

BECOMING MORE *like* JESUS

CATECHISM

ANSWERING IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Happy New Year!!!

When looking back at the final five weeks of 2025, we were moved once again by the miraculous arrival of Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago changed everything.

Now, as the new year begins, we look forward to how this world-changing event can change us as individuals and as the family of God at Sequim Community Church.

In your hands, you have the Devotional for our 2026 "Becoming More Like Jesus" focus, *Catechism*. If you're unfamiliar, *catechism* is an ancient teaching method to instruct believers in the beliefs and practices of faith. A *catechism* consists of a series of important questions followed by an answer rooted in scripture.

In my two plus years at SCC, there have been numerous topics brought to Elders and Staff regarding Christianity and its integration into our daily lives. So, for the first five weeks of this year, we will immerse ourselves in these pressing issues.

Why am I here?

How can I know God?

Why should I be a part of a church?

How is my faith expressed beyond the walls of SCC?

Why should I serve others?

My hope, as we delve into these questions and answers, is that we will continue to grow into SCC's mission statement "Responding to God's love by inviting people to join us as we *become more like Jesus*."

Looking forward to what God has in store for us!

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff

Q #1: Why am I here? – January 4 sermon

A: God made me on purpose for a purpose.

Flowing from the Lord's character, God created me to be a recipient of his goodness and mercy. In response, I live my life loving God, bringing him glory, and loving others.

Q #2 – How can I know God? January 11 sermon

A: God is revealed in creation; I learn to know him personally through the Bible and through Jesus.

Believing God reveals himself through Scripture, I spend time reading it, praying it, and obeying it. Jesus makes me a new creation.

Q #3 – Why should I be a part of a church? January 18 sermon

A: It is where Jesus deepens my understanding of him and encourages, shapes, and anchors my faith.

Through worship, fellowship and small groups, God transforms forgiveness, godly living, and joy from ideas to integration.

Q #4 – How is my faith expressed beyond the walls of SCC? January 25 sermon

A: Jesus sends me into the world to express his love by telling others what he has done for me.

I've been given a unique story and life changing experiences. When shared from a motive of love, they invite questions, encourage dialogue, and direct people to Jesus.

Q #5 – Why should I serve others? February 1 sermon

A: God has shaped me to play a part in changing the world.

Through spiritual gifts, opportunities to care, and authentic relationships, God calls and equips me to love the world and make disciples.

CATECHISM: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

January 5-9, 2026
Five Daily Devotions

Week 1 Question: Why am I here?

A: God made me on purpose for a purpose.

Flowing from the Lord's character, God created me to be a recipient of his goodness and mercy. In response, I live my life loving God, bringing him glory, and loving others.



DAY 1 – January 5th

Genesis 1:27 - *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

Most people assume image is just an external visualization of our appearance. The truth is that image is more than what we see of ourselves in the mirror or even a perception of ourselves which the world describes as self-image.

God gave us his very own image so that restored by Christ we may walk about in communion with him, confidant within and having authority over every situation in life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

When we view ourselves, we must cease to identify with our sin, frailties and fallenness. We must identify with Christ living in us! The consequence of not walking in true awareness of our God-likeness is very expensive!

- We will fail to appropriate the promises of God for our lives
- We will walk by our limited reasonings
- We can never recognize the spiritual gifts that God has given to us
- We will always try to save our face or appearance
- We will never feel worthy to receive God’s grace
- We will find ourselves constantly making wrong decisions
- We will lose confidence in ourselves
- We will always be a receiver not a giver

(Adapted from: “Release to Realize your Destiny” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

What does it mean for me personally to be created in the image of God? How does this truth shape the way I see my identity, worth, and daily life?

In what specific ways can I honor God’s image in myself and others this week?

DAY 2 – January 6th

1 Corinthians 10:31 - *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

Asking “why?”, both to question and to understand the way things are, keeps us at a constant state of learning and growing. When we meet someone new, the curiosity attached to “why?” helps us build relations and strengthen communications. When we start a new job, knowing why they work the way they do prevents us from making mistakes and helps us thrive in the role. “Why” is an important question.

Yet, sometimes we make the mistake of forgetting to ask ourselves this very question: Why are we following a certain career path? Why did we choose a particular field in college? Why do we go to church every Sunday? Why do we pursue our passions? 1 Corinthians 10:31 tells us that everything we do, even what we eat and drink, should be for the glory of God. Colossians 3:17 echoes this, saying that all our words and deeds should be in the name of the Lord Jesus.

In this, the Bible isn’t asking us to give up everything that doesn’t directly serve God: no more sports, no more movies. Instead, it is gently reminding us that a passion for anything in this world won’t get us very far unless we first have a passion for Christ. We may enjoy many things, but what we decide to make our passion, what we spend time on and spend time for, needs to reflect to Christ in some way, shape or form. When we place our passion for Christ above all else, this won’t be so hard at all! Our love for him will automatically overflow into all other aspects of our lives.

(Adapted from “Purpose, Passion, Potential” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

What are three passions I currently hold and how could I bring God glory through them?

What is one relationship or responsibility where I can shift my focus from self-centeredness to God-centeredness?

DAY 3 – January 7th

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Paul says, “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.*” (Ephesians 2:8) This is what we've been talking about. The heart of it all. The beginning of it all. The doorway of all these things, that God has rescued you, forgiven you, declared you righteous, adopted you into his family, called you his own as a gift of his grace. Our question today is not about how grace works. The question is how do grace and discipleship fit together? Paul has the answer and it's amazing.

“*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ!*”

Workmanship in Greek translates to the product of an artisan. Have you gone to an opera or symphony? It's the greatest expression of these arts coming together, in a beautiful artistic way. That's the product of an artisan. God says we are his workmanship. God's been working on us, a masterpiece of His grace. We are his workmanship because we are saved. We are recreated, a new creation in Christ to do good works.

Where did the good works flow from? Grace is the doorway into how all good works and obedience become possible for us. Once he has rescued us by his grace and we have been found in Christ, we can spin forward in good works.

Grace is the seed of spiritual growth and maturity. It's free. It's secure. It's assured for you. It spurs you on towards intimacy with him and towards a life of joy and freedom.

(Adapted from “Grace—Simple. Profound” – a Bible app plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How does understanding that salvation is a gift of grace (not earned by works) reshape the way I see my relationship with God?

What is one area of my life where I've been striving to prove myself to God or others? How can I rest in God's grace and power instead?

DAY 4 – January 8th

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

John Piper says, to glorify God simply means to “reflect his greatness” or reveal his character to others. The Bible describes God in many ways, but it is his character of creative excellence that is perhaps most visible to us. You can’t stare out at the Grand Canyon and not marvel at the masterful work of God. You can’t go to a zoo without appreciating the creative supremacy of the Creator. And you can’t take a baby by its hand and not stare in wonder at the excellence it takes to make millions of cells form together to create life. How should we respond to God’s excellence? In short, we should seek to imitate and emulate it...As God’s redeemed children. As Christians, we can’t say we are seeking to love our neighbor as ourselves and then do our work with mediocrity.

We all have an opportunity to obey Jesus’s command to love our neighbors as ourselves by choosing to do excellent work that will truly benefit people by going the extra mile rather than just doing the minimum necessary. Excellence in our work is actually a form of generosity and love, and poor quality is a form of stinginess and selfishness. Shoddy work is not just shoddy work; it’s a failure of love.”

If we believe our work is a calling from God, we will “work heartily, as working for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23), seeking to glorify God and love others.

(Adapted from “The Ministry of Excellence” - a Bible app plan)

For Reflection and Prayer

What’s one way this week to intentionally love God with my whole being?

What is one practical act I can do for someone that reflects God’s love?

DAY 5 – January 9th

Colossians 3:12-14 - *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15). The peace of Christ rules our hearts. We are thankful people but not passive people. The gospel lives among us and asserts itself through us. The peace of God is not peace and quiet. We make peace by teaching each other and redirecting each other with God's wisdom.

Since we are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, we can clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. God gives us the power to bear with each other and forgive one another as the Lord forgave us! These virtues are ours to put on.

Spirit of the living Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with love. Thank you for making us your chosen people. Take charge of our thoughts and help us control our impulses. Help us defeat lust, evil desires, greed, rage, lies, and anything else that should be discarded remnants of our old selves. Help us put on our new selves, renewed in the image of our Creator. This is our faith. This is our hope. This is our victory in you. Amen.

(Adapted from "Jesus' Victory"- a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

What's one "virtue" I can intentionally put on this week, as if clothing myself with it each morning. How will I remind myself to practice it in daily interactions?

What is one relationship where forgiveness or patience is needed. What practical step can I take to extend Christlike love and restore unity?

CATECHISM: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

January 12-16, 2026

Five Daily Devotions

Week 2 Question: How can I know God?

A: God is revealed in creation; I learn to know him personally through the Bible and through Jesus.

Believing God reveals himself through Scripture, I spend time reading it, praying it, and obeying it. Jesus makes me a new creation.



DAY 1 – January 12th

Psalm 19:7 - *The law of the Lord is perfect refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

God reveals himself most clearly through Scripture, which is described as perfect and soul-refreshing in Psalm 19:7. The Hebrew word translated as “law” is Torah, meaning instruction, teaching, or divine guidance. The word translated as “statutes” means testimony that serves as a witness to God’s truth and reliability. Scripture is not merely information, it is used by God for transformation by means of instruction, guidance and testimony about his activity in the world!

When we open the Bible, we encounter the living God who speaks wisdom into our confusion and brings renewal to our weary hearts. God’s Word stands as a steady voice, reminding us that he is near and that his way leads to life.

Joshua 1:8 reminds us: “*Keep this Book of the Law (Torah) always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*”

Psalm 1:1-3 says: “*Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law (torah) of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever they do prospers.*”

Just as a tree planted by streams of water flourishes, so too do we prosper when we delight and regularly root ourselves in Scripture.

Reflection and Prayer

Psalm 19:7 says God’s Word is *perfect and refreshing*. In what ways have I experienced Scripture bringing renewal or clarity to my life?

Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 emphasize *meditation and obedience*. How does meditating on God’s Word differ from simply reading it?

DAY 2 – January 13th

Philippians 3:10 - *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

The question this week of how to know God is multifaceted. As we read yesterday, this begins with Scripture which is able to make us wise about the ways of God. We also know that God has revealed himself in creation. The Apostle Paul addresses this in Romans 1:19-20: when he says “*what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*”

Yet creation points us only so far; it is in Christ that we see God most clearly and personally. In 1 John 5:20-21 we have this spelled out clearly: “*We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*”

Knowing Jesus means recognizing him as God, delighting in his presence, and rejecting all idols that compete for our devotion. As we meditate on his Word and walk in his ways, we discover that knowing Jesus is the very essence of life itself. To know Jesus is more than intellectual agreement. It is a deep, experiential relationship that transforms our lives. True knowledge of Jesus is not abstract; it is lived out as we become like him in his death, surrendering our own will so his life may be revealed in us.

Reflection and Prayer

Romans 1:19–20 says God’s nature is evident in creation. What specifically has convinced me from creation that God is real and present? In what ways has Jesus clarified or reshaped my view of God (1 John 5:20-21)?

How have I shared in Jesus’ sufferings and the power of the resurrection? How can I relate to Paul in what he’s saying in Philippians 3:10?

DAY 3 – January 14th

2 Timothy 3:16-17- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

As we've stated several times this week, God reveals himself through Scripture, which the apostle Paul describes as *God-breathed* (other translations say "Inspired by God"). Scripture is not a human invention but the living breath of God, given to teach, rebuke, correct, and train us in righteousness. This training is accomplished in very specific ways. Again, it's not just the taking in of information. It is by Jesus being at work in our lives and transforming our hearts and minds.

Paul clarifies in Ephesians 2:22-24: "*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*"

Scripture reveals God's heart and simultaneously reshapes ours. Jesus clothes us in the "new self", created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Knowing God through his Word means allowing it to renew us daily, so that our lives become living testimonies of his truth. God not only reveals who he is but also who he is making us to be.

Through the Bible, God equips his people for every good work, shaping us into servants who reflect his character. Scripture is the means by which he makes himself known, showing us his holiness, his love, and his purposes for our lives.

Reflection and Prayer

2 Timothy 3:16–17 says all Scripture is *God-breathed* and equips us for every good work. How does this truth shape the way I approach reading the Bible?

Ephesians 4:22–24 speaks of putting off the old self and being made new. In what ways has Scripture revealed areas of my life that need renewal or transformation?

DAY 4 – January 15th

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

As we consider “training in righteousness”, the subject sacrifice inevitably comes up. Obeying Jesus always begins with surrender. Giving up a part of us we treasure, in exchange for something even more valuable. The Apostle Paul urges us in Romans 12:1–2 to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This act of worship is not confined to a church service. It is the daily choice to yield our desires, habits, and decisions to Jesus. Prayer becomes the way of this surrender, inviting God to renew our minds so that we no longer conform to the world’s patterns but are transformed by his truth. When we come to God in prayer, we discover the freedom of discerning God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will, aligning our lives with his purposes rather than our own.

This transformation is beautifully captured in 2 Corinthians 5:17: “*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*” Knowing Jesus means living out this reality—our old self (which we read about yesterday), shaped by sin and self-centeredness, is replaced by a new identity rooted in Him. Through prayer and following Jesus, we are continually renewed, becoming more like him in thought, word, and action. God reveals himself through this process, showing that true worship is not just what we say but how we live, following through with the good works God has for us.

For Reflection and Prayer

Romans 12:1–2 calls us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. What is one specific area of my life where I need to stop conforming to the world’s pattern and invite God to renew my mind?

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares that in Christ we are new creations. How does this truth reshape the way I see my identity and purpose?

DAY 5 – January 16th

John 14:6-7 - Jesus answered, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.*”

“If you really know me”: It is in this passage that Jesus defines the ultimate way to know God. It is by experiencing himself. Knowing involves a deep, personal understanding of his nature and mission.

“You will know my Father as well”: Here, Jesus asserts the unity between himself and the Father. This aligns with passages like John 10:30, “*I and the Father are one,*” highlighting the divine nature of Christ and his role as the mediator between God and humanity.

“From now on you do know Him” This marks a turning point in the disciples' understanding. Jesus is preparing them for a deeper revelation of God's nature through his impending death and resurrection. The disciples will come to know God more fully through the Holy Spirit, as promised in John 14:26. This also connects to the prophetic promise of a new covenant, where God will write his law on the hearts of his people (Jeremiah 31:33)

“and have seen Him.” Jesus concludes with a profound declaration of His divine identity. By seeing Jesus, the disciples have seen the Father, underscoring the incarnation. God made flesh. This statement is a fulfillment of the longing expressed in the Old Testament to see God (Exodus 33:20). Jesus embodies the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15) making the divine accessible to humanity.

(Adapted from “The Berean Study Bible”)

Reflection and Prayer

Jesus says he is *the way, the truth, and the life*. How does this exclusive claim shape my understanding of what it means to truly know God?

How can I reflect the truth that Jesus reveals the Father in my interactions with others?

CATECHISM: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

January 19-23, 2026

Five Daily Devotions

Week 3 Question: Why should I be a part of a church?

A: It is where Jesus deepens my understanding of him and encourages, shapes, and anchors my faith.

Through worship, fellowship and small groups, God transforms forgiveness, godly living, and joy from ideas to integration.



DAY 1 – January 19th

Proverbs 27:17 – “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Who’s giving you counsel? Consider those who surround you daily. Consider those who are sharpening you and challenging you in every area of your life. Who’s holding you accountable to pursue your God-given goals? Who’s helping you to achieve your God-given purpose?

We might be tempted to think we can grow by just listening to teaching or reading a book. But there is no replacement for purposeful, skilled, mature, and wise counsel. Do you have people around you during your most vulnerable and intimate times? Who do you rely upon to help you navigate critical decisions?

Iron sharpening relationships will reveal your character and expose your level of maturity. Are you surrounding yourself with those who are wiser or more skilled than you?

These are challenging questions: Can you name specific people who are sharpening you in every area of your life? Are you available to sharpen others too?

Carefully consider those who surround you daily. Pray and ask God for “Iron Sharpening” relationships. Ask God to surround you with people who are full of Godly wisdom, counsel and insight in every area of life.

(Adapted from: “Character Is Critical” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

Who has God placed in my life to sharpen my faith, and how have they done so? Who might I help as well?

What specifically am I hesitant to let others address in my life? What would be the benefit of letting someone walk alongside me in this area?

DAY 2 – January 20th

Acts 2:42 “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*”

The first church in Jerusalem was a community that shared with one another in all spheres - physically, spiritually, and emotionally. They met together daily in their homes and shared food. They came together and shared in worship. They sold their possessions and shared materially with anyone in need! But it's also clear they shared spiritually and emotionally. They shared the joy of leading new friends to Christ and the sorrow of watching others fall to persecution. They shared the pleasure of worship and communion, and the difficulty of sin confession, and repentance. They were a community of sharing, a community who fully knew *and* loved one another.

Could you describe your experience of SCC as a sharing community? Do you have two or three friends that relate to you in these ways? When you let people see the real you, including your life story, your sins, or the quirky part of your humor, then you open yourself up to the sort of community that God wants for you, a community of depth and realness and growth and deep joy.

The Apostle Paul, knowing our need, said *“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19*

(Adapted from: “Together” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

Which of the four practices (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer) most strengthens my faith today?

What practical step can I take to help someone else feel more “*rooted and established in love*” within SCC?

DAY 3 – January 21st

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

The word “spur” means to “stimulate strongly”, like the rider who reminds his horse to go faster! Christians first of all need to stimulate and remind each other in two areas: (1) Love: not an emotion but a choice, to act lovingly toward other believers. (2) Good deeds: works done for the good of others.

Believers also must not neglect meeting together. Some Christians (then as well as today) were not going to the church meetings. For whatever reason, these believers were trying to survive on their own. To withdraw from corporate strength is to invite disaster, like a soldier in battle who lags behind the rest of his platoon and becomes an easy target.

Finally, believers must encourage and warn each other. These words reveal that Christians are responsible for each other. Christians cannot be concerned just for their own spiritual well-being; they must also encourage others to keep fervent in their love and active in their service to God. This encouragement should happen especially now that the day of Jesus’ coming back again is drawing near.

Through the centuries, many Christians have been discouraged because they believed that Christ should have already returned. But Christ has not forgotten. This "Day" (Christ's return) is guaranteed!

(Adapted from: Life Application New Testament Commentary)

Reflection and Prayer

Who at SCC could I intentionally encourage this week?

How can I personally contribute to creating a church environment where love and good deeds are stirred up regularly?

DAY 4 – January 22nd

Ephesians 4:11-16 “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Jesus gave specially gifted people to the church with an ultimate goal of equipping God's people to serve. The word equip means to make right, like the setting of a broken bone, or to bring completion by training or restoring. As the members of the church are equipped to serve, they become mature and full in Christ. These acts of service are not only for ourselves, but also for the world, and through them an amazing thing happens: growth into the purposes God has for us.

God has given his church an enormous responsibility, to make disciples of every nation. This involves preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building and many other tasks. Fulfilling this command solo would be impossible. But God calls us as members of his body. No one should be a bystander, an observer. All this is to be done in love, for the glory of God.

(Adapted from: Life Application New Testament Commentary)

Reflection and Prayer

How does the image of the church as a body, “joined and held together,” challenge the idea of faith as an individual pursuit?

What gift or ability has God given me that could be used to build others up?

DAY 5 – January 23rd

2 Timothy 2:2 “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*”

In this passage the Apostle Paul was encouraging his protégé Timothy to be on the lookout for others he could pour his life into. When we hear the call in Matthew 28:19 to go make disciples, this is the process that Jesus was describing. He called several of his followers to be close to him for three years, to watch his life, and imitate his actions, and then go do what he did.

We each have more people in our lives than we realize who would appreciate this sort of attention, and would respond accordingly. Paul makes it simple. Look for reliable people to spend time with and multiply ourselves. In the early church, this is how the good news of Jesus spread across the world. It can be the same today among our family members and friends.

Starting this process is easier than we think. Find a couple of people you meet in the context of church activities, a small group, serving, or look at who God is giving you an affinity within your work, family, or community activities. Then begin to pray for who to challenge to engage with. It might mean doing a Bible app plan together, bringing a friend to Basic Beliefs in the Spring (our church's version of the Alpha Course) to help them work through questions about Jesus and the Bible, or perhaps doing a Discovery Bible study together. (If you need “equipping” for that, just talk to pastor Rick).

God may be opening a new door of opportunity tailor made for you and a few others. If you sense this is something that would be welcome, don't hesitate to reach out to a staff member at SCC, and get started!

Reflection and Prayer

How does this verse show that discipleship is not just about personal growth but about multiplication and legacy?

Who in my life could I intentionally invest in, passing on what I've learned?

CATECHISM: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

January 26-30, 2026

Five Daily Devotions

Week 4 Question: *How is my faith expressed beyond the walls of SCC?*

A: Jesus sends me into the world to express his love by telling others what he has done for me.

I've been given a unique story and life changing experiences. When shared from a motive of love, they invite questions, encourage dialogue, and direct people to Jesus.



DAY 1 – January 26th

Acts 1:8 “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

From the time of Abraham in Genesis 12 through the resurrection of Jesus, all of God’s focus has been on the Jewish people. But no more. With the Great Commission, at the end of each of the four gospels and in Acts 1:8, Christ sends us to all the peoples of the earth. Now we are called to Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

We are called across the street and around the world. We are called everywhere and anywhere. Our calling is simple: be witnesses for Christ. You are not called to be an evangelist. You are not called to be a preacher. You are not called to be a glib speaker. No, you are called to be a witness, someone pointing to Christ.

You are like a signpost pointing to Jesus. Just tell what you know. Tell what you have seen. Tell what he means to you. But you are not on your own, mind you. God will be with you, in you, beside you. He will empower you with the Spirit. So lean on His power, not yours. Depend upon the Spirit to guide you, strengthen you, and empower you.

When a big storm comes and you lose power in the house, it is no fun at all. You need the power. That is exactly the way our spiritual life is. Do we have power yet? Yes. We do have power. The power of the Spirit. Plug in!

(Adapted from: “The Power We Have Received from God” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How have I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit equipping me to share my faith story?

What is one practical step I can take this week to share what Jesus has done for me with someone outside the church?

DAY 2 – January 27th

Matthew 5:16 “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

We’re called the light of the world. Jesus wants us to be a shining beacon of light in the darkness, like a lighthouse guiding people back to safety, the safety of the Savior. The beauty of light’s nature is it swallows up the darkness.

When you light a match in the corner of a room, it doesn’t just illuminate a small corner, but the entire room becomes engulfed in a light. Our light is to be so bright it’s a spotlight on the Lord’s goodness.

Light represents truth. There would be no light without truth. Jesus calls himself the truth (John 14:6). As Christians, we’re called to speak the truth in love to an increasingly dark and hostile world. We live in a time where the culture calls good evil and evil good. When our Christianity mimics the darkness, or if we’re more concerned with blending in, we miss the opportunity to let our light shine like a city on a hill and display the character of Christ. God wants us to live in such a way that visibly attracts people to the beauty of Jesus.

Pause: Consider how you are salt and light in this world.

Practice: Pay attention to how you “do life” daily, walking in truth with compassion, grace, and love.

Pray: For help in demonstrating God’s light to a lost and broken world.

(Adapted from: “The Way of the Kingdom” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How do my actions and attitudes reflect the character of Christ to those around me?

What specific act of kindness or service can I do that will direct attention to God’s goodness?

DAY 3 – January 28th

Matthew 28:19-20 “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

We have the incredible privilege of being workers with God in making him known to others! Each of us has a particular part to play in helping others come to God. We are strategically placed by God in the midst of the world. We are given particular personalities and interests and gifts, and we are uniquely able to reach the people in our world. We are the representatives of God to the “worlds” we live in. All we need to do is love God, love people and be ourselves.

But here is a hard truth: God doesn’t have a “Plan B.” We are it. God is depending on us. Most people are not going to come to a church on their own. Jesus is sending us out to people who would never come in unless we invite them.

We have GO! This means reaching out in love to those far and near.

“Make disciples.” A disciple is a close, committed follower. Then “baptizing” and “teaching.” “Baptizing” means helping people to be incorporated into the life of the church. The church calls catechesis “Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded.” It is a lifelong process of learning more about God and gaining a deeper understanding of him.“ Behold I am with you always.” Jesus makes this special promise to us. He is always with us, loving us and loving others through us.

(Adapted from: “Commissioned - Chosen-Anointed-Sent” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

Have I responded to Jesus’s invitation to reach others with His love? What are the things that hold me back? Fear? Business? Lack of concern for others?

What practical step can I take to “teach” someone more about Jesus?

DAY 4 – January 29th

1 Peter 3:15 *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

In life, we all have to prepare for something. Maybe you are preparing for a trip or a project. No matter what, at some time or another, we need to have a plan in place.

Preparation removes fear and helps us get familiar with whatever we are doing. We're not anxious and we can perform any assignment God has given to us with the confidence that he's with us and has given us everything we need.

If we're ready to give an answer for our beliefs, this means we anticipate that we will be asked. Therefore, we practice that explanation by starting with our personal experience about the ways Jesus has made a difference in our lives. It's an answer from the heart. It should come easily and be natural to us. Then we also learn a few important Scriptures (for example Romans 6:23) to be able to anchor our experience in the Bible.

People who have not been able to experience how God has changed them want an authentic yet compelling answer. It feels like practice, but when we are fully convinced of God's love, the answer to why we believe genuinely flows. Our explanation is always prepared in our heart. We're ready with our answer for why we have hope in our faith and always ready to explain our trust in what Jesus has done for us.

(Adapted from: “Core Ideas to Integrate Faith and Work” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How has my personal story of hope in Jesus prepared me to answer questions from others?

Who in my life might be curious about my faith, and how can I be ready to respond with love?

DAY 5 – January 30th

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 “*God... reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*”

Jesus’ life, death and resurrection truly is the greatest love story of all time. This story is simply too beautiful, too powerful and too important to be kept to ourselves. God has a unique and wonderful plan for your life. He also has a unique and wonderful plan for every person that you meet, many of whom are yet to know their Savior and discover their true identity, purpose and destiny.

As a believer of Jesus, you carry a message, the very message that can connect each person with their heavenly Father, the message of reconciliation. As we constantly receive and explore God’s amazing love for ourselves as individuals, we must also give attention to the outworking of this in our lives, so that we can bless those around us and point them to Jesus as well. God has created you with a unique personality and skill set, which means you are uniquely positioned to bring his message of reconciliation in a way that no one else can.

Pray for the people in your world and expect the unexpected! Believe for those who do not yet know the Lord to start thinking and asking questions. As you create a space in your heart to remain open to the opportunities God gives you to share his love, you are partnering with him in revealing his love.

(Adapted from: “Sharing God” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How does seeing myself as Christ’s ambassador shape the way I interact with people outside the church?

In what ways have I personally experienced reconciliation with God, and how does that story equip me to share with others?

CATECHISM: BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

February 2-6, 2026
Five Daily Devotions

Week 5 Question: Why should I serve others?

A: God has shaped me to play a part in changing the world.

Through spiritual gifts, opportunities to care, and authentic relationships, God calls and equips me to love the world and make disciples.



DAY 1 – February 2nd

Micah 6:8 “*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

To understand this passage more fully, we need to look at what came right before: “*With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*” Micah 6:6-7

Humanity has been asking the same questions for a long time. Different words maybe, but the same question. What pleases God?

What is it? “*what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

Faith touches every area of our existence. Our actions, what we love, and how we go through life are the signs that we are living in communion with God. As we contemplated yesterday, Jesus said “surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

Our tendency to compartmentalize our lives will not work. If our thinking is he only cares about one sliver of our lives, that isn’t helpful. He cares about our behaviors. He cares about our hearts. He cares about the “way” we walk through life. And he is with us through it all!

(Adapted from: “Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

How do justice, mercy, humility, and disciple-making together reflect God’s larger purpose for shaping my life?

Who in my circle of influence might be drawn closer to Jesus if I intentionally serve them with love and care?

DAY 2 – February 3rd

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Believers are not called “leaders” in Scripture, they’re referred to as servants. As Jesus’ disciples, we’re commanded to sacrifice all for the cause and kingdom of Christ. And the beautiful thing about Jesus is that he isn’t commanding us to do something he didn’t do.

Jesus shows us how to live a life of service by doing the very same for us. Jesus gave it all up for us (2 Corinthians 5:21, 8:9; Philippians 2:5–8), laid down his life willingly (John 10:18), got into the muck and the mess (Mark 5:25–34, 7:33; John 9:6), and served with love, joy, and compassion (Mark 6:30–44; John 13:1–17). Jesus laid down his life to save us, and he calls us his people saved by his work to lay down our lives (our old ways, our selfish desires, ambitions, agendas, and will) for him, his will, his kingdom, and his purpose.

It’s such a privilege to be a believer. We get to follow the example of our Savior, to live for and be part of something so much greater than we could imagine. We get to be used by God to bring people into salvation and lead them into the hope of eternity. We get to follow in the footsteps of our King and Lord—and all it takes is us laying down our less than lives for a greater kingdom and purpose! Praise Jesus for this glorious call.

Ask Jesus, to help you walk in service and humility, to cast aside selfish desires, ambitions, and plans for the sake of his kingdom and his purpose.

(Adapted from: “Mark: the Power of a Living Example” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

Jesus laid down his life for me. What does it mean for me to lay down my life for him and his kingdom?

What act of humble service can I intentionally do this week that reflects Jesus’ servant-heart?

DAY 3 – February 4th

John 12:24-26 “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”

The picture of a kernel of wheat reveals the necessary sacrifice of Jesus. When a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, it actually dies before becoming a mature blade producing many new kernels. In the same way, Jesus, by his death, produced more fruit than could have been gained had he become the king of Israel on an earthly throne.

True followers of Jesus must have their priorities in order; if they choose to love their life more than their Master, they will lose the very life they seek to maintain. To follow Jesus means going the way he went—not the way of earthly power and honor—but the way of humility and perhaps even death. Everything Jesus did was for God's glory. This does not mean we have no fun, no joy, no security. Rather, it simply means we live to honor God and then the Father will honor us.

The honor from God that Jesus promises may, in fact, be partly experienced in this life, but never entirely. And for many believers, what God has planned by way of honor we can only guess. Meanwhile we can derive real comfort and security from knowing that God observes and remembers each and every act of service we do in his name. None will be forgotten.

(Adapted from: Life Application New Testament Commentary)

Reflection and Prayer

What area of my life might need to “die” (self-interest, pride, comfort) so that I can serve others more fully?

What specific act of service can I do that may feel costly but will plant seeds of life and hope in someone else?

DAY 4 – February 5th

Philippians 2:3-5 “*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.*”

Members in the Philippian church were causing discord by their attitudes or actions. They desired recognition or distinction, not from pure motives, but merely from being selfish. Those kind of people cannot work with others in the church in like-mindedness and love. When people are selfishly ambitious and trying only to make a good impression, they ruin a church's unity.

While selfish ambition and conceit can ruin unity, genuine humility can build it. Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves in relation to God (see Romans 12:3), which in turn gives us a correct perspective on our relationships with others. Being humble does not mean that we should put ourselves down. Instead, humility is a healthy respect for who God is, and then a healthy respect for ourselves because of what God did on our behalf. Thinking of others as better than ourselves means that we are aware of our own failings and are thus willing to accept failings in others without looking down on them.

A sure cure for selfish ambition is appreciative recognition of others' good qualities and their walk with the Lord. It is easy to get caught up in competition, aggressive acquiring, and vying for our own rights and needs. But compared to knowing Christ, those interests seem shallow. We need Christ's attitude of self-sacrifice to look beyond ourselves to the needs of others.

(Adapted from: Life Application New Testament Commentary)

Reflection and Prayer

What does it mean to “value others above myself” in practical, everyday situations?

What is one area of my life where I can intentionally put someone else's needs ahead of my own?

DAY 5 – February 6th

1 Peter 4:10-11 “*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen*”

What spiritual gifts or talents has God entrusted to you? How can you use these gifts to serve others in your community or church? Our gifts are meant to be used for serving others. This is how we practice true stewardship. When we serve, we are not only helping those around us but also fulfilling God’s command to love and care for one another.

There are various types of gifts, broadly categorized into speaking and serving. Whether our gifts place us in the spotlight or behind the scenes, each role is vital in God’s kingdom. It is important to remember that every gift, no matter how seemingly small, is valuable and necessary.

Peter says we serve so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Our ultimate goal in using our gifts should be to glorify God. When we serve others with a heart focused on God’s glory, our actions become a powerful testimony of his love and grace. Serving is not just a duty but a form of worship that honors God.

Recognizing that our gifts are specifically coming from God should dramatically change the way we view serving others!

(Adapted from: “Stewards of God’s Grace” – a Bible App plan)

Reflection and Prayer

What does it mean to “faithfully steward God’s grace in its various forms” in my daily life?

How can I ensure that my service is motivated by the desire to glorify God?