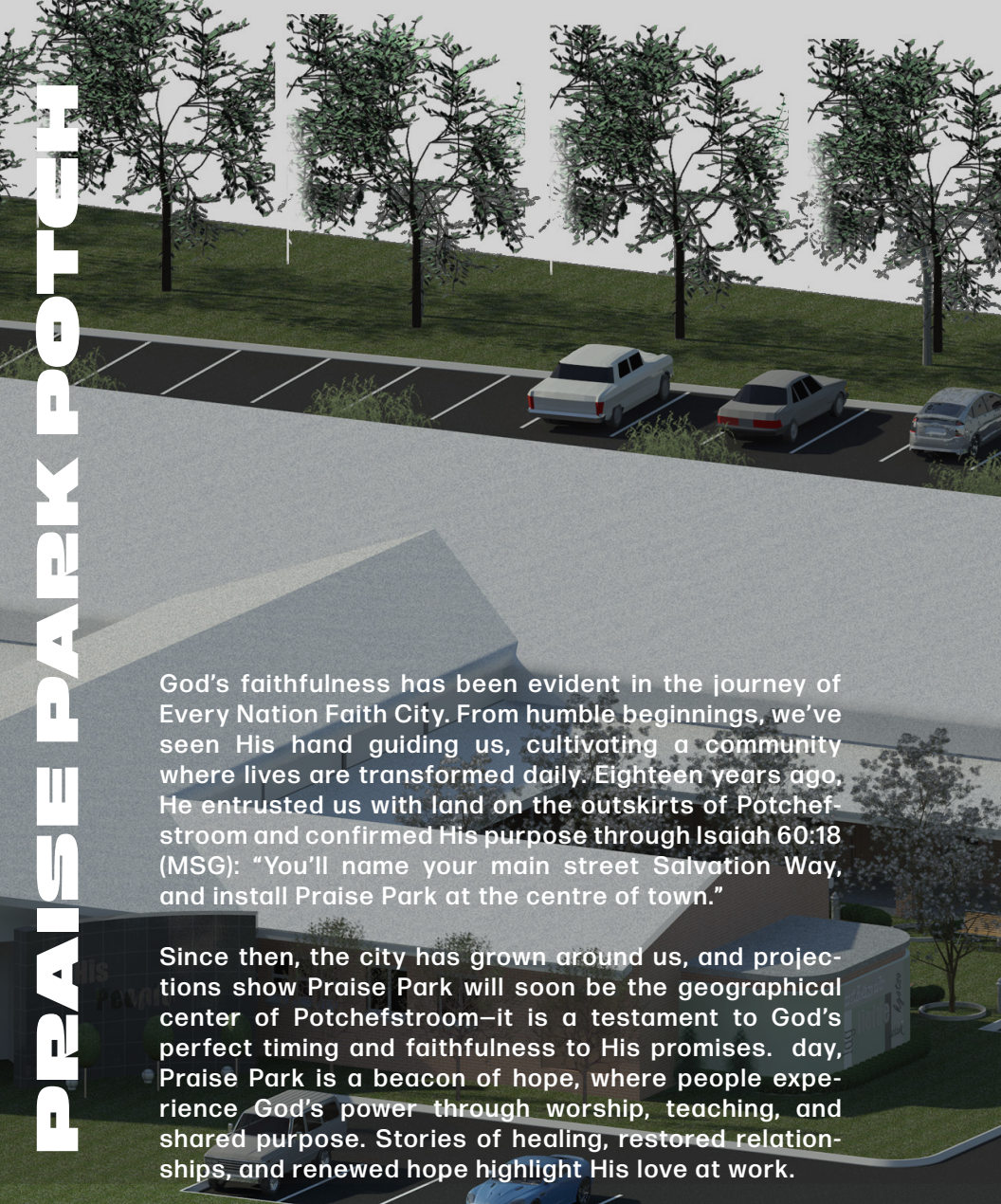
Praise Park
R3.5M

ENC Potch
R500K

Parys
R3.5M

ENC Vaal
R500k

PRAISE PARK POTCH



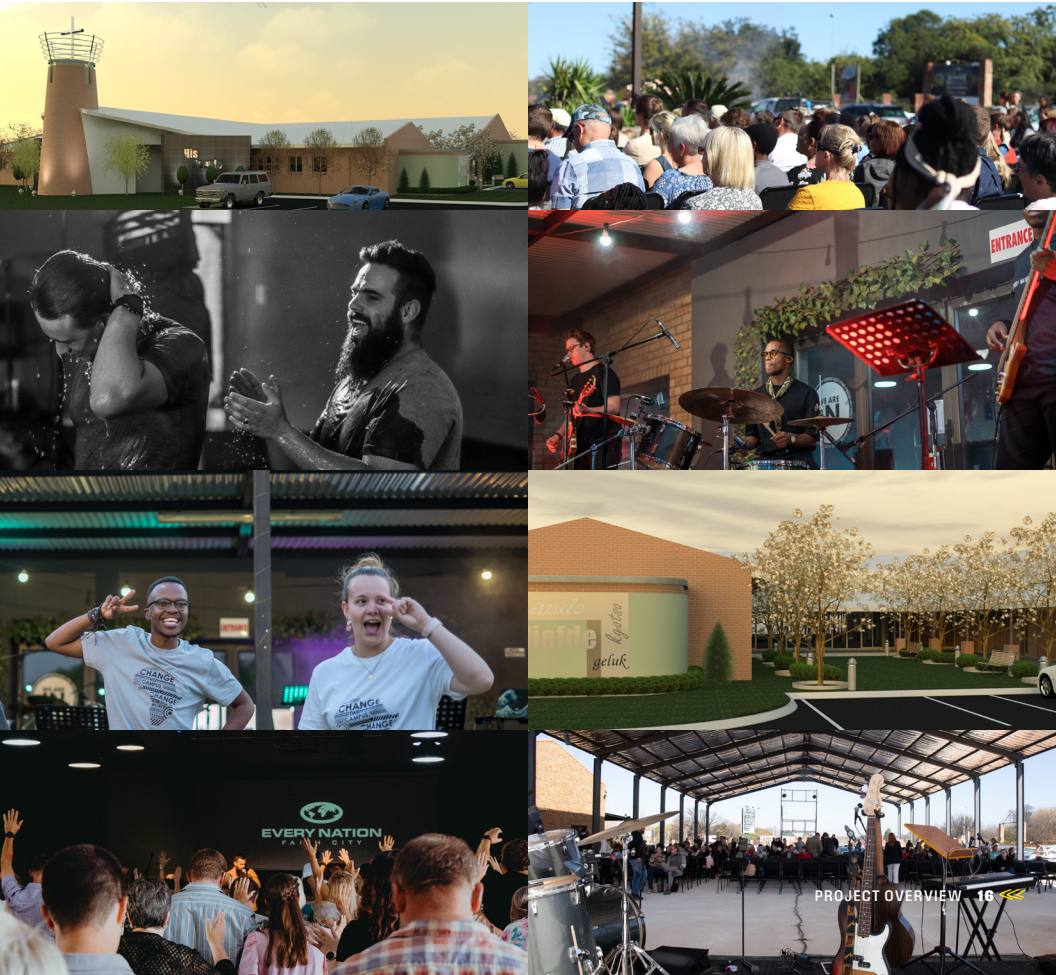
God's faithfulness has been evident in the journey of Every Nation Faith City. From humble beginnings, we've seen His hand guiding us, cultivating a community where lives are transformed daily. Eighteen years ago, He entrusted us with land on the outskirts of Potchefstroom and confirmed His purpose through Isaiah 60:18 (MSG): "You'll name your main street Salvation Way, and install Praise Park at the centre of town."

Since then, the city has grown around us, and projections show Praise Park will soon be the geographical center of Potchefstroom—it is a testament to God's perfect timing and faithfulness to His promises. day, Praise Park is a beacon of hope, where people experience God's power through worship, teaching, and shared purpose. Stories of healing, restored relationships, and renewed hope highlight His love at work.

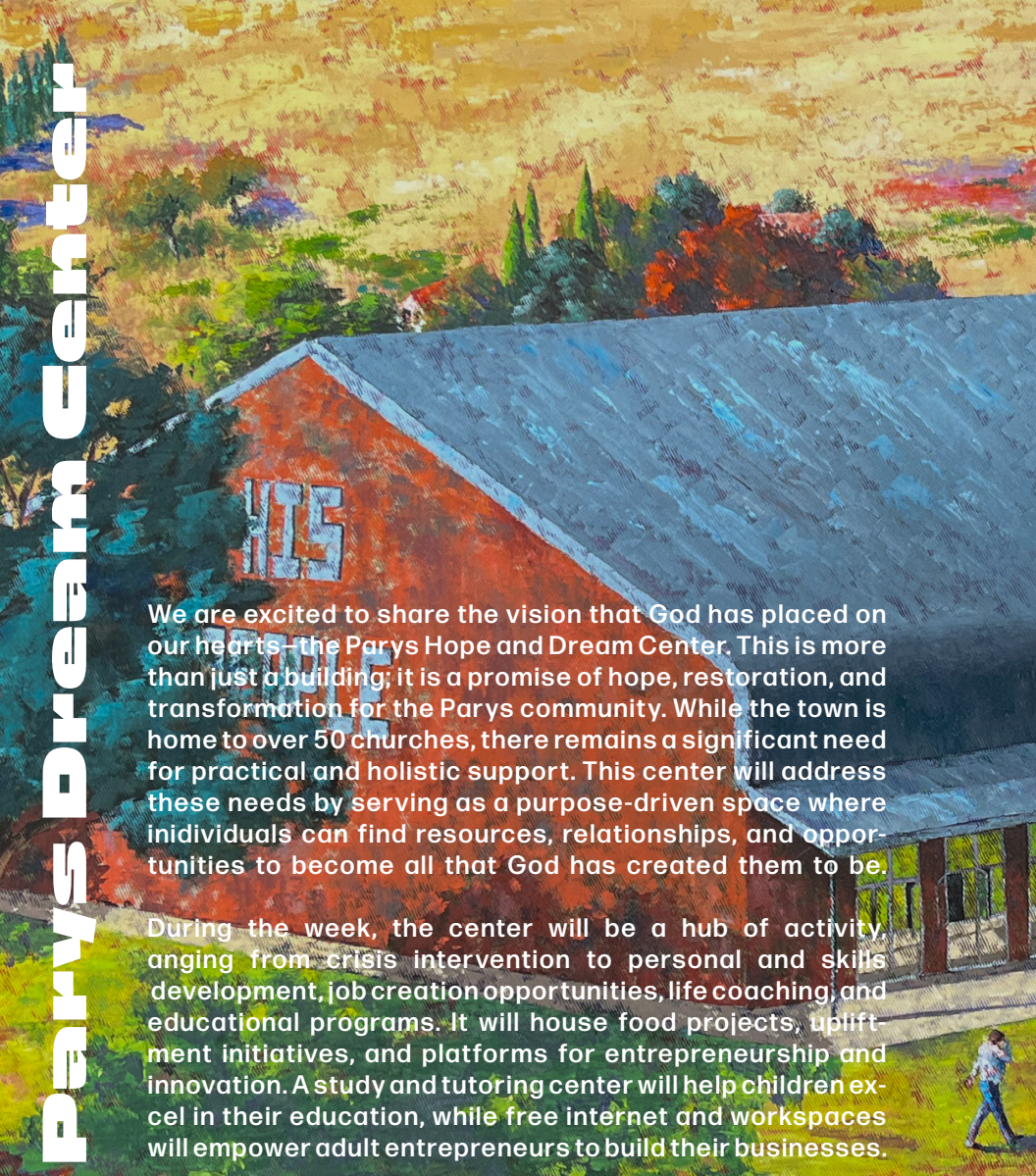
As we reflect on what God has done, our hearts are full of gratitude and expectation. Praise Park has reached capacity, reflecting our community's hunger for Him. Weekly, individuals and families come together to grow, serve, and make a difference. This momentum drives us to trust God as we expand our facilities, creating space for more people to encounter His transforming presence and continue bringing supernatural transformation to our world.

Project Details

- Completion of the auditorium, designed to comfortably seat 700 people. This space will enable us to host church services and community events.
- Exceptional kids' facilities, equipped with age-appropriate activities and resources. The children's wing will also include an outdoor playscape for kids to enjoy before and after services.
- A spacious foyer with a coffee shop, creating a welcoming environment for people to gather before, during, and after worship services over a great cup of coffee. This area will also serve as a versatile event space, perfect for hosting gatherings focused on food and fellowship.



PARYS DREAM CENTER



We are excited to share the vision that God has placed on our hearts—the Parys Hope and Dream Center. This is more than just a building; it is a promise of hope, restoration, and transformation for the Parys community. While the town is home to over 50 churches, there remains a significant need for practical and holistic support. This center will address these needs by serving as a purpose-driven space where individuals can find resources, relationships, and opportunities to become all that God has created them to be.

During the week, the center will be a hub of activity, ranging from crisis intervention to personal and skills development, job creation opportunities, life coaching, and educational programs. It will house food projects, upliftment initiatives, and platforms for entrepreneurship and innovation. A study and tutoring center will help children excel in their education, while free internet and workspaces will empower adult entrepreneurs to build their businesses.

This multifunctional space will be a tangible expression of God's love in action—a safe haven where hope, growth, and transformation thrive.

We believe the Parys Hope and Dream Center will be a lighthouse for the Kingdom, and we invite you to stand with us in faith as we trust God to make this vision a reality. Together, we can see His dream for Parys come to life.

Project Details

- **Acquiring the Land:** Securing a strategically located property to establish the Parys Hope and Dream Center as a beacon of hope and transformation for the community.
- **Constructing the Facilities:** Building purpose-designed spaces to accommodate safe houses, educational centres, skills-development areas, and community gathering spaces.
- **Appointing Passionate Staff:** Recruiting and equipping dedicated individuals who are committed to serving the Parys community with excellence and compassion.
- **Establishing Efficient Systems:** Implementing robust administrative and operational frameworks to ensure the seamless running of the centre's programmes and activities.
- **Developing Sustainable Programmes:** Creating long-term initiatives for skills development, job creation, life coaching, and educational support that will empower generations to come.
- **Fostering Community Partnerships:** Collaborating with local businesses, organisations, and churches to maximise the centre's impact and reach.
- **Launching Key Services:** Rolling out crisis intervention, food projects, entrepreneurship platforms, and other critical services to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the Parys community.





W C A M P U S M I N I T I A T I V E

Every Nation Faith City believes changing the campus changes the world. Campus ministry is vital because it equips future leaders, influencers, and professionals to carry Kingdom values into their fields. With only a few years to shape their lives, we focus on building strong biblical foundations that impact faith and purpose for a lifetime. From Potchefstroom to the Vaal, we are raising a generation to make a lasting difference.

As our ministry grows, we trust God for facilities to reach more students. At the Vaal Campus, we pray for an on-campus hub for discipleship and outreach. In Potchefstroom, home to 24,000 students, we need larger, permanent facilities to meet increasing demands.

With your prayers and support, we can secure the spaces needed to continue transforming campuses, cities, and the world for God's glory. Together, we can shape the future.

Project Details

- **Securing Dedicated Campus Facilities:** Acquiring permanent spaces on university campuses in Potchefstroom and the Vaal to serve as hubs for discipleship, worship, and outreach.
- **Establishing a Ministry Office in the Vaal:** Creating a centralised space on the Vaal campus for students to connect, grow, and access resources that support their spiritual and personal development.
- **Expanding Facilities in Potchefstroom:** Trusting God for larger, purpose-built venues to meet the needs of a growing ministry and reach the 24,000 students on campus, many of whom remain unreached.
- **Re-establishing Key Access Points:** Praying for renewed access to strategic venues, including the university's Auditorium, to minister to large groups of students effectively.





Your Opportunity

***For the Future** is a three-year journey designed to address the need for various expansion projects across all three of our locations. We understand that this is a God-sized task, far beyond the ability of any one individual. However, we believe that everyone can play a part in making this vision a reality.*

*To reach our target of **R8 million**, we will need everyone to contribute. During this series you will receive a Pledge Card, which serves as an invitation to be prayerfully and financially involved in the **For the Future** vision by making a financial commitment over a period of time.*

*This pledge is in addition to your regular tithes, allowing you to stretch your faith as we work together towards this goal. On Commitment Sunday (**9 March 2025**), we will return our pledges together during*

*the service. The following week, on Faith Offering Sunday (**16 March 2025**), we will all bring our best financial gift as part of our total pledge. These gifts will go directly to the funds needed to kick-start these vital projects.*

As you pray about what God may be asking you to give, we encourage you to embrace this as a spiritual journey. The amounts pledged will vary from person to person, but everyone has a role to play.

*By completing your **pledge card** and returning it on Commitment Sunday, you are helping to make this vision a reality. To help you visualise the impact your pledge can have over time, please refer to the chart provided. Individually, each of us can make a difference, but together, we will create a lasting legacy that will impact generations to come.*

This worksheet shows the impact your gift can have over 3 years



TOTAL GIFT*	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
R1,000,000	R333,333	R27,778	R6,410
R750,000	R250,000	R20,833	R4,808
R500,000	R166,667	R13,889	R3,205
R250,000	R83,333	R6,944	R1,603
R100,000	R33,333	R2,778	R641
R75,000	R25,000	R2,083	R481
R50,000	R16,667	R1,389	R321
R25,000	R8,333	R694	R160
R10,000	R3,333	R278	R64
R5,000	R1,667	R139	R32

*Three (3) annual total gifts through February 2028.
Calculation approximations based on 36 months (156 weeks).*

Timeline & Key Dates

FEBRUARY 02

Small Group
Sign Ups

FEBRUARY 09

**For the Future:
Week One**

Small Groups
Launch

Family devotions
start Monday,
February 10th.

FEBRUARY 16

**For the Future:
Week Two**

Prayer and
Worship Night

FEBRUARY 23

**For the Future:
Week Three**

MARCH 02

**For the Future:
Week Four**

Leadership
Gathering

MARCH 09

**For the Future:
Week Five**

Commitment
Sunday

MARCH 16

**For the Future:
Week Six**

Faith Offering
Sunday



Get Ready

- Mark Your Calendars
- Attend Every Week
- Join A Connect Group



Week One

A God Future

A God Future

Isaiah 58:12, Matthew 6:33

How to Build a God Future

1. We Build on _____

John 14:6, Matthew 7:24-27, Matthew 13:58, Revelation 1:6-8

2. We Build _____

Genesis 1:27, Isaiah 9:6, John 1:18, John 3:3, John 3:16, Galatians 3:26

3. We Rebuild Our _____

Isaiah 58:12, Hebrews 11:16

3 Questions of Faith

1. What will God do if I do nothing?
2. What would God do if I sacrificed something?
3. What could God do through me if I obeyed?



Connect Group Discussion Guide **XXX**

A God Future

Icebreaker Questions:

Fun: If you could see one future event in your life, what would you want to see?

Check-in: What's one thing you're looking forward to in the coming month?

Prayer Request: How can we pray for you as you think about your future?

Scripture Passage:

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Understanding the Promise*

In Jeremiah, God spoke these words to Israelites exiled in Babylon, far from their homes and everything familiar. How might their context shape how they received this promise?

2. *Relating to the Promise Today*

God's plan for a "future and a hope" speaks to His intentions for us. How does knowing that God has a good future for us change the way we face challenges or uncertainties today?

3. Trusting God in Uncertainty

The Israelites had to wait 70 years to see this promise fulfilled (Jeremiah 29:10). How do we practice patience and trust in God's plan when we don't see immediate results?

Biblical Narrative



Consider the story of Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-45). Though sold into slavery and facing numerous hardships, Joseph trusted God's promises. Later, he saw how God's plan worked out, not just for his good but for his family and the nation of Israel. This story illustrates that God's vision for our future can often include unexpected paths but always holds purpose and hope.

Application Questions:

1. Personal Reflection

What are some situations in your life where it's hard to see "a future and a hope"? How does Jeremiah's message encourage you?

2. Perspective Shift

How does it change things to view current challenges as part of a larger, hopeful future designed by God? Can you think of a time when something that seemed negative was actually used for good?

3. Action Step

Think of one area in your life where you can start trusting God's "good future" for you. What's a practical step you can take this week to focus on God's hope rather than your worry?

Challenge for Growth:

This week, spend a few moments each day reminding yourself of God's good plan for your future. When you face a worry or uncertainty, pray and thank God for His faithfulness, and ask Him to show you small signs of hope and direction.

A Future of Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11

Life often feels uncertain, leaving us questioning what lies ahead. For the Israelites in Jeremiah's time, exile seemed like the end of their story. Yet, in the midst of their pain, God spoke these powerful words, reminding them—and us—that He holds a good future in His hands. This promise, rooted in His love, assures us that God's plans transcend our present challenges. Romans 8:28 echoes this truth, affirming that "in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him."

Just as God's words brought hope to the Israelites, they can inspire us today. We may not always see the road ahead clearly, but we can trust that God is already preparing the way.

Reflection:

What areas of your life feel uncertain today?
How can you surrender your plans to God's divine wisdom?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for promising a future filled with hope. Help me trust Your plans, especially when the path ahead feels unclear. Guide my steps today. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Dreams & Detours

Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”
- Genesis 37:5-11

Life's unpredictability can be disheartening, especially when our dreams seem far out of reach. Joseph's story shows us that the path to fulfilling God's plan often involves unexpected twists. Though he was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and imprisoned unjustly, Joseph's journey was not wasted. Each trial shaped him and moved him closer to the purpose God had designed for his life.

The detours we face are often part of God's preparation for something greater. Like Joseph, we can trust that God uses even the most challenging circumstances to refine us and work out His perfect will.

Reflection:

Think of a time when life didn't go as you planned. How did it prepare you for where you are now?
How can you respond to life's detours with faith and trust in God?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for working through every circumstance in my life. Help me to trust You when the path is unclear, knowing that You are preparing me for greater things. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

All Things for Good

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."
-Romans 8:28

Do you ever look back at your life and see how certain events, even difficult ones, led to unexpected blessings? Romans 8:28 reminds us of this powerful truth: God is always working for the good of those who love Him. This doesn't mean that every moment will feel good, but it assures us that no experience is wasted in His hands. Joseph's life exemplifies this promise. From betrayal and imprisonment to becoming a ruler in Egypt, every chapter of his story served a greater purpose. What his brothers intended for harm, God used to save many lives (Genesis 50:20). We, too, can trust that God's ultimate plan is good, even when it's not immediately visible.

Reflection:

Are there moments in your life that felt painful but, in hindsight, brought unexpected growth or blessing? How can you hold onto God's promise in situations where you don't yet see the good?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for weaving every part of my life into Your beautiful purpose. Help me to trust in Your goodness and to see Your hand at work, even in the challenges. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Guided by God

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."
- Proverbs 3:5-6*

Decision-making can feel overwhelming at times. With so many options and unknowns, it's easy to rely solely on our own understanding. But Proverbs 3:5-6 invites us into a deeper trust—one that depends not on our limited perspective but on God's infinite wisdom.

To trust God fully means to bring Him into every area of life, big and small. Joseph did this during his years in Egypt, seeking God's direction whether he was in a prison cell or the palace. When we acknowledge God in all our ways, we open ourselves to His guidance and experience His faithfulness to lead us on the right path.

Reflection:

Are there decisions in your life where you've been relying more on your own understanding than God's guidance? How can you invite God into those areas today?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being my guide. Teach me to trust You completely and to seek Your wisdom in all that I do. Help me to follow the paths You have prepared for me. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Strengthened while I'm Waiting

*"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
- Isaiah 40:31*

Have you ever watched an eagle glide effortlessly through the sky? It's a picture of strength and freedom, but it didn't start that way. Eagles must wait patiently for their wings to grow strong enough to carry them. Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that waiting on God is not passive—it's an active hope that strengthens us.

For the Israelites, waiting meant trusting God's promise of restoration while in exile. For Joseph, it meant years of faithfulness in unseen places before stepping into God's plan. When we place our hope in the Lord, He renews our strength to rise above challenges and persevere through seasons of waiting.

Reflection:

What are you waiting on God for in this season?
How can you use this time to grow stronger in your faith?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for renewing my strength as I place my hope in You. Help me to wait patiently, trusting that Your timing is perfect. Fill me with endurance and peace today. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Steven & Rista Bampa

Our story begins with the foundation of faith. Steven and I met at church in 2002. Within months, we got married and began a life filled with blessings and challenges. We moved to Parys in 2003 and it was difficult. Relationships are my anchor, so moving to another city was hard, but over time the community of people we found became more than just friends, they became our family. In 2007, we felt ready to start our family, inspired by faith to have six children. Yet, month after month, we faced disappointment. During this time, a parenting course we organised led to a pivotal moment; a prophecy encouraging us to remain open to adoption. Shortly after, we became pregnant with our first son, Etheon, born in 2009. The following years brought us three more sons: Caldón, Declan, and Mikhail.

While pregnant with Mikhail, I (Rista) secretly hoped for another boy, despite two prophecies about a daughter. When Mikhail was born, the visions of a girl remained a mystery. As we navigated a challenging period of illness, sleepless nights,



and faith-testing moments, I felt an unshakable calling to adopt. Steven, burdened by his own experiences and our current struggles, hesitated, leading to frustration and conflict.

One night, I demanded a sign from God about adoption. While I dismissed subtle confirmations, God was working on Steven's heart. After reading an adoption-focused book, Steven experienced a change. The vision of a girl dancing in our home became clear: this was 'our Kara.' On September 20, 2017, Kara joined our family.



During the 2020 lockdown, the promise of six children resurfaced. We saw God's timing unfold, leading to the adoption of Cadee-Grace in December 2021. Her name, meaning 'pure grace,' reflects the undeserved blessing of raising six beautiful children.

Raising six children isn't easy, but it is deeply rewarding. Our family thrives on togetherness, celebrating victories, navigating challenges, and building traditions. We believe love is spelled T-I-M-E and intentionally create moments to bond through games, meals, and prayer. While sibling rivalry and setbacks test us, gratitude and faith anchor our journey.

Adoption has taught us profound truths about God's grace. Just as our daughters received new names and identities, we are made new in Christ. This understanding shapes our parenting and reinforces our commitment to building a family rooted in love and faith. Currently, we as a family are constructing a boma in our backyard – a metaphor for our life together. Despite frustrations and missteps, the process symbolizes growth, resilience, and unity. Like life, it's messy, but the outcome is worth every effort.

Our testimony highlights that miracles often arise from challenging circumstances. We've learned to trust God's timing and guidance, embracing both the blessings and trials. Our journey is far from over, but we are excited about the future He has for us. Through faith, family, and perseverance, we have discovered the beauty of God's plans, proving that with Him, even the most imperfect journeys are extraordinary.



Week Two

God's Perspective

God's Perspective

Isaiah 58:12, Matthew 6:33

1. Who _____ it all?

Psalm 24:1

2. A steward is not an owner, but a _____
over something owned by another.

Understanding God's Perspective

Matthew 25:14

1. God Owns _____

Matthew 6:21, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 25:15-16

2. God expects us to _____
what He gives us.

Matthew 25:20-23

3. God holds us _____

Matthew 25:24-30

4. We must not take lightly what God
_____ to us.

5. Stewardship starts with _____

Connect Group Discussion Guide

God's Perspective

Icebreaker Questions:

Fun: If you could have a “God’s eye view” on any one area of your life, what would it be?

Check-in: How has your week been? Is there anything that’s been on your mind?

Prayer Request: Is there an area in your life where you need God’s perspective?

Scripture Passage:

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding God's Perspective

This passage reveals that God’s ways and thoughts are far above ours. How do these verses shape your understanding of God’s wisdom and His plans?

2. Our Limitations vs. God's View

Isaiah was speaking to people with limited understanding of what God was doing in their lives and their world. Can you think of a time when you didn’t understand God’s plan, but later saw His wisdom in it?

Key Verses - *Isaiah 58:12, Psalm 24:1, Matthew 6:21, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 25:14-16, 20-30*

3. Learning to Trust God's Perspective

How can we remind ourselves to trust God's ways, especially when life doesn't make sense?

Biblical Narrative:



The Story of Elisha and His Servant (2 Kings 6:15-17): When the Aramean army surrounded the city to capture Elisha, his servant panicked, seeing only the danger around them. But Elisha, seeing from God's perspective, reassured him, saying, "Don't be afraid, for there are more on our side than on theirs." Elisha prayed for God to open his servant's eyes, and suddenly, the servant saw the hills filled with horses and chariots of fire. This story shows that God's perspective reveals a reality beyond what we can see, reminding us that He is always at work, even when we feel surrounded by challenges.

Application Questions:

1. Reflecting on Trust

What are some areas in your life where you're struggling to see God's purpose? How can Isaiah's message encourage you to trust Him in these areas?

2. Shifting Perspective

God's "higher ways" are a reminder to adjust our thinking. How can you take a step back this week to view your challenges from God's perspective, trusting that He sees the whole picture?

3. Practice

Identify one area in your life where you're holding tightly to your own perspective. How can you release it to God and invite His guidance instead?

Challenge for Growth:

This week, whenever you feel frustration or worry, pause and pray, asking God for His perspective. Write down any new insights or peace you receive from Him, and take a moment to thank Him for His wisdom.

Faithful in the Small Things

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much."
- Luke 16:10

Have you ever noticed how big things often start with small actions? A towering tree begins as a tiny seed. A marathon starts with a single step. Jesus reminds us that faithfulness in small things matters deeply. Whether it's a kind word, a simple act of service, or a quiet moment of prayer, God sees and values every effort we make.

Joseph exemplified this truth during his time in Egypt. Long before he was placed in a position of authority, he proved trustworthy as a servant and a prisoner. His diligence and integrity in seemingly insignificant roles prepared him for the greater calling God had in store. Likewise, when we are faithful in the everyday tasks, we are aligning ourselves with God's purposes, no matter how small they seem.

Reflection:

What small opportunities for faithfulness can you embrace today?

How can you shift your perspective to see these moments as part of God's bigger plan?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for reminding me that the small things matter. Help me to be faithful in every task You place before me, trusting that You are shaping me for greater things. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

The Power of Patience

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

- James 1:4



Abraham's journey of faith teaches us the value of patience. God promised him descendants as numerous as the stars, yet he and Sarah faced years of waiting before Isaac was born. During that time, they struggled with doubt and even tried to take matters into their own hands. But God's plan unfolded in His perfect timing, and Abraham ultimately became the father of many nations.

James 1:4 reminds us that perseverance isn't just about enduring time—it's about letting the waiting refine and mature us. Abraham's faith grew stronger as he learned to trust God more fully, even when the promise seemed impossible. In the same way, our seasons of waiting are opportunities for God to prepare us for the fulfillment of His plans.

Reflection:

How does Abraham's story encourage you in a season of waiting?

What might God be teaching you as you persevere through challenges?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the example of Abraham's faith. Teach me to trust You in the waiting, allowing Your work to mature me and strengthen my relationship with You. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Trusting when I Can't See

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

- Hebrews 11:1



Faith often calls us to trust what we cannot see. When God told Noah to build an ark, there was no visible sign of the flood to come. Yet, Noah obeyed, trusting God's word above the evidence around him. His faith wasn't based on what he could see but on his confidence in the One who had spoken.

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that faith is about assurance and conviction, not certainty based on what we can control. Like Noah, we are invited to trust God's promises, even when they seem distant or impossible. Each step of obedience deepens our faith and aligns us with God's purpose, preparing us for what He has planned.

Reflection:

What unseen promises of God are you struggling to trust today?

How can Noah's example encourage you to take a step of faith in obedience?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the assurance that comes from trusting in Your promises. Strengthen my faith to trust in what I cannot see and to walk in obedience to Your word. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Strength in Surrender

*"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."
-Genesis 22:2-3 (NLT)*

Imagine being asked to surrender the thing most precious to you. Abraham faced this heart-wrenching test when God called him to sacrifice Isaac, the son of promise. Without hesitation, Abraham obeyed, trusting that God's faithfulness would prevail. As the story unfolds, we see God's provision—a ram caught in the thicket—confirming that Abraham's faith was not misplaced.

Surrendering to God doesn't always mean losing what we hold dear, but it does mean trusting Him above all else. Abraham's example shows us the strength that comes when we release our hold on our plans and desires, allowing God to work in ways beyond our understanding.

Reflection:

Is there something in your life that God is asking you to surrender to Him?

How does Abraham's obedience challenge and inspire your faith?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust You completely, even when surrender feels difficult. Remind me that You are faithful and good, and that Your plans are always for my ultimate good. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

The Strength to Persevere

"Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

-Exodus 14:13-14

Fear and doubt often creep in when we're on the verge of breakthrough. The Israelites felt this as they stood trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's advancing army. In that moment of despair, Moses encouraged them to trust in God's deliverance. Rather than trying to fix the situation themselves, they were called to stand firm and let the Lord fight on their behalf.

We, too, can face moments where perseverance means choosing faith over fear. God's instruction to the Israelites—"stand firm"—is a reminder that sometimes the most courageous thing we can do is to trust Him and wait for His intervention. He sees the obstacles before us, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Reflection:

What situation in your life requires you to stand firm and trust in God's deliverance?

How can you let go of fear and embrace faith in God's power to fight for you?

Prayer:

Lord, when I feel overwhelmed, remind me to stand firm in Your promises. Thank You for being my defender and for fighting the battles I cannot face alone. Strengthen my faith to trust in Your deliverance. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Alastair & Melanie Spannenberg

Alastair: Mel and I have lived by FAITH and OBEDIENCE our whole lives. Both of us were born and raised in Cape Town on the Cape Flats. If you don't know about the Cape flats, then good for you! When people think of Cape Town, the first images that come to mind are of Table Mountain looking over the city, the rolling wine farms, and the windy West Coast. In fact, we were born and raised just about 20km away from all this beauty of the city - I grew up in Manenberg and Mel in Heideveld. The Cape Flats are gang-infested areas where poverty, unemployment, alcohol and substance abuse, and violence were normal. We never thought of ourselves as poor or in need because this was all we knew, and we had nothing to compare it to. It is a place where the floor was safer to sleep on than a bed because of the fear that a stray bullet might find its way through your window. It is a place where children are kept from schools because of fear of gang violence. It is a place where it seems there is no hope for suffering, and this was also so normal for us.

Alastair: I remember standing outside our home one day and I was thinking to myself if it would ever be possible for our situation to change, but I couldn't think of any way that could happen. The ▶





only positive thing was that I had a praying mother. Each morning and each night, my mother brought her seven children before the Lord in prayer at her kitchen table. She called each one of us by name. I remember hearing her prayers for my salvation and her asking God to make me a good man and to give me a good life. This prayer made me angry because I couldn't see how any of what she asked God for could be possible for me, being in the circumstances she knew we were in. Nonetheless, she continued to pray. On the 1st of April 1992, at the age of seventeen, I committed my life to the Lord and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

Melanie: I, on the other hand, grew up with an unsaved single mother. I grew up Anglican and was always forced to go to church on Sundays with my five siblings. My mother only attended maybe on a Christmas Day, but she made sure we were faithful in attending. When my eldest sister got saved, she became the only one who went to church and because of her faith and prayers, three of her siblings, including me, accepted Jesus. Alastair and I were the only ones to matriculate amongst our siblings.

Alastair: I met my beautiful bride, Melanie, in a local church, who, at the time, was the Youth Pastor. She was also the leader of the mission team that I joined. The Lord gave us opportunities to minister to people in the Cape Flats and see Him move among His people there (which was so important to our faith when we had to trust God for many things later on). We could always go back to the testimonies we saw on the mission field. We travelled across South Africa to minister to poverty-stricken people. We worked with the small churches in the areas we travelled to, to inspire hope in these communities. We saw how lives and circumstances changed.

In 2001, we got married. We did not have much, and we literally had to trust God for everything. At that time the doctors told us that it was impossible for us to have children. Again, we trusted God and against all hope, God blessed us with the

most beautiful baby girl, Taryn, in 2003. Even though I was unemployed at the time, God provided everything that Taryn needed before she needed it and that beyond our expectations. There were times when we didn't know how we would afford formula for her, and someone would randomly call to say that they had extra or had bought formula for her. And we have countless testimonies of how God provided impossibly like this.

Things started going better for us. In 2007, Mel served in the South African Navy as a reserve chaplain; I just got promoted at work, and Taryn was at one of the best nursery schools in Cape Town. Then Mel got a call from the South African National Defence Force in 2008 to say that they were offering her a permanent position as an army chaplain in Potchefstroom. This did not make sense to me because there was no way that I would leave Cape Town, and at that time we had enough to get by. Our faith was stretched so much at this point. We had no clue where or what Potchefstroom was, and when people heard about where we were headed, all of them told us not to come. But we chose to trust God's plan. I went for basic military training while Alastair and Taryn stayed in Cape Town. God had other plans; He wanted to give us more than just enough and He called us to move to Potchefstroom, where we had no family or support system except Him. In 2009 we stepped out in faith and obedience to the call of God. I resigned, we packed up all our stuff and we moved. We did not know where we would be staying or where I would work, but one thing was for sure "God said go!" I was trusting God for a house, and the day I came back from basic training, our keys were handed to me.

On our way to Potch, I received a call from the South African Defence Force saying they are giving us a house. When we arrived in Potch, God had already worked out all the details. Our neighbours helped us with everything that we needed while we waited for our furniture to arrive from Cape Town. We were in Potch for three days, and Alastair needed to find a job. At that time I told Alastair, "You don't need to work right now." But he insisted and said, "I need to provide for my family." I remember him telling me to take Taryn with me to work so he could drive around and look for a job. On the third day that we were in Potch, he called me to say that he got a permanent job. After everyone told me it was impossible! Great is His faithfulness! Taryn was enrolled at a very good nursery school, and Mel thrived in her calling as a Chaplain in the Army.

We realised that we had to find a church to be part of a community of faith. We visited a few churches in and around Potch, but we

did not have peace in our hearts. A friend of ours told us that His People church (now Every Nation Faith City) is gathering in the Moorivier school hall. We were familiar with His People church from Cape Town. When we entered the church we were some of the only few people of colour in that service, at the time but our hearts were at peace, and we knew this was the place where God wanted us to be.

God gave us a mandate and word that we, as the Spanenberg family, must be bridge-builders between every tribe and tongue and help people on their faith journey. We have seen how the Lord provided for the church, taking it from a school hall to a building of our own. We remember how we as connect groups and leaders gathered on the building site at Praise Park, doing prayer walks around the site, trusting God to finish the building and God once again did the impossible! We have seen how families were restored which took us back to our missionary days in Cape Town and our faith was strengthened. We are still trusting the Lord for things in our personal lives and for the church, but because we know the God of the impossible, we know He will do the impossible!



Week Three



God's Voice



God's Voice

Isaiah 58:12, Matthew 6:33, John 10:27-28

1. There will be times when you must hear God's voice to know His will for _____

2. God is a _____

John 10:14, 27

God's Voice

1. The Bible _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. The Bible _____

Acts 11:15-17, Romans 8:16, Luke 1:13, Acts 15:25

3. Other _____

Ephesians 4:11-20

4. Follow _____

1 Corinthians 14:33, Colossians 3:15, Philipians 4:6-8

Isaiah 55:12, Romans 8:14

Connect Group Discussion Guide

XXX

God's Voice

Icebreaker Questions:

Fun: If you had to pick someone famous to play you in a movie, who would it be?

Check-in: Has there been a recent moment when you felt God's guidance or encouragement?

Prayer Request: How can we pray for you to hear God's voice more clearly this week?

Scripture Passage:

John 10:27 (NLT)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Recognizing God's Voice

Jesus speaks of His followers as sheep who recognize His voice. What do you think it means to "hear" God's voice today?

2. God's Relationship with Us

In what ways does the image of Jesus as a shepherd caring for His sheep impact how you see your relationship with God?

3. Hearing Amidst Distractions

In our busy world, hearing God can be challenging. What are some distractions that prevent you from hearing God's voice? How can you overcome them?

Biblical Narrative:

The Story of Samuel (1 Samuel 3): Samuel, as a young boy, learned to recognize God's voice when he was called. Eli helped him understand that it was God speaking, teaching Samuel the importance of listening and responding. This story encourages us to be attentive and expectant, ready to hear God in our daily lives.

Application Questions:

1. Practicing Attentiveness

How can you make room to hear God's voice in your life this week? Are there specific ways or times you feel most connected to Him?

2. Recognizing His Voice

Reflect on a time you felt that God was speaking to you, whether through Scripture, prayer, or another person. How did you recognize it?

3. Following Through

Hearing God's voice is only part of it; we're also called to respond. What is one thing you sense God is guiding you to do, and how can you act on it?

Challenge for Growth:

Set aside a specific time each day this week to pray and listen quietly, with no distractions. Write down anything you feel God might be saying and revisit it at the end of the week to see any patterns or clarity.

Called for a Purpose

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- Jeremiah 1:5*



Before we take our first breath, God already has a plan for our lives. Jeremiah's call as a prophet reminds us of the intentionality with which God creates and equips each of us. Despite Jeremiah's feelings of inadequacy, God assured him that his purpose was divinely ordained, not dependent on his own abilities.

We are often tempted to question our worth or feel unprepared for the roles God calls us to. But just as God knew Jeremiah before he was born, He knows each of us intimately. His purposes for our lives are woven into His greater plan, and He promises to provide the strength and wisdom we need to fulfill them.

Reflection:

What unique gifts or passions has God placed in your life that point to your purpose?

How does knowing that God has prepared you for His calling encourage you to trust Him?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for creating me with purpose and intention. Help me to trust Your calling on my life and to step forward in faith, knowing that You have equipped me for every good work. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Strength in Weakness

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."
2 Corinthians 12:9

Paul's words in this passage challenge our natural instincts. We often strive to appear strong and capable, yet God's power is most evident when we acknowledge our weakness. When Paul prayed for the removal of his "thorn in the flesh," God didn't take it away. Instead, He reminded Paul that His grace was enough and that His strength would be displayed in Paul's reliance on Him.

Throughout scripture, God uses ordinary people with weaknesses and struggles to accomplish extraordinary things. Whether it was Moses, who felt inadequate to speak, or Gideon, who doubted his ability to lead, God's power worked through their vulnerabilities. Our weaknesses are not barriers but invitations for God's strength to shine through us.

Reflection:

What areas of your life feel like weaknesses or challenges?

How can you invite God to show His power through them?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for reminding me that Your grace is enough. Help me to trust in Your strength when I feel weak, and use my life to display Your power and glory. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Obedience Over Understanding

"Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'"
-Genesis 12:1-2

Abram (later Abraham) was called to leave everything familiar and step into the unknown, trusting only in God's promise. He didn't have a roadmap or clear instructions, yet he obeyed, walking by faith and not by sight. His willingness to act without full understanding set the foundation for the fulfillment of God's covenant with him. Sometimes God calls us to move forward without giving us all the answers.

Like Abraham, we may be asked to trust His promises even when the path seems uncertain. Obedience to God is often the first step toward experiencing His blessings and seeing His plans unfold in ways we couldn't have imagined.

Reflection:

Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to step out in faith?

How can Abraham's obedience inspire you to trust God's direction, even when it feels unclear?

Prayer:

Lord, give me the courage to follow where You lead, even when I don't fully understand. Help me to trust Your promises and to walk in obedience, knowing that You are faithful. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

A Covenant of Faithfulness

*"He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness."
Genesis 15:5-6*

Abraham's story reminds us that faith is at the heart of our relationship with God. When God promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, it seemed impossible—he and Sarah were advanced in age and without children. Yet Abraham believed, and that faith was credited to him as righteousness.

God's covenant with Abraham wasn't based on Abraham's actions but on his trust in God's word. This covenant points us to the same truth today: our faith, not our works, is what pleases God. Trusting in His promises, even when they seem beyond reach, allows us to experience His faithfulness and provision.

Reflection:

Are there promises from God that feel difficult to trust in your current circumstances?
How does Abraham's faith challenge you to take God at His word?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being faithful to Your promises. Help me to trust You, even when I can't see how Your plans will unfold. Strengthen my faith to believe in Your goodness and timing. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Faith That Moves Mountains

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

- Matthew 17:20



Faith doesn't have to be massive to make an impact. Jesus' comparison of faith to a mustard seed highlights the power of trusting God, no matter how small or insignificant our faith might feel. A mustard seed, though tiny, holds the potential to grow into a large tree, much like our faith grows when placed in God's hands.

This verse reminds us that it's not the size of our faith but the greatness of the God in whom we place it that moves mountains. When we trust Him with even the smallest step of faith, He works in powerful ways to accomplish what seems impossible.

Reflection:

What "mountains" in your life feel immovable right now? How can you take a small step of faith and trust God to do the rest?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for reminding me that even a small amount of faith can bring about big change. Help me to trust in Your power and to take bold steps in faith, knowing that You are able to do the impossible. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Dieter & Franci Jordan

My name is Dieter Jordaan. I've been married to Franci for 38 years, and together we've walked a remarkable road of faith and born in Johannesburg to a German mother and an Afrikaans father. I grew up speaking German, Afrikaans, and English fluently. My early years were spent in a German creche and school, which provided a solid foundation but also brought challenges. Rejection, loneliness, and ridicule were constants in my early life. I often felt isolated, even in the company of friends, and by the time I was in my thirties, I recognized these feelings as symptoms of depression, which became a struggle I carried for many years.

I grew up in the German Lutheran Church and attended faithfully until I was 33. When Franci and I married, I switched to the Dutch Reformed Church to accommodate the language barrier German posed for her. I became an elder and served for 12 years, yet something was missing. I was active in church and family life but lacked a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Discipleship was the turning point for me. When we joined His People church (now Every Nation Faith City) in 2004, I began to experience true spiritual growth. Through the guidance of André Nel and God's divine intervention, I embraced the baptism of water and the Holy Spirit in June 2004. It was not without challenges, Satan attacked me with intensified depression and jealousy. Yet, these trials refined my faith, reminding me that God's plans often unfold in His timing, not ours.

Since then, I've found purpose in serving at Kids Church and through "Character Kids", a weekly community outreach in Ikageng. My depression has subsided, and while storms still come, I have learned to rely on Jesus. He provides hope, healing, and the promise of freedom for eternity.

My name is Franci. I grew up in the Reformed Church, faithfully attending services as a child and an adult. Despite this, my understanding of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—was

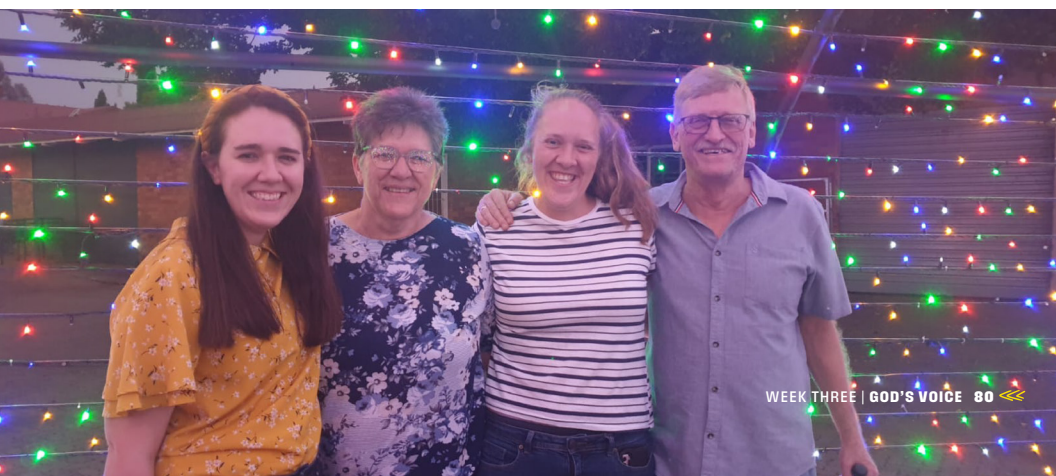
incomplete. Sunday school instilled a fear-based image of God as someone constantly watching and ready to punish. While I knew of God the Father and Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit remained a mystery, almost like a forgotten member of the Trinity. This changed when a colleague, Louise Buys, invited us to His People church now, Every Nation.

From the moment I walked in, I knew something was different. The people were warm and welcoming and genuinely invested in one another's lives. What truly stood out for me was the way the Word was presented. The sermon revealed a living, personal relationship with God, not just knowing about Him' but truly knowing Him.

In 2004, our family joined Every Nation, and I began to build my relationship with God and Jesus. Yet, my relationship with the Holy Spirit remained distant and that changed one special morning, through a life-altering encounter.

I usually park my bakkie under two large trees at work but on this particular day; I heard a clear voice instruct me to move my car to a covered parking lot. At first, I dismissed it, but then the voice came again. I reluctantly obeyed. Moments later, a massive branch fell where my bakkie had been parked and in that instant, I realized the Holy Spirit had spoken to me. This encounter sparked a desire to deepen my relationship with Him.

Since then, I've experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance in all areas of life like when my daughter Claudine struggled with a difficult academic assignment, we were truly at a loss. The next morning, ▶



I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit for help. Within moments, He provided clarity and examples we hadn't considered. That divine insight earned her full marks.

Through these experiences, I've learned the Holy Spirit isn't limited to spiritual matters. He helps with everyday challenges, providing solutions far beyond what we can achieve on our own. His guidance is abundant, offering more than just enough to get by.

Both our lives have been transformed by the power of God. As we've grown closer to Him, we've found healing, purpose, and a deep sense of peace. While life still brings challenges, we are no longer burdened by rejection, loneliness, or depression. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection have given us victory and the promise of freedom for eternity.

The Holy Spirit is not only with us now but will continue to guide us in the future. As we serve in the church and our community, we are reminded daily of God's love and faithfulness. Let us hold on to this truth: storms may come, but with Jesus in our lives, we can face anything. His sacrifice was more than enough to redeem us, and through His power, we have hope—for today and for the future.





Week Four

God's Invitation

God's Invitation

Isaiah 58:12, Matthew 6:33, John 10:27-28

1. God's Invitation starts with a _____

2. God's Invitation is sensed by His _____
Mark 6:37

3. God's Invitation requires _____

Why is it Hard to Give Up our Lunch?

1. It's easier to ignore others when we're

2. God often asks us to do things that don't make

3. God _____ what you offer Him

Three Levels of Giving

1. What can I _____ ?

2. What can I _____ ?

3. What can I _____
to do through me?

Connect Group Discussion Guide

XXX

God's Invitation

Icebreaker Questions

Fun: If you could invite anyone (living or historical) to dinner, who would it be?

Check-in: How is God inviting you to grow in this season of life?

Prayer Request: Is there an area where you feel God's invitation but need strength to respond?

Scripture Passage:

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.'"

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding the Invitation

Jesus invites all who are weary to come to Him for rest. What kind of burdens do you think He's referring to?

2. Learning from Jesus

Jesus describes Himself as "humble and gentle." How does this shape your view of who He is and the kind of relationship He offers?

3. Responding to God's Invitation

Why do you think it can be difficult to come to Jesus when we're burdened? What keeps us from accepting His invitation for rest?

Biblical Narrative:

The Calling of the Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22): Jesus invited ordinary fishermen to follow Him, transforming their lives in unexpected ways. This invitation to “follow” highlights how God often calls us into deeper relationship and purpose, just as He did with those first disciples.

Application Questions:

1. Reflecting on Burdens

What burdens are you carrying right now? How does Jesus’ invitation to rest encourage you?

2. Embracing Jesus’ Character

Knowing that Jesus is gentle and humble, how can you approach Him with your burdens this week?

3. Accepting the Invitation

How can you practically “come to Jesus” for rest? What steps will you take to embrace His invitation in your life?

Challenge for Growth:

WE ARE CALLED TO RESPOND: Choose one day this week to practice intentional generosity, whether it’s by buying a meal for someone, donating to a cause you care about, or offering your time to help a friend or neighbor. Reflect on how it felt to give and how you sensed God’s presence through this act.

The God Who Sees

"Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, 'You are the God who sees me.' She also said, 'Have I truly seen the One who sees me?'"
Genesis 16:13 (NLT) -

Hagar's story is a powerful reminder that God notices us in our moments of deepest despair. After being mistreated and fleeing into the wilderness, Hagar felt invisible and abandoned. Yet, God met her in that lonely place, offering her comfort and a promise for her son's future. Hagar responded by naming God "El-Roi" (The God Who Sees), reflecting her amazement that the Creator noticed her pain and cared enough to intervene.

In our own lives, we may face seasons where we feel overlooked or forgotten. Hagar's story assures us that God sees us clearly and completely, even when others don't. His presence is a source of hope, guiding and sustaining us through every trial.

Reflection:

Are there situations in your life where you feel unseen or unheard?

How can remembering "El-Roi" bring you comfort and assurance today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being the God who sees me. Help me to trust in Your care and to remember that I am never alone, even when life feels overwhelming. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Strength in Our Weakness

*"He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
- Isaiah 40:29-31*

Sometimes life drains us of energy, leaving us feeling powerless and overwhelmed. In those moments, God reminds us that His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Isaiah 40:29-31 paints a beautiful picture of how God sustains us. Even the strongest among us can grow weary, but those who wait on the Lord will find renewed strength, soaring like eagles above their challenges.

Waiting on God is not a passive act but an active trust in His power and timing. As we place our hope in Him, He equips us with the endurance and peace we need to face life's demands. His strength carries us through when our own strength fails.

Reflection:

Where in your life are you feeling weary or faint?
How can you practice waiting on the Lord and trusting Him to renew your strength?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being my source of strength when I am weak. Teach me to wait on You with trust and hope, knowing that You will renew and sustain me. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Plans Are Greater



"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

-Proverbs 19:21

We all make plans for our lives, envisioning the future and striving for goals we believe will bring fulfillment. Yet, Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that while our hearts may be filled with ideas and ambitions, it is God's purpose that ultimately prevails. His plans for us are far greater than anything we could imagine or design for ourselves.

Consider how often we experience detours or disruptions in our plans. Instead of seeing these moments as failures or setbacks, they can be opportunities to align ourselves with God's will. Trusting in His purpose requires surrender, but it also brings peace, knowing that His plans are always for our good and His glory.

Reflection:

Are there plans or ambitions you need to surrender to God?

How can you trust in His purpose even when it doesn't align with your expectations?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust in Your purpose above my own plans. Teach me to surrender my desires to You and to rest in the assurance that Your ways are always good. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Provision in the Wilderness

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV) - "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

We all make plans for our lives, envisioning the future and striving for goals we believe will bring fulfillment. Yet, Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that while our hearts may be filled with ideas and ambitions, it is God's purpose that ultimately prevails. His plans for us are far greater than anything we could imagine or design for ourselves.

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Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust in Your purpose above my own plans. Teach me to surrender my desires to You and to rest in the assurance that Your ways are always good. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Peace in the Storm

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

Life's storms often bring anxiety and fear, but Paul reminds us that prayer is the antidote to worry. By bringing our concerns to God with a heart of gratitude, we create space for His peace to fill our hearts. This peace doesn't depend on our circumstances but flows from knowing that God is in control.

When Jesus calmed the storm on the sea, He demonstrated that His power and presence bring peace, even in chaos. Similarly, when we trust God with our worries, He provides a peace that guards our hearts and minds, giving us strength to face any challenge.

Reflection:

What anxieties or worries do you need to surrender to God today?

How can you make prayer and thanksgiving a regular part of your response to life's challenges?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for offering me peace in the midst of life's storms. Help me to bring my worries to You in prayer and to trust in Your faithfulness. Guard my heart and mind with Your perfect peace. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Marcé Schoeman

I was born in Graskop and later relocated to Lydenburg ,where I grew up. When I was 10 years old, my parents divorced. At the age of 12, my mother and I moved to Benoni, where I lived until I moved to Potchefstroom to study.

I was raised in a Christian family, with a grandfather who was a pastor, so I grew up knowing about the Bible. Although my family didn't attend church often, I had an awareness and knowledge of God. I understood the religious concept of the Christian God, yet I didn't have a personal relationship with Him. I don't recall ever having an encounter with Him until the 10th grade.

When I was 16 years old, a friend and I were walking home when a man in a black overcoat approached us, asking for directions to a popular location. I was instantly skeptical when he started talking about a modeling opportunity at that location. As he continued speaking, he suddenly looked up and appeared startled, as though he saw a large man standing behind my friend and I. His demeanor changed; intimidation was evident on his face and body language. He stammered something about borrowing a pen, then quickly turned and ran away. When we looked behind us, we saw no one. That was my first encounter with the supernatural.



Throughout my life, my family faced continual challenges. Many well-meaning people encouraged me to keep praying and trusting that things would improve, but nothing seemed to change—if anything, things only got worse. I struggled with severe depression, and thoughts of suicide consumed me. Soon, I found myself trapped in a cycle of self-harming, which led to losing the little faith I had in God. I had so many questions that overwhelmed me like, Why do these things keep happening to me? Why is my family so broken?



Why do I struggle with such severe depression? Why doesn't God mend all the brokenness I keep begging Him to fix? Eventually, I concluded that even if God is real, He doesn't care about me. That's when I became an unbeliever.

When my first year of university began, I decided to give God one last chance and attended church for the first time in years. One specific Sunday, dressed in a pink dress, I joined a crowd of about 400 people at church. I didn't anticipate what would happen next, but God has a way of pursuing His lost sheep. The pastor, prompted by the Holy Spirit, stopped mid-sermon and said, "There's a girl sitting here in a pink dress..." I glanced around and realized I was the only one wearing pink. He continued, "I feel I need to tell you not to give your body to that guy."

I was stunned. A stranger had spoken directly to the very question I had been wrestling with in my mind. There was no way he could have known. At that moment, the reality of God struck me. My eyes were opened to a God who sees and loves me. God was no ▶



longer distant; He was within reach, stretching out His hand to me.

Naïve about the supernatural and the work of the Holy Spirit, I was frightened and didn't return to church for months. (I'm grateful the pastor used discretion and didn't call me forward; that would have been quite humiliating.)

Still, a single taste of God's reality drew me back.

I had to know Him. Three months later, I returned to church and surrendered my life to Jesus. He saved me!

In the months that followed, my faith grew through a connect group where I was discipled using the "One-to-One" book. I studied the Bible and dedicated time to intercession. I also learned about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and received this incredible gift that same evening. I still remember standing there, laughing and crying as I encountered God.

In that moment, everything changed. God broke the chains of severe depression that had gripped me for so long. He delivered me from addiction. That single encounter with the Holy Spirit freed me from years of struggle.

I could never be the same after encountering God. My heart now longs for others to experience Him—not just to hear about Him, but to meet Him personally. It became my passion to reach those who, like me, need an encounter with God more than an explanation of Him.

Currently, my husband and I are full-time vocational ministers in the Vaal, where we are planting a church. I am passionate about evangelism and equipping the church to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. My husband, Jurgens, and I are trusting God to open doors for us (along with our two boys) to take the gospel even further, reaching individuals in creative-access nations.

Week Five



God's Reward



God's Reward

Isaiah 58:12, Matthew 6:33, Mark 12:41-44

1. God sees past our gift to our _____

2. It's not about equal contribution - it's about equal

3. Obedience + Faith = _____

4. What you do to build God's Kingdom _____
Matthew 4:14-16

Three Levels of Giving

1. What can I _____ ?

2. What can I _____ ?

3. What can I _____
to do through me?



Connect Group Discussion Guide XXX

God's Reward

Icebreaker Questions:

1. **Fun:** If you could receive one unexpected reward this week, what would you want it to be?
2. **Check-in:** What is something you're currently working toward or hoping for in your life?
3. **Prayer Request:** Is there something specific you're seeking God's help with in terms of growth or progress?

Scripture Passage:

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Understanding Faith and Reward*

This verse highlights the importance of faith in pleasing God. What do you think it means to believe that God "rewards those who sincerely seek him"?

2. *Seeking God's Reward*

What kind of rewards does God offer to those who follow Him, according to Scripture? How might these differ from rewards we pursue in daily life?

3. *Desiring God's Presence*

How does the promise of God's reward inspire you to seek a closer relationship with Him, regardless of earthly rewards?

Biblical Narrative:

The Story of Abraham's Journey of Faith (Genesis 12-15, 17, 22): Abraham, called to leave his homeland, trusted in God's promise of a future reward—a family and a homeland, even when it seemed impossible. God's reward was not just in land and descendants but in a relationship with Himself. Abraham's journey reminds us that faith often involves trusting in God's unseen promises and finding our ultimate reward in God's presence and faithfulness.

Application Questions:

1. Reflecting on Rewards

When you think of “rewards” from God, do you tend to focus more on tangible blessings or spiritual growth? How might God be encouraging you to shift your focus?

2. Trusting in the Unseen

How can Abraham's faith inspire you to seek God even when you can't see immediate results? Is there something you're hoping for that requires trust in God's timing?

3. Commitment to Sincere Seeking

What are practical steps you can take this week to “sincerely seek” God in your life? How might this change your perspective on everyday challenges?

Challenge for Growth:

Let's do a GRATITUDE INVENTORY: Each day this week, write down three things God has provided for you—both big and small. At the end of the week, reflect on how these blessings make you feel and how they remind you of God's ongoing provision. Consider sharing one of these insights with the group next time you meet.

Walking in the Light

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."
1 John 1:7*

Walking in the light means living in alignment with God's truth and His presence. It's an intentional choice to pursue honesty, integrity, and love in our daily lives. When we walk in the light, we experience not only a deeper relationship with God but also meaningful fellowship with others.

The apostle John reminds us that walking in the light isn't about being perfect; it's about letting God's truth guide us. The blood of Jesus cleanses us, giving us the freedom to live openly before God and others. This freedom fosters unity and transparency in our relationships, reflecting the light of Christ to the world.

Reflection:

Are there areas in your life where you need to step out of the shadows and into God's light?
How can walking in the light strengthen your relationship with God and others?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for inviting me to walk in the light of Your truth. Help me to live with integrity and openness, trusting in Your forgiveness and grace. Use my life to reflect Your love to those around me. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Bearing Fruit in Every Season

*"He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."
Psalm 1:3*

A tree planted by streams of water has a constant source of nourishment, enabling it to thrive and bear fruit no matter the season. The psalmist uses this image to describe those who delight in God's Word and meditate on it day and night. Just as the roots of the tree draw strength from the stream, our spiritual growth and fruitfulness comes from staying connected to God.

Seasons of life can bring challenges or blessings, but when we remain rooted in God's presence, we are equipped to bear fruit in every circumstance. His Word provides the wisdom and strength we need to flourish, even when external conditions seem harsh.

Reflection:

What practices help you stay rooted in God's Word and presence?

How can you bear fruit in the season you're in right now?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being the source of my strength and nourishment. Help me to stay rooted in Your Word and to bear fruit in every season of my life. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

The Lord Is My Shepherd

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams."
Psalm 23:1-2*



The image of God as our shepherd is one of comfort and assurance. A shepherd cares for, protects, and provides for their sheep, and David reminds us that God does the same for us. In Him, we lack nothing. He knows our needs and leads us to places of rest and refreshment, even in the midst of life's challenges.

When we allow God to guide us, we experience peace that flows from trusting His care. His provision isn't just about meeting physical needs—it's about nurturing our souls and leading us into the abundant life He has prepared for us.

Reflection:

How have you experienced God's care and provision in your life recently?
In what areas do you need to trust Him as your shepherd today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for being my shepherd and providing for all my needs. Help me to trust in Your care and to follow where You lead. Let me rest in the peace of Your presence. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

1 Chronicles 29:5-6,9

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
- Psalm 119:105*



Navigating life's uncertainties can feel like walking in the dark. But God's Word provides clarity and direction, illuminating the path before us. Like a lamp that lights the way step by step, Scripture guides us, offering wisdom for each decision and comfort in every season.

God doesn't always reveal the entire journey at once, but He promises to give us enough light for the next step. As we meditate on His Word and allow it to shape our choices, we grow in confidence, knowing that He leads us with love and purpose.

Reflection:

In what areas of your life do you need God's guidance today?

How can you make time to meditate on His Word and allow it to direct your steps?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Word. Help me to trust in its guidance and to seek Your wisdom for each step I take. Let Your light shine on my path, leading me closer to You. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Be Still and Know

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
Psalm 46:10



In a world filled with noise and constant motion, God's call to "be still" can feel counterintuitive. Yet, this invitation to stillness is a reminder of who God is—sovereign, powerful, and present in every situation. Being still doesn't mean doing nothing; it means pausing to recognize God's authority and resting in His care.

Psalm 46 speaks of God's strength in the midst of chaos. When we quiet our hearts and focus on Him, we are reminded that He is in control, no matter what challenges we face. Trusting in His power allows us to find peace, even in the storm.

Reflection:

How can you create moments of stillness in your daily life to focus on God?
What does it mean to you to rest in the knowledge that God is in control?

Prayer:

Lord, teach me to be still and to trust in Your sovereignty. Help me to pause and recognize Your presence, knowing that You are at work in all things. Fill my heart with Your peace today. Amen.



What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

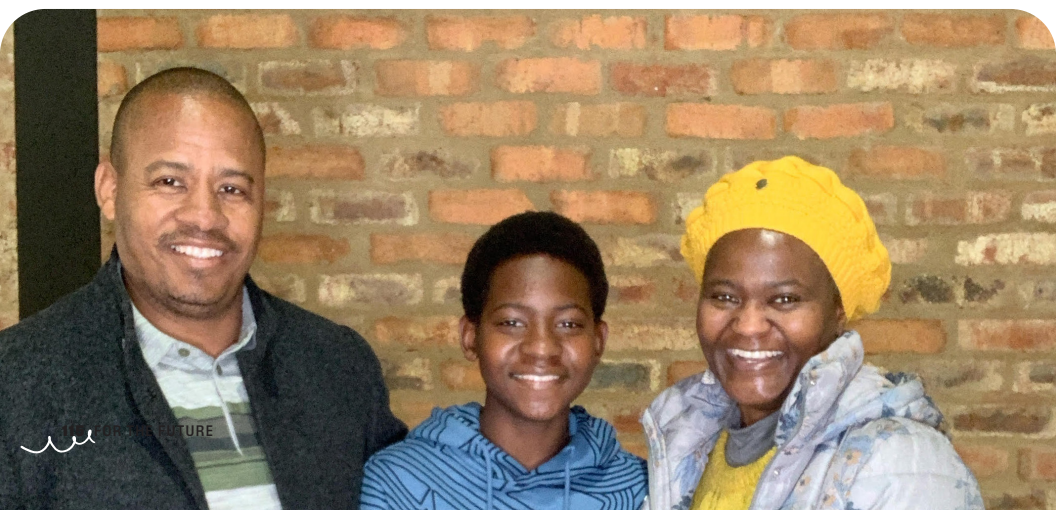
Talk to God about it:

Francis & Mwamba Gaelejwe

I am Mwamba, married to Francis, and we are blessed to have a 15-year-old son, Obakeng Jeremiah. Originally from Zambia, I was born in Luanshya and grew up alongside my three brothers and a sister. I am a qualified geologist, currently working as a project manager for Harmony Gold. My husband, Francis, grew up in Ganyesa, a village just outside Vryburg.

Francis: I spent much of my early years with my grandmother and great-grandmother while my mother was studying and completing her practicals. I never had a relationship with my biological father, which shaped me in ways I only came to understand later. Despite the challenges, I embraced every opportunity I had—whether in education, career, or personal growth—and worked hard to make something of my life.”

When we moved to Potchefstroom in 2012, we prayed earnestly for a spiritual family. One Sunday, while driving around searching for a church, we stopped at a traffic intersection and were drawn to Mooirivier Laerskool. At that time, the church was called, His People (now Every Nation Faith City). We walked in as visitors and



have called it home ever since. Over the years, we've witnessed incredible changes—from people coming and going to buildings rising from the ground—and it has been one of our greatest joys to be part of this journey.

Mwamba's Journey: My journey with Jesus began when I was 12 years old, led by my cousin, who introduced me to Him. Coming from a Christian family, I grew up with good values deeply entrenched in our lives. I spent much of my childhood with my grandfather, who was a farmer, and I loved helping him grow plants and create homemade goods to sell.

I was also very close to my brothers, spending most of our time together riding bikes, playing soccer, and inventing games. However, everything changed when I began dedicating more time to church activities. My newfound devotion became so consuming that my parents started expressing concern. Looking back, I realize how pivotal my cousins were in nurturing my faith and guiding my spiritual growth during those early years.

Francis's Journey: The road to faith was a different experience for me. "I grew up in a congregational church, specifically the UCCSA, but my faith only became intentional after I committed my life to Jesus and was baptized at Every Nation. Before then, I was what some might call a 'traditional Christian.' After surrendering to Jesus, I learned to lean on Him, asking God to lead me through life.

This shift matured the way I view blessings, challenges, and tough moments. It has given me resilience in the face of difficulties, particularly in my career. My wife's wisdom, combined with the support of the Every Nation family, has been invaluable in my faith journey. Serving others has become the cornerstone of my walk with God, trusting that He uses me to make a difference in His Kingdom."

Mwamba: "When I faced job insecurity and lacked confidence in my abilities, I turned to God and found comfort in motivational ▶



books inspired by His Word. Over time, I learned that God cannot be limited. I began experiencing His presence in the smallest moments through the words I heard, the relationships I nurtured, and the beauty of creation around me.

God revealed His wisdom to me, teaching me the secret of simply trusting Him as the source of all I need. I learned to rest in the assurance that He would never leave me nor forsake me, and that every challenge I faced was something He had already equipped me to handle.”

But not all struggles have been easy to bear.

After turning 40, my health began to decline, and I found myself struggling physically and emotionally. We have also faced the heartbreak of trying to expand our family. I’ve had four miscarriages, and though the pain has been overwhelming, I’ve come to terms with it by surrendering it all to Jesus. I’ve laid it at His feet and chosen to wait on Him, trusting in His plan.”

Both Francis and I agree that our relationship with God has been shaped by countless small but significant moments of change. Hearing God’s Word and seeing His transformative power in our lives has shifted our perspective on everything. It has changed how we view situations, how we relate to others, and how we approach life. The path has not always been easy, but it’s one we would choose again and again. Our journey has taught us to seize every opportunity to encourage others and to share what Jesus has done and continues to do in our lives.

The birth of their son, Obakeng Jeremiah, was a life-changing miracle.

God has been so good to us. He has carried us through every season whether times of joy or seasons of lack and uncertainty. From life-threatening situations to financial struggles that seemed impossible, we have seen God’s hand at work.

One line from a song has been an anchor for us: “God will make a way where there seems to be no way”. This promise has given us confidence to trust Him, knowing He works in ways we cannot see. He has always made a way for us, holding us close and giving us strength for each new day. Our encouragement for others is to trust God today to make a way for you, just as He has for us. He is faithful, loving, and ever-present in every moment of our lives.





Week Six

God's Economy

God's Economy

Isaiah 58:12, Genesis 8:22, John 12:24, Galatians 6:9

Three People in Every Crowd

1. Those who don't _____
2. Those who are _____ or _____
3. Those who want to _____
Matthew 13:18, 23, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
4. We experience God's miracles in our future through the process of _____
and _____
Galatians 6:7

The Process of Sowing and Reaping

1. We sow the seed that we _____
2. We sow seed _____
3. We sow with _____

Connect Group **XXX** Discussion Guide

God's Economy

Icebreaker Questions:

- 1. Fun:** If you could make one item free for everyone in the world, what would it be?
- 2. Check-in:** How has God been providing for you lately, in both big and small ways? (Let's look at our GRATITUDE INVENTORIES)
- 3. Prayer Request:** Is there an area of provision, finances, or stewardship where you need God's wisdom?

Scripture Passage:

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

"Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding God's Economy

This passage highlights the concept of sowing and reaping. What does this principle teach us about God's perspective on generosity and provision?

2. Cheerful Giving

What does it mean to be a "cheerful giver"? How can giving become an act of joy and faith rather than a duty?

3. Trusting God's Provision

God promises to “provide all you need.” How can this assurance encourage us to be more open-handed with our resources?

Biblical Narrative:

The Widow's Offering (Mark 12:41-44): Jesus watched a poor widow give two small coins—everything she had—into the temple treasury. He praised her for giving out of her poverty, unlike others who gave from their wealth. This story reminds us that God values the heart behind our giving more than the amount, and it challenges us to trust Him to provide when we give generously and sacrificially.

Application Questions:

1. Reflecting on Generosity

How do you feel about generosity in your life? Are there areas where you feel challenged to trust God more deeply?

2. Practicing Cheerfulness

What might it look like to be a “cheerful giver” in your daily life? How can you cultivate a heart that finds joy in giving?

3. Trusting God's Economy

God's economy operates differently than the world's. How can you practice relying on His provision and faithfulness this week, especially if you face financial pressures?

Challenge for Growth:

Set aside 20 minutes to go through your closet or storage, looking for items you no longer need but that could be a blessing to someone else. Donate them to a local charity or someone in need. As you give, thank God for the resources He's given you and pray for those who will receive them.

A New Creation

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) -



When we come to Christ, we don't just get a fresh start—we become a new creation. The transformation isn't just external; it's a deep, spiritual renewal. Our old ways, habits, and identities are replaced with a new purpose and life in Him.

This promise of being a new creation reminds us that our past does not define us. Through Christ, we are forgiven and empowered to walk in newness of life. Every day is an opportunity to live out this transformation, growing in the likeness of Jesus and reflecting His love to the world.

Reflection:

What areas of your life reflect the "new creation" that Christ has made you to be?

How can you embrace your identity in Christ more fully today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for making me a new creation through Christ. Help me to let go of my old ways and to live in the freedom and purpose You have given me. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Matthew 18:20

"Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."
2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT) -

Grace is one of God's greatest gifts to us. When Paul asked God to remove his "thorn in the flesh," God didn't grant that request. Instead, He reminded Paul that His grace was enough, and His power was perfected in Paul's weakness. This profound truth transforms how we see our struggles and limitations.

Rather than striving to appear strong, we can rest in God's sufficiency. His grace empowers us to face challenges, not by our own strength but through His. When we embrace our need for Him, His power shines through, turning our weaknesses into opportunities for His glory.

Reflection:

What weaknesses in your life can you surrender to God, trusting in His grace?

How can God's promise to Paul encourage you in your struggles today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your grace that sustains me in every circumstance. Help me to trust in Your power and to see my weaknesses as opportunities for Your strength to shine. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Faithfulness Never Fails



*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23*

In the midst of sorrow and despair, Jeremiah declared the faithfulness of God. Even as he witnessed Jerusalem's destruction and the suffering of his people, he clung to the truth that God's love and mercy are constant and unchanging. Each day brings new evidence of His care, reminding us that He is with us, even in the darkest seasons.

God's faithfulness is not dependent on our circumstances but rooted in His unchanging nature. He is a God of renewal, providing fresh strength, hope, and mercy for every new day. When life feels overwhelming, we can hold onto the promise that His faithfulness will never fail us.

Reflection:

How have you experienced God's faithfulness in your life recently?

How can you remind yourself of His steadfast love during difficult times?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your steadfast love and mercy that renew me each day. Help me to trust in Your faithfulness, no matter what challenges I face. Strengthen my heart to rest in Your promises. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

The Peace of God

*“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:7*

The peace of God is unlike anything the world can offer. It doesn't depend on perfect circumstances but is rooted in our trust in Him. When we bring our worries and needs to God in prayer, His peace acts as a guard, protecting our hearts and minds from fear and anxiety.

This peace “transcends all understanding,” meaning it doesn't always make sense in the face of life's difficulties. Yet, it is real and powerful, a gift from our loving Father. When we rest in His presence, we are reminded that He is in control, and we are never alone.

Reflection:

What worries or anxieties can you give to God in prayer today?

How can you intentionally rest in His peace, even when life feels uncertain?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the peace that comes from trusting You. Help me to surrender my fears and rest in the assurance of Your presence and care. Guard my heart and mind with Your peace today. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

God's Strength in Our Weakness

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."
Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) -



Life can bring moments when we feel weak, discouraged, or overwhelmed. In those times, God's promise to strengthen and uphold us is a powerful reassurance. He reminds us that we are never alone—His presence is constant, and His strength is sufficient to carry us through any challenge.

God's victorious right hand represents His power and authority. When we lean on Him, we are supported by the One who holds all things together. His strength doesn't just sustain us—it empowers us to stand firm, knowing that He is working on our behalf.

Reflection:

What challenges in your life are making you feel weak or afraid?

How can you trust God to strengthen and uphold you today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your promise to strengthen and uphold me. Help me to trust in Your presence and to rely on Your power in every situation. Fill me with courage and hope as I walk with You. Amen.

What is God saying to me?

How can I apply it?

Talk to God about it:

Debbie Mtshelwane

My name is Debbie Mtshelwane, and I was born and raised in Pretoria, where I completed all 12 years of my schooling. I deeply value Jesus, family, and friends and had a very happy, busy, and fulfilling childhood. In primary school, I played sports like netball, cricket, and basketball, and I was also active in public speaking, choir, and leadership roles. I served as a prefect in both primary and high school, experiences that significantly shaped who I am today.

When I arrived at North-West University to study on the Potchefstroom Campus, the house committee leaders shared information about the different churches on my first Sunday there. One of the churches, His People (now Every Nation Faith City), sounded like a place I'd like to visit. So, I went to the service, loved the worship, and found the message powerful. I knew this was where I wanted to be for the next season of my life. Well, I thought it would be only for 3 years, fast forward 15 years later... Sounds crazy saying it!





Coming to university was already a significant challenge due to financial constraints, but I trusted God to provide for my studies, and He did. I received a bursary from my first year onward, and when I felt God leading me to pursue an honors degree. He continued to provide financially through bursaries. God's provision and guidance extended through my master's program and into my PhD. A recent challenge has been my PhD journey, especially as I approach submission. This experience made me realize the importance of community, people who can stand by you during tough times, pray for you, support you, and sometimes even make you a meal. Sometimes we want to get through tough times on our own, be strong and have it all together and that is not God's picture for family!

I grew up in a Christian home and attended church regularly. I gave my life to Christ in Grade 11, but it wasn't until my first year of university that I realized my faith and relationship with God, there is more to this relationship with God, more surrender, more alignment. That God wants more than just me going to church and praying. God took me on a healing journey, starting with the pain of my father's rejection. He was never present in my life, and for years, I tried to win his love but was never accepted. For a long time, I believed that just as my earthly father didn't have time for me, God would be distant too. I knew he loved me, that He was a good father, but deep down I wasn't sold on that truth.

Over time, God began to reveal Himself as a loving Father. He affirmed me and reminded me that, unlike my earthly father, He would never reject me and would always be there for me. I realized that I had been viewing God through a distorted lens, and I am so grateful for Every Nation's spiritual family, the leaders that came before and those that are still part of this family, even those who served, disciples, and led connect groups so that students like me can experience God, His truth and love and be set free. Tools like the One-2-One and The Purple Book provided valuable insights and truths about God's heart, helping me see Him as He truly is.

Joining a connect group allowed me to keep sharing my journey, and to let God's word cleanse, heal, empower, and encourage



me. I am thankful for the gift of a spiritual family, which has helped me navigate life through connection, worship, and other transformative experiences. Multiple Victory Weekends have also enriched my journey, helping me to heal and find freedom.

When I was in primary school, I remember attending a CSV camp. During ministry time, one of the leaders spoke to me and shared more about the heart of God. I believe that was the moment when a seed was planted in me, which was then nurtured over the years through various encounters, church, and my spiritual family. This journey has been especially enriched through my time at Every Nation.

My goals for the future are to stay aligned with God's heart and His plans for my life in the areas where He has called me. I want to help others find and walk in their true identity in Christ and fulfill their God-given purposes. I believe that when you discover God's heart for you, you can live a full life filled with joy, hope, excitement, and expectation, continually dreaming with God and doing what He has called you to do. But, this life doesn't mean you are free from life's challenges, but when they come, remember who you are and whose you are. More importantly the gift of family/spiritual family is there to see us through those challenging times.

In my professional environment, I work with students, and I believe God has placed them in my life to journey with them, helping to shape and guide them as future professionals who will make a difference in the workplace. To continually bring light and hope where I'm planted. At church, I serve in the kids' ministry, where I



share God's word, sow seeds, and nurture young hearts. I also serve on the intercession and mercy teams; partnering with the heart of God in these areas has enlightened me to realise we all need each other, and we all have a role to play in the bigger family.

My journey has definitely taught me to always trust God, stay hopeful in all things, and remember that no matter how hard life gets, God will never leave you and is always in control. He loves and cares for you deeply.



