ONE 🕂 LIFE



NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO ACCOMPLISH

infinitely more

THAN WE CAN ASK OR THINK.

EPHESIANS 3:20 NLT

O N E 👇 L I F E

One Life is our church-wide Kingdom Builders journey to inspire us to live and give beyond ourselves. This journey includes a six-week message series, small group experience, and daily devotionals. No matter where we are in our personal walks with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring each of us to take our next step and do our part in reaching the one. Together, we'll grow in our relationship with God and build our faith as we look beyond where we are to the place He's calling us to go.

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE STARTS WITH The one

Our Spiritual Journey

I want to start by saying thank you for going on this Kingdom Builders journey with us called One Life. Since the beginning of Element Church, we have taken multiple faith-filled journeys together. These ventures have been woven into the fabric of our entire community—embraced by adults and cherished by our youth and our little ones. We do this because we believe there is something God wants to do in every one of us as we join in this life together.

This One Life series is such an important step for us as a church. My prayer is that it would not just be a step for our church, but it would be a personal step for you in your own walk with God.

One Life includes three vital parts, that I want to invite you to participate in. First, there is the Weekend Message Series. Please come each week during this six-week series. Second, join a Small Group. Going on the journey with others is so important to your growth. And finally, use this Guide. What you're holding in your hand is your key to the entire One Life journey. In the guide you'll find places each week to take notes during the weekend messages. You'll also find your Small Group discussion questions as well as a Daily Devotional we'll read together over the next six weeks.

The devotional takes place five days a week, Monday-Friday, beginning Monday October 7, 2024. Spend a few minutes each day reading and reflecting on the questions. Don't worry, there is a space on each page where you can write down what God is saying to you every day.

Thank you again for committing to go on this journey with us. I'm praying that you would encounter God in a new and amazing way.



Dastor Erik and Sunny

Table of Contents

- 8 How to Use This Guide
- **10** Our Vision
- **12** Expansion Overview
- 20 Your Opportunity
- 22 Key Dates & Times
- 26 WEEK 1 Infinitely More
- 44 WEEK 2 God's Perspective
- 62 WEEK 3 God's Voice
- 80 WEEK 4 God's Invitation
- 98 WEEK 5 God's Reward
- **116** WEEK 6 God's Economy

How to Use This Guide

Weekly Message Notes

Each week begins with blank pages to take notes during the weekend messages. Use these spaces to jot down anything God speaks to you during the message series.

Small Group Questions

Next, you'll find The Big Idea, Things to Remember, discussion questions you'll use at your Small Group during the week, some Next Steps, and, lastly, Key Verses. Be sure to bring this Guide with you to your Small Group!

Daily Devotional

Finally, you'll find the devotional we'll all read together as a church over the next six weeks. The devotional takes place Monday-Friday beginning Monday October 7, 2024. We encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting on the questions at the end of each day. There is a place where you can write down anything God may reveal to you during this time.

Stories of The One

Throughout the guide, you'll find stories of changed lives from our own people at Element Church. These stories are a reminder of the incredible things God is continually doing through our church to reach people and build lives. We hope these stories inspire and encourage you as you go on this journey with us!

Wanting to Share Your Story? Reach Out to Us!

Be sure to let us know what God speaks to you during One Life. Share your thoughts and stories with us at elementchurch.com/shareyourstory

Our Vision

Element Church began with a group of 30 people who were on a mission to create experiences for life change. With our first service in January 2006, Element Church has grown from those first 30 people to 3,000 weekly attendance and over 6,000 members that call Element their home.

We never want lack of room to dissuade someone from taking a seat at our table. Our growth has become an opportunity to expand our main campus to meet the needs of our community and our ministries so that we can continue to serve. The purpose of Kingdom Builders One Life is to help us take hold of God's calling of Element Church and ensure our future is one filled with stories of life change, and an empty seat remains available for each new person who walks through our doors.

But we believe this is just the beginning of what God has in store for us. We are so excited you are on this journey with us. Together, let's make room for others to join us in all that God is doing at Element Church.

WELCONHOME

Our Journey So Far













CORE TEAM June 2005

LAUNCH AT YMCA January 2006

EAST AUDITORIUM 2010

CURRENT AUDITORIUM August 2012

ST. CHARLES CAMPUS March 2018

WARRENTON CAMPUS January 2024

Expansion Overview

Total Project Cost: \$10M

With the steady growth of our congregation, we are finding ourselves at capacity. However, there are still adults, students, and kids who need Jesus and a church home like Element. So, simply saying "we're full" is not an option. We want to continue providing space to reach the one.

One Life begins in 2025 with the goal of raising \$10M to fund the project and begin utilizing the new spaces by 2027.

KIDS SPACE

- World Class Environment Designed for Spiritual Growth
- Fun & Inviting
- Upgrades at All Three Campuses

YOUTH SPACE

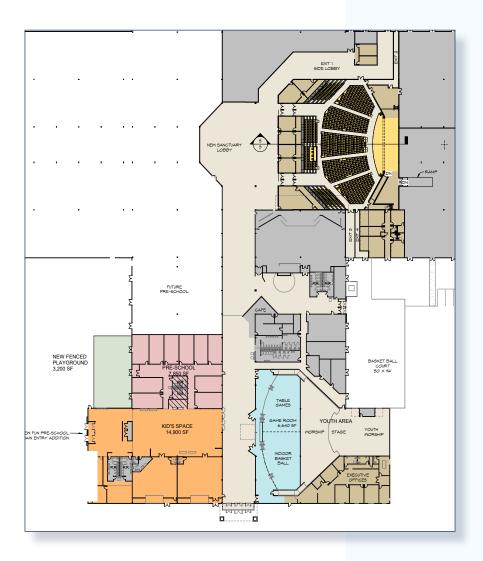
- Dedicated Youth Auditorium
- Dedicated Youth Lounge
- Age Appropriate Environment for Spiritual Growth

AUDITORIUM

- Building a New 1,600 Seat Auditorium
- State of the Art Worship Experience
- Service Viewing Rooms for Special Needs Families

GATHERING SPACE

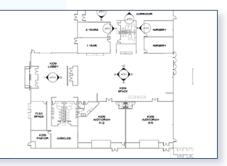
- Enhanced Lobby Areas for Connections
- New Classroom Spaces for Spiritual Growth



Kids Ministry

Element Kids is being expanded and renovated to create a vibrant, safe, and engaging space for our little ones in our Wentzville, Warrenton, and St. Charles campuses. Our kids future of the church, and we want to provide an environment where they can safely learn about God's love in a fun and interactive way. The new space will feature age-appropriate play zones and upgraded amenities to ensure parents can worship with peace of mind, knowing their children are in great hands.









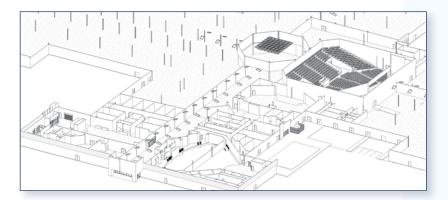








Auditorium





Our auditorium is undergoing a significant expansion to accommodate up to 1600 seats. This project is driven by our growing congregation and our desire to welcome more people into Element Church. By increasing our seating capacity, we aim to provide a space where everyone can come together to experience powerful worship, inspiring messages, and a sense of belonging. We never want lack of space to be the reason someone doesn't have the chance to have a personal experience with God. In addition, we will create designated areas for those with special needs if they should ever need it. Our heart behind this expansion is to create more room for people to encounter God and connect with one another.

Gathering Space

The Gathering Space is being reimagined as the central hub of connection and fellowship within Element Church. This renovation will introduce comfortable seating areas, an inviting cafe, and ample space for conversations and community events. We recognize the importance of building relationships and fostering a sense of family within our church, and this new space will provide the perfect setting for people to connect before and after services, share a cup of coffee, host a small group, and build lasting friendships.







Youth Area



Our Element Youth Area is getting a dynamic makeover to better serve the needs of our middle and high school students. This renovation will include an updated worship space, game rooms, and areas designed for both large group gatherings and small group discussions. We are committed to investing in the next generation by creating an environment where young people can grow in their faith, build strong relationships, and feel valued and supported. The heart behind this project is to inspire and equip our youth to live out their faith boldly.





Daycare & Preschool

The Daycare and Preschool areas are being expanded and updated to provide a nurturing and educational environment for our littlest ones. We understand the critical role early childhood education plays in a child's development, and our goal is to offer a top-notch program that supports both children and their families. This renovation will include new classrooms, outdoor play areas, and resources to enhance learning experiences. Our desire is to offer a safe and loving place where children can thrive and parents can feel confident in the care their children are receiving.







Your Opportunity

The One Life campaign is a 3-year journey designed to impact our community for Christ. We recognize this is a God-sized task far beyond the ability of any one person. Reaching our need of \$10 million will take sacrifices from all of us. What you are holding in your hand is a challenge to be prayerfully and financially involved in the vision of Element Church.

You have the opportunity to make a pledge over and above your regular tithes.

Pledge cards are available to help you do so.

To help you calculate your pledge amount, you can use the worksheet on the next page.

If you're feeling a little hesitant, we encourage you to pray and ask God for guidance and clarity on what your role should be during this time. As you begin to pray about how much God might want you to give, we encourage you to embrace this as a spiritual journey with God. We believe that God is going to bless you above and beyond your wildest expectations even as you step out in faith with us into the future of our church family.



THIS WORKSHEET SHOWS THE IMPACT YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE OVER 3 YEARS.

TOTAL GIFT	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
\$1,000,000	\$333,333	\$27,778	\$6,410
\$750,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$4,808
\$500,000	\$166,667	\$13,889	\$3,205
\$250,000	\$83,333	\$6,944	\$1,603
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$2,778	\$641
\$75,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481
\$50,000	\$16,667	\$1,389	\$321
\$25,000	\$8,333	\$694	\$160
\$10,000	\$3,333	\$278	\$64
\$5,000	\$1,667	\$139	\$32
\$2,500	\$833	\$69	\$16
\$1,000	\$333	\$28	\$6

LIKEWISE, I SAY TO YOU, there is joy IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD OVER ONE SINNER WHO REPENTS.

LUKE 15:10 NKJV

Making Room For The One

Key Dates & Events



Campaign Goals

- \$2.5M Raised Kids Expansion and Upgrade
- \$5M Raised Larger Auditorium
- \$8M Raised Designated Youth Space Indoor/Outdoor
- \$10M Raised Project Completion

Christie's Journey

Christie Schrader, like many millennials, was raised in the church, growing up Catholic and fully immersed in religious activities. Her life took a sharp turn at 15 when she developed a 24-inch blood clot in her lea, ending her soccer career and nearly claiming her life. To cope with the physical pain and loss of control, she developed an eating disorder that she kept hidden until after college. This need for control defined the next 15 years of her life, leading her to isolate herself from loved ones and grow distant from God.

"I had so much pride—only feeling satisfied when I achieved something and received praise. I wanted to feel good enough. The more praise I got, the bigger my ego became, and the harder I worked. Nothing else mattered to me," Christie recalls. Despite convincing herself she was happy and fulfilled, she was plagued by anxiety and insecurity, moving from one broken relationship to another. Then, she met Eddie, her future husband, and everything changed.

"I knew on our first date that he was the honest-to-God answer to my prayers—and I wanted to be worthy of him. And I knew that the only way I could hope to be the person he deserved was by giving my life to Jesus. So I did."

Christie and Eddie were invited to Element Church by his sister and family, attending their first service at the 2022 Christmas candlelit event. The simplicity and focus on Jesus during the service deeply impacted Christie, reshaping her understanding of a relationship with Him. No longer was Jesus an "untouchable figure IN A MOMENT OF CLARITY, **CHRISTIE SURRENDERED**. SHE RELINQUISHED HER VISION OF A FULFILLING FUTURE AND EMBRACED THE ONE GOD HAD IN STORE.

floating on a cloud," she realized that a relationship with Him was meant to be tangible and personal, something she had never been taught growing up.

However, this new commitment to Jesus came with its own challenges. "Almost immediately after Eddie and I met and started to pursue God together, my career started accelerating and my pride became a bigger problem. I was being tested and failed completely over and over again, while my husband practiced endless patience as he lovingly convicted me—though I fought him every step of the way."

Christie eventually understood that staying on her current path would lead to losing the man and future God had planned for her. She recognized the importance of submission and surrender, values often dismissed in today's culture, but she saw them as the keys to true freedom and strength. surrendered. She relinquished her vision of a fulfilling future and embraced the one God had in store. Within months, she left the corporate world, began working at Element Church, bought a house with Eddie, and now they are expecting a baby this Christmas—a little miracle they never thought possible.

Since their first visit, Christie and Eddie have been regular attendees of Element Church's 9am Sunday service, actively involved in Team Element and Life Groups, and were baptized together. Their evenings are now dedicated to cooking dinner, praying, and reading the Bible together.

"Now I just want to be a wife, a mom, and a friend who others see as wise, graceful, and kind. I want Eddie to be a husband, a dad, and a friend who is seen as stable, disciplined, and strong. And I want our children to have a hand in helping the world come to God. The rest will take care of itself."

In a moment of clarity, Christie

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY



INFINITELY MORE



Message Notes

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

Each of us during our life journey encounter defining moments and these moments determine the course of our lives. Why? Because they require us to choose. In the Christian life, the choices are clear. Will we choose to live our way or will we choose to live God's way. Our choice will determine whether our lives are mundane or infinitely more than we could ever imagine.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"The world around us is shouting for our attention with answers to our search for meaning; but only when we join God's Work & Mission will we ever really be satisfied."

"When you surrender your life to Jesus, you are no longer an image of God but a son or daughter of God."

"Every time God's church expands, God brings infinitely more into our lives."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **DISCUSS** Does living God's way always require surrender? Explain.
- 2. **DISCUSS** Has there ever been a moment in your life when you fully surrendered to God and His ways? Tell us about it.
- 3. **DISCUSS** When God asks you to surrender, He always has your best interest in mind. Have you witnessed this in your life? How does that help you trust Him more?

NEXT STEPS

Be intentional this week. Make a conscious decision every day to live God's way. Choose to rely on prayer and faith. Lean into spiritual family and surround yourself with others who want the best for you, not from you. When things feel out of your control, be reminded that God is in control of your life and will always have your back

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, Matthew 6:33, Revelation 1:6-8, John 1:18, John 3:16, Hebrews 11:16

Monday Devotional

Now to the one who can do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us.

EPHESIANS 3:20 ISV

Have you ever received a gift or experienced a surprise that you didn't expect? Think back to the feeling you experienced at that moment. Really let it wash over you. Now think a little more about the fact that what God wants to do in you, for you, and through you will blow away even the most amazing surprises you've ever experienced. But like most things that come from God, it requires our participation, and it takes faith. One of the things about this passage that builds the most faith is that Paul is praying that the "infinitely more" that God has for His people will be felt throughout future generations.

When you think about God doing more than you could ask or imagine, do you think about future generations? Are you limiting your expectations of God to what you perceive or hope for? Letting the power of God work through you means that you have to believe for more than seems possible. As it has been said, if your dreams are within your reach, your dreams are too small.

Before you wrap up, take a moment to pray and ask God to increase your faith. Pray for His power and strength to overwhelm your natural mind and inspire you to believe for the unbelievable.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 33

Tuesday Devotional

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation."

MATTHEW 6:33 NIV

We live in a time where so many things pull us in so many different directions all the time. While it's easy to blame it on the pace of modern society, the truth is we get pulled often because we want to be. While you may be getting pulled more and more into work, hobbies and family, the reality is much of what we chase after is out of order. What the Bible teaches is that there is an order to what we seek after. And it all starts with seeking first His kingdom. But what does that mean?

It can mean a lot of things, but it certainly means putting your focus on God's word, God's will, and God's ways. It means prioritizing time in the word each day. It means praying and talking to Jesus more than you talk to anyone else. It also means prioritizing your time with spiritual family. Part of seeking first His kingdom means putting Him first with your time, talent, and treasure. It means faithfully, joyfully and consistently giving back to the Lord from what He has given you. It means showing up and worshipping and growing together. And it means inviting the Holy Spirit into your decisions.

So today, choose to put God's Word and His Kingdom first. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what in your life is coming ahead of His kingdom. He will show you what is out of order; your job is to respond in faith and reorder your life with everything behind the Kingdom.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Wednesday Devotional

And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief.

MATTHEW 13:58 NLT

Have you ever really considered that even Jesus was limited in what He could do because of the lack of faith in the people around Him? It's deep to really meditate on that, but it is absolutely true. Jesus, the son of God, was limited because of a lack of faith. It's important we understand that the limitation was not on the power of God but in the participation or lack thereof from people. While God is all-powerful and able to do whatever He wants, He chooses to work in and through people more than anything else. Oftentimes God is ready to move, but He needs someone to move through. He needs someone to believe and say yes, and that is still true today. God has so much more in store for you than you could possibly imagine, but you have to be ready to participate.

Take a moment and pray that God would increase your faith and that He would show you where there is a lack of faith. Ask Him to remove any barriers of unbelief in your heart and mind and overwhelm you with faith for more! May it be said of you that God did many miracles in and through you because of your great faith!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 37

Thursday Devotional

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

GALATIANS 3:26 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...

EPHESIANS 2:8 NIV

If you haven't gotten the picture of just how important faith is, Paul makes clear in these two passages that it is through faith that we are saved and become sons and daughters of God. What this tells us is that the most important things in life begin and end in faith. Everything we do that matters is a matter of faith. As you press into believing for more, it's important to be sure that you first exercise faith in the person of Jesus. Before we can believe for anything, we must believe in someone. That someone is Jesus.

Today, take a moment to pray, not just for something but to someone. Ask Jesus to increase your faith in Him. In the reality of His existence, in the reality of His love and in the reality that through Him, you are a son or daughter of the Most High God. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you faith first and foremost to follow Jesus as a child of God. Once you experience, by faith, the genuine love of the Father for you, having faith for other things will come much more readily!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 39

Friday Devotional

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

PSALM 20:7 NIV

You made it to Friday! It's only fitting that on this day, we would look at what it means to be diligent. As our passage for today says, "without faith it is impossible to please God, and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." The reminder in this passage is that we have a part to play in the activation of our faith. It reminds us that it is, in fact, rewarding for us to diligently spend time with God. The maker of everything seen and unseen actually wants to spend time with you! He loves you and wants to connect with you in a deep way. He wants to reveal Himself to you along with His plans for His kingdom. Psalm 103:7 tells us that God revealed His acts to the people of Israel but He made known His ways to Moses. Some people only seek after the things that God can do for them- His acts, so to speak. But the writer of Hebrews tells us that reward comes from seeking Him, not just what He can do.

So as you wrap up this week of faith, take a moment to pray and confess with your mouth that you don't just want something from God, but you want God himself. As James says, "if you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you."

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Dan's Journey



Dan McMullen grew up in California with absent parents who made it clear that his life was unwanted. His mother often told him, "You should have never been born," a phrase that echoed in his mind during his darkest moments.

This rejection bred a deep fear of failure, which he carried with him as he moved to Los Angeles to live with his dad in fifth grade, resulting in a 20-year separation from his mom.

As he grew up, Dan made "every mistake a human being could possibly make." Approaching his seventeenth birthday, his dad informed him of a move to St. Louis. While his dad prioritized his career, Dan stayed in California to pursue his own football career, becoming a top recruit for major Division-1 universities. Dan found himself couch-hopping and eventually working middle-of-the-night jobs to afford welfare housing.

His life became increasingly chaotic, with robberies and shootings becoming a norm. Despite the turmoil, Dan's football talent earned him a full ride to Penn State.

However, his scholarship was revoked after he was caught cheating on his SATs. Football was the one good thing in his life, and losing it sent him into a deep depression.

A friend invited him to church, sparking a curiosity in Dan. He recalled moments from his childhood when he wanted to talk to God but didn't know how. At 19, Dan attended his first church service and was filled with the Holy Spirit. He started devoting more time to building a relationship with God, eventually feeling ready to be baptized. But when the pastor told him he wasn't ready for baptism, Dan felt defeated and turned his back on God.

Without football, without family, and feeling rejected by God, Dan reached a breaking point when a gun was put to his head. He asked the gunman to pull the trigger, believing that everything he had been told about his worthlessness was coming true.

But the gunman didn't pull the trigger; instead, he laughed, lowered the gun, and walked away. Dan took this moment as a sign, packed up his car, and drove to St. Louis, determined to prove others wrong.

In St. Louis, Dan got a second chance to play college football at a tiny Catholic school in Iowa. There, he found himself drawn to theology and felt the Lord inviting him back, though he struggled to understand why. As he sought answers, he met his wife, and they eventually had four children. Unfortunately, the marriage ended, leaving Dan without his family, house, or job.

At another crossroads, Dan began praying, not asking for anything, but thanking God for what he had. The next day, he received a call offering him a teaching position and another call that helped him keep his house. These "tiny miracles" rekindled his hope.

Later, during a tough time, his wife decided to return to church, inviting Dan to join her. The next Sunday, they attended Element Church, where Dan was moved by Pastor Mark's message. He left the service with renewed hope, vowing never to turn his back on God again. Jeremiah 29:11 became the foundation of his relationship with God.

Today, Dan is the head football coach at St. Charles High School, dedicated to helping kids who feel hopeless find hope. He partners with Pastor Mark and Element's Youth leaders to guide these kids. Dan, his wife, and their seven children are all building their relationships with Jesus, without pressure from their parents.

"I am by no means perfect—but I will continue to do all that I can to build my relationship with God and help as many people as I can," Dan says. To those exploring a relationship with God, he advises, "Let your guard down, and watch Him work."

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Week Two

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Message Notes

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

God set the stars in the sky and put the sun and moon in their place. He created everything on Earth for us to enjoy and yet still beckons further towards more than we could ask for or imagine, infinitely more. We can't see His Plan without His perspective and embracing our role as caretakers or stewards of all He puts in our hands.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"God is the owner and we are the stewards."

"What you really believe is what you do, not what you say."

"We must never allow ourselves to be paralyzed by fear or we will not steward and invest properly and we will miss God's Will in our finances."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **DISCUSS** Have you ever felt like God was taking you on a spiritual journey? What was the fruit of that season in your life?
- 2. **DISCUSS** Are you willing to put yourself into uncomfortable, unfamiliar territory? What does that look like for you?
- 3. **DISCUSS** In what area of your life do you need your faith to grow?

NEXT STEPS

As we embark upon this new and exciting journey as a church family, we encourage you to pray about what God wants your next steps to be. Focus on and have faith in what His plan for your future is, and do not lean on your own understanding.

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, Psalm 24:1, Matthew 6:21, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 25:14-16, 20-30

Monday Devotional

"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

PSALM 24:1 ESV

Everything with God begins with surrender. Simply put, if you want to live God's way, then you have to embrace a life of surrender to God. As the Psalmist says, everything seen and unseen comes from Him. It's not that your choice to acknowledge that makes it true. It's true whether you believe it or not. But when you come into agreement with truth, you find yourself in a position to be used by God and blessed by God. Throughout the Bible, you can find a common theme: The people who lived lives of great purpose and meaning were the ones who put God first and chose a life of surrender. Though they were always growing, they never outgrew that lifestyle.

"Surrender" is not exactly a word that evokes a lot of excitement. It feels more like a symbol of defeat, like raising the white flag or giving up. Especially if you come from a sports or military background, the idea of surrender is an idea you've spent a lot of time pushing out of your mind. But that is because in sports and military, surrender is associated with defeat. The interesting thing about God is that He never forces us to surrender and surrendering to God is the opposite of defeat. It's actually the act that allows you to be empowered to win. It is in the act of surrendering to Jesus that we get His love, His power, His strength, His vision, His plans, His ways, and ultimately, it's how we make an impact on the world around us.

Think back on your life for a moment. Have you truly surrendered

yourself to Jesus? Not just some of your life, but all of who you are, completely surrendered to Him? Have you gotten past just singing "Jesus Take the Wheel" and actually given Him the keys to the car that is your life? Make no mistake about it; the journey of faith is a journey of surrender. You have to surrender what's in your power in order to gain what is not. Take a moment today and pray. Tell the Lord that whatever it is He wants, He can have. Then ask Him what He wants and wait in silence for Him to speak. He will show you the parts of your life that aren't surrendered. And when He does, the best thing you could possibly do is lay down those parts of your life. Give them to Him and watch Him make a miracle out of your mess.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Tuesday Devotional

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy! MATTHEW 25:23 CSB

The importance of faithfulness in the economy of heaven can't be overstated. The parable of the talents illustrates so clearly that God wants... no... God demands that we not just sit on what He gives us but that we do something with it. Sometimes what God gives us is finances; sometimes, it's a talent like speaking, leading, playing an instrument, writing software, counseling, teaching, and more. Underneath all of this is in fact, a life that is surrendered to God. In the parable, the servants aren't asked to multiply the investments for their own benefit but for the benefit of the master. In the same way, our entire lives are a gift to us from our master, and He is asking us to give that life back to Him. As we look deeper into what it means to live a life of surrender, we will look at the life of Abraham.

In Genesis 12, God tells Abraham to pack up everything and move to a faraway land. But, instead of providing a specific plan and a specific destination, God says, "to the land I will show you." In other words, Abraham has to obey God while also not having a complete understanding of where He's going and how to get there.

Sometimes we can think of Abraham as a young man out trying to make it on His own and encountering God, but this isn't the case. At the time that God called Abraham, he was already seventy-five years old. At that age, most people are ready to retire, not go on an unknown trek to an unknown land! Not only was Abraham old, but he was also successful. He was wealthy and had built a nice life for himself. He had servants, livestock, and influence. Yet, God called Abraham away from all that, asking him to risk it all and follow Yahweh God to a land he didn't even know.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Wednesday Devotional

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." GENESIS 22:1-2 NIV

As we continue on in looking at the life of Abraham to gain perspective on how to follow God in all that we do, we find Abraham living on faith for 25 years. In addition to creating history with following God, we also find that Abraham has finally received the fulfilled promise of a son, which was necessary for everything else that God had promised him to come to pass.

Can you imagine what must have been going through Abraham's mind as he walked Isaac up that mountain? This was his son, his future, his legacy. This was what he had given everything up for, and now God was asking him to lay it all down, to re-surrender, and start all over... again.

Take a moment today to sit with the emotions that would come if you were Abraham. If you had given up everything you had and everything you'd known to follow God, and now God is asking for more. Asking the seemingly impossible.

As you consider that, consider this: living God's way is not a moment; it is a long obedience in the same direction. The idea that we can grit our teeth and push and do something momentarily out of sheer force of will and then check out and coast — is not biblical.

We never graduate from following Jesus in a surrendered life. He always calls us to greater levels of commitment and trust. What could He be calling you to?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Thursday Devotional

This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number. GENESIS 22:16-17A NLT

When God asked Abraham to surrender Isaac, God was asking for it all. This was not an ask for something that didn't cost everything. The ask was for something that could never be replaced. And yet, because Abraham was willing to give God whatever he asked for, God provided a ram to take Isaac's place. Not only did God give Isaac back, but he also pronounced an incredible blessing over Abraham's life, declaring, "Because you have not withheld your son... I will surely bless you."

So what does all this mean for you and me? It means that God does not ask us to surrender something to test us but to bless us. God can't bless what we hold on to with tight fists. When he puts something into our hands, we have a choice to make. Will we possess it and control it, or steward it according to the instruction of the Lord? Though it is difficult, it doesn't have to be. Once we freely give back to the Lord whatever he asks for, then our hands are open to receive from God freely.

Take a moment today to ask the question. Is there something God may be asking you to surrender? Take comfort in knowing that when you obey God and lay it down, you will find a life, a joy, and a peace so much greater than you could imagine. Once you take the posture of surrender, you'll be in the perfect position to receive God's greater blessing in return.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Friday Devotional

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. PSALMS 20:7 NIV

Living God's way requires trusting in God's ways. As we learned last week, it all starts by putting faith in Jesus. Part of that faith is believing that He is with us, He is for us, and He will never leave or forsake us. Even as we come to believe that, learning to trust God is still a process. Here is what that process looks like:

First, God calls you to do something. No matter where you are, God will call you to join Him at some new level and in some new challenge. This call never comes without a cost. You can be sure that whatever God asks of you will involve sacrifice and surrender. So next, you'll wrestle with God. "God, was that really You or just the pizza? God, that's crazy! How could You ask me to do that? What will people say?" But what comes next changes everything—you hear God speak. Maybe it is during prayer time, or perhaps it is through someone else, through a sermon, a song, or even from a friend over coffee. But when God speaks, there is nothing like it. His word will fill you with vision, passion, hope, and joy. Then finally, you come back to God, openhanded, and re-surrender.

Always remember, no matter how old you are and how much history you have with God, you never outgrow this process. Spiritual maturity is not skipping a step; it is moving through the steps faster. Remember, whenever you reach re-surrender moments with God, they are actually invitations to join Him at the next level. As we embark on this journey believing that there is more, think about where God is trying to take you with Him. Are you ready to follow wherever He may lead?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Brennan's Journey

Hills and VALLEYS

Growing up, Brennan Sansone always knew Jesus was a part of his life. Church and Sunday school were regular parts of his routine, and they shaped his faith, morals, and values. "I always felt that connection," Brennan recalls, "but I used to think serving God meant standing on a stage, preaching, or singing worship songs."

Everything started to change when Brennans family moved from another local church to Element Church when he was in third grade. His sister got involved in the youth ministry, and he noticed something different. "She made church look fun," he says with a smile. "It wasn't just a once-aweek obligation anymore. She was excited to go, and that made me excited."

By the time Brennan reached middle school, his sister's enthusiasm had rubbed off on him. "I remember my first Element Youth Glow Party," Brennan shares. "It was such a welcoming atmosphere that I felt more comfortable talking about my faith at school the next day. It wasn't something I had to keep to myself."

Seventh grade was a turning point for Brennan. He started volunteering, and his idea of serving began to shift. "I realized serving isn't just about being in the spotlight," he explains. "It's about being a part of something bigger, even if you're setting up chairs or running the soundboard."

As he navigated high school, Brennan joined the Elevate Leadership Academy, where he made connections that still impact him today. "That's when I really got into production and media," Brennan says. "I found a passion for video that I never knew I had. Serving in that capacity opened my eyes to how many ways there are to contribute to the church."

In 2020, Brennan faced one of the hardest moments of his life when his father passed away. "Going back to youth group after losing my dad was tough," Brennan admits, "but the love and support I received from everyone was overwhelming. God placed the right people in my life at the right time, and that gave me peace."

This experience deepened Brennan's empathy for others. "I learned what it truly means to be the hands and feet of Jesus," he says. "Going through that pain gave me a heart to reach out to others who are hurting."

Over the years, Element Church has been more than just a place of worship for Brennan; it's been a community where he has forged lasting friendships and found mentors who have stood by him. "It's also where I've been able to wrestle with my doubts and questions," Brennan reflects. "The people around me, and Jesus Himself, have helped me navigate the ups and downs of my faith."

Today, Brennan's perspective on serving has broadened significantly. "I used to think there were only a few ways to serve," he says, "but now I see that serving is "I USED TO THINK THERE WFRF ONLY A FEW WAYS TO SERVE. BUT NOW I SFE THAT SFRVING IS IN **EVERYTHING** WE DO. IT'S ABOUT LIVING A LIFE **THAT HONORS** GOD, NO MATTER WHAT."

in everything we do. It's about living a life that honors God, no matter what."

Now, Brennan is fully committed to walking with Jesus and following where He leads. "I'm developing my career and relationships in a way that reflects my faith," Brennan concludes. "It's not just about going to church; it's about living a life that honors God with everything I have."

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Week Three

GOD'S VOICE



Message Notes

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

The Christian life isn't about saying yes to Jesus once but saying yes to Him repeatedly, in every step and every season. He wants to speak to us but doesn't yell or scream. Jesus shows us infinitely more as we learn to listen, trust and obey Him.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"God is a communicator."

"There will be times when you must hear God's Voice to Know His Will for YOU."

"There's a difference between the comforting or encouraging

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **DISCUSS** Do you ever struggle with hearing God's voice? Why or why not?
- 2. **DISCUSS** God speaks to us in multiple ways. Sometimes He speaks through His Word, sometimes He speaks through our relationships, and sometimes He speaks to us directly through the Holy Spirit. Tell us about a time God clearly spoke to you through one of these ways.
- **3. DISCUSS** Tell us about a time you stepped out to obey God. What was the result?
- **4. DISCUSS** Why do we need to hear from God as we go on this There Is More journey together?

NEXT STEPS

This week we want to challenge you. Is there something God has been telling you to do, and you just haven't done it yet? This week, do it! Have you been struggling to hear God's voice? Have you been longing for an answer to a problem you are facing? Talk to Him. We encourage you to pray intensely to God and ask Him to speak to you. Then, we challenge you to listen. Listen to God's voice through whatever way He chooses to speak to you. Obedience is a practice. We encourage you to live it out this week!

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, John 10:27-28, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Acts 11:15-17, Ephesians 4:11-20, Romans 8:14

Monday Devotional

My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 10:27-28 NASB

The God who made all things seen and unseen wants to speak to you! Have you ever thought about that? Like, really considered it? Hearing God is not a privilege reserved just for pastors, elders, and church leaders. The Bible teaches us that God speaks to every Christian. If you are a Christ-follower, that includes you! In John 10:27-28, Jesus assures us that He speaks to every one of His followers. That means every Christian can hear God's voice. If someone says, "God never talks to me," it just means they probably do not know how to hear God speak. If that is you, if you have never heard God's voice before, that can change! It all begins with faith and a real relationship with God. If you want to hear from God and never have, stop for a moment and say this prayer, with faith, out loud, slowly, right now:

Jesus, I want to know You. I want to follow You. I want to hear Your voice. Please reveal Yourself to me more and teach me to hear you in the midst of this noisy world. Please quiet my mind, quiet my heart, and allow me to hear. Amen.

A simple prayer like that is a great place to start cultivating your relationship with God. Now that you've done it once, go back and do it again, but even slower, with more faith, more intentionality. And then wait. Wait a while. Allow at least 5 minutes to sit and wait and listen. The further we press into the journey of more is not simply about our finances. We know One Life for us is about learning the love of God, the voice of God, and what it really means to follow Him. God wants to speak to you! Are you ready to hear?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 69

Tuesday Devotional

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. GENESIS 1:3 ESV

Yesterday we looked at the truth that God wants to speak to us. However, sometimes we have trouble hearing His voice because we do not really believe He will speak to us. Whether it is a belief that God does not speak to anyone today or that God would not speak to you personally, these beliefs form a barrier that can keep us from hearing from God.

Both mindsets are wrong. At its foundation, Christianity is not just about following rules and regulations; it's about a relationship with the God of heaven, the person of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

We all know that the basis of any good relationship is communication. Do you want to know the good news? God is a communicator! Over and over in the Bible you will find this phrase, "And God said..." From Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, God speaks. And He still speaks to us today.

To hear God's voice, we must believe and embrace the fact that God loves to talk to us. He loves to make His will known to us. Time and again, God is the one who initiates conversations with us. We have to believe He is speaking and remain willing to listen. Do you believe God wants to speak to you? Do you believe He wants to communicate with you? Whether you have experienced God's voice many times in your life or have never heard Him, the truth is that He speaks. And He wants to speak to you today! If you heard the voice of God yesterday, take a moment to thank Him for speaking and ask Him to continue! If you did not hear from God yesterday, go back to the prayer we prayed at the end of our time yesterday. Take your time and go through it slowly again, paying more attention to the listening than the asking.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 71

Nedresolary Devotional

Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV

As we press in and learn to hear the voice of God, it's important we understand that there are three ways God speaks to us today:

1. God speaks through Scripture. God will never speak something personally to you that contradicts what He has already said in His Word. The great thing about the Bible is that you never have to wonder if it is God or not. It is all God-breathed, but you still have to know what His Word says to learn how to hear Him speak.

2. God speaks through the Holy Spirit. One of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to speak to you. His voice could be described as an inner witness that you sense, an impression or a strong recurring thought, a deep calming peace, a genuine excitement, or an internal warning or check in your spirit. The Bible also teaches that the Holy Spirit will remind us of everything in the Word. Again, this means that the Holy Spirit will never speak something to you that is in conflict with the written Word of God.

3. God speaks through the Church. That is right! God will use the collective wisdom and counsel of the body of Christ to help you discern His voice. Sometimes it can be challenging to know when God is telling you something. This is where His people can help. God wants you to process your thoughts with other believers. And He can speak so powerfully to you through these conversations. He can give you wisdom and direction.

The more time you spend in God's Word, with God's people, and listening to His Spirit, the more you will know His voice. Today, take a moment and pray that God would breathe new life on His Word, that it would jump off the pages and into your heart, becoming revelation more than information. And finally, pray that you can hear God more clearly through others who are full of His Spirit.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 73

Thursday Devotional

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

JAMES 1:22 NIV

Have you ever tried giving advice to someone who did not want to listen? Maybe it was a child or a friend, a co-worker or a boss... or a spouse—but we will let that one go! It is not that they could not physically hear you, but you knew they would not listen to what you had to say. So, when you know someone will not listen, does it make you want to talk with them?

In a similar way, why would God speak to us if He knows we will not listen? You will hear God a lot clearer when you predetermine to listen and obey what He says. Think of it like tuning in to your favorite radio station. You have to tune it to the right frequency in order to hear. What is God's frequency? It is surrender.

When you fully surrender to God, it places you in a position to hear His voice more clearly. That is why we started week one of our journey with surrender. We do not surrender simply because God is good. We surrender because He is God. What He says is absolute for our lives. So right now, determine in your heart that when God speaks to you during this One Life journey, no matter what He says, you will obey. And you will be amazed at how much clearer His voice will be.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 75

Friday Devotional

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." JOSHUA 1:9 NIV

Almost any time God calls you to take a step of obedience, it can seem scary. But if you fight through the fear and follow God, you will see the miraculous take place. When you obey God, here is what you gain:

1. You gain God's presence. In John 14:21, Jesus connects love and obedience together, saying, "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." We don't obey Jesus out of duty or obligation. We obey Him because we love Him. And His promise is that He will be with us.

2. You gain generational impact. When you obey God, the people closest to you will see. Psalm 103:17-18 (NLT) says, "But the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!"

3. You gain courage. Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is doing what God has called you to do in spite of and in the face of fear. Each time you take a step of faith and fight through fear, God proves Himself faithful, and your courage will grow.

Today as you conclude this week, take a moment to pray again that the voice of the Lord would be the primary guidance for your life. And pray that you would gain His presence, His courage and that by His power, your life would make a generational impact.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 77

Jenn's Journey

DIVING *DEEPER*

Jenn Werner grew up in a mixed Catholic and Methodist household but felt a disconnect despite regular church attendance. "I saw others with a deep connection to God, but I just didn't feel it," she recalls. After her parents divorced, Jenn moved three hours away with her mom and sister, which strained her relationship with her dad and impacted her faith.

As Jenn got older, she continued attending church to keep her mom happy. "I was curious, though," Jenn says. "I started going to a different local church, hoping to find that connection I saw in others. Slowly, it started to happen. I began to feel God calling me by name, and I wanted to know Him more."

When Jenn and her husband moved to Wentzville, she began coaching volleyball. One day, one of her students invited her to Element Church. "I remember walking into my first service feeling a bit confused. I'd never been to a church that was so warm and welcoming," Jenn shares. "The greeters were so kind, but I still had my guard up. Then the worship started, and it was like a wave of peace and excitement washed over me. I was in awe—I had never felt so safe and comfortable in a church before."

During that service, Jenn noticed a strange smell and realized there were exotic animals on stage as Pastor Erik shared his message. "It was different, to say the least!" Jenn laughs. "But that message dug deep into theology and philosophy and really began to shape my understanding of my identity as a child of God."

Week after week, Jenn kept coming back to Element. "I started to feel comfortable in my own skin, understanding what a true relationship with Jesus is," she says. "Serving in the youth ministry from 2012 onward was a huge part of that. Jesus showed me that everyone is a child of God, and life isn't all about me. My life became so much more joyful as I learned healthier ways to handle stress and trauma."

Jenn leaned into her faith, surrounding herself with reminders of the fruits of the Spirit. "I wrote them everywhere on notebooks, mirrors, windows— 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,''' Jenn shares. "Those words became a lifeline as I navigated life."

Reflecting on her journey, Jenn is incredibly grateful to her mother. "She worked so hard, raising my sister and me while working multiple jobs. Her strength as a woman really set an example for me," Jenn says. "That strength helped me navigate my own career too."

Jenn began her teaching career at Wright City High School, coaching multiple sports and waiting tables on the side. "It was overwhelming, and I seriously thought about quitting teaching altogether," Jenn admits. But an offer to teach at an alternative school changed her path. "I taught for three years, and that experience deepened my heart for at-risk kids," she explains. "Even as I transitioned to different roles due to restructuring, I built my teaching style around biblical principles."

Eventually, Jenn transitioned to the Wentzville school district. "I was nominated and won National Teacher of the Year at Shape America," Jenn says humbly. "But what really matters to me is creating an atmosphere in my classroom that incorporates Jesus and my identity, especially for the kids who come through my class."

During this time, Jenn also helped start an FCA group with a local pastor while continuing to serve at Element Church. "When I started my own family, Element was right there with me," Jenn says. "Both of my children faced complications at birth, but I learned to be brave and to walk with Jesus in a whole new way."

Jenn's connection to Element Church is stronger than ever. "I've never felt a connection to a church or community like I do at Element," she says. "I'm filled with gratitude every day."

Through it all, Jenn has learned to "grow with the flow," grounded in her faith and supported by her family, Element Church, and her relationship with Jesus.

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY



GOD'S INVITATION

Message Notes

 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

God never moves in our life and church without our participation. It isn't because He wants something from us but because He has something infinitely more for us. Sometimes God invites us to give up our lunch to experience a miracle. God is not a tyrant or bully. He will never make us do anything against our will. But when we align our will to His, He paves the way to infinitely more in our life and our world.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"Most of us have problems. The good news is, if you have a problem, you're a candidate for a miracle."

"God chooses to work through people."

"God multiplies what you offer Him."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **1. DISCUSS** Why do you think God invites us to participate in His miracle process?
- 2. DISCUSS In what area of your life do you need a miracle? (Examples: your health, marriage, finances, job, child, etc.)
- **3. DISCUSS** Where are you in the process right now: surrendering to God, hearing His voice, obeying what He says, or believing God to do a miracle through you? Which part of this process is the most difficult for you?

NEXT STEPS

Take time to reflect more on these questions in your quiet time this week. Write down your answers and pray about how you can become more a part of God's miracles around you. Reflect on the miracles you have witnessed and God has done in your life. Thank God for those this week.

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, John 6:1-13, Mark 6:37

Monday Devotional

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

John 6:5-6 NIV

There's only one miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all four gospels, and that is the loaves and fishes miracle. When approaching the Bible, every word of the Lord is of paramount importance, and yet when we find something referred to as the principle of repetition, it stands out as even more significant. As we look at this incredible miracle, we find Jesus feeding 5,000 men and their families with only a single, small lunch!

The setting for this miracle is also significant. There is a large crowd of people who have all come to see Jesus, but the day is getting long, and there weren't any food trucks at this event! In the midst of an unsettled crowd, Jesus then asks His disciples where they should buy bread to feed them all. With this question, Jesus is actually asking them the impossible. There was nowhere to find enough bread to feed the hungry crowd. Whatever was in their ability to imagine, this was beyond that. But Jesus wasn't asking a question He didn't already have the answer to. He was inviting His disciples into the problem so they would understand the need. The verse says that He did this to test them, for He already knew what He would do.

Philip responded to Jesus, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Of course, Jesus knew that as well, but it is exactly that kind of situation that allows God to show off. Luke 18:27 says, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." When you find yourself in a situation that seems impossible, remember this story. God may be inviting you into a problem He already has a solution for.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Tuesday Devotional

But He answered, "You give them something to eat." Mark 6:37 NIV

Every time we see a miracle in the Bible we can find three ingredients in the mix. The first ingredient is 'need'. Jesus had been teaching all day, and it was getting late. The people were getting hungry and needed to eat. There's nothing worse than the preacher running long when you're hungry, right? Jesus knew that too! But He went a little longer and let them get a little uncomfortable because as time went on, the need grew larger. And keep in mind that in the context of this story, starvation was a real and present threat. Missing a meal was a big deal, and the need was real.

Second, not only is there a need but there is a sense of the need. In this story, everyone sensed it! The people were hungry, the disciples knew it, and Jesus highlighted it. What is remarkable is that Jesus not only had a solution but instead of just solving the problem himself, He invited them to participate in the miracle. And that is something Jesus is still doing today! He still works miracles in and through people. Like any good father, God wants us to grow as much as He wants to solve our problems. Often times it is in our own growing and stretching that the problems are solved. But whether the miracle happens quickly or over time, God is always inviting us to be part of the process.

The final ingredient is... you guessed it, faith! Jesus' disciples found the boy with the loaves and fish. They obviously had their doubts about this, but they acted in faith. And that is key. Doubt is a normal part of the process. Some faith teachers will tell you that you can't doubt, but sometimes doubting is inevitable, and thoughts are sometimes hard to control. The key is to act in faith and watch your mindset follow instead of waiting for a mindset of faith to act it out. Sometimes God will give you a gift of faith before He calls you to act. But sometimes He calls you to act specifically to build your faith as you obey. That's what happened in this story. His disciples gathered the food available, passed it out until everyone had enough, sat and ate with everyone, and then cleaned up the leftovers! They played a part in the miracle! And today, God is calling us to the same type of faith in action. When there is a need that is sensed by a group of people who step out in faith, regardless of the odds, God does miracles!

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Wednesday Devotional

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

JOHN 6:9 (NIV)

Another striking element of this profound story is that in order for God to perform the miracle, there was a boy who had to give up his lunch. Think about it. He was the only person in the crowd who did not need a miracle. He had his lunch. It was everyone else who was hungry! And yet, he was the one who was challenged the most!

There are many times in life when you and I may be that boy. Sometimes you may not see the need for the miracle because you already have what you need. If we don't understand that everything we have comes from God, it can be a tough ask when He wants some of it, or in this case, all of it back. But He's not asking so that the boy will go without. He asks so He can use what the boy has to bless others. And He often does the same with us to shift our perspectives. That shift isn't easy, but it can be made, and once you see it, you begin to actually understand what it means to be blessed, to be a blessing!

Even when you change your perspective, there is still another challenge. Not only did the boy have to give up his lunch, but his lunch was so insignificant when compared to the size of the crowd, the natural question is... how could this small sacrifice even matter? The problem with natural questions is that they are natural. Jesus is in the supernatural business. So He can take a little and turn it into an abundance. He is the God of "more than enough." And this isn't who He was at one time. It's who He still is and how He still works through us. We give in faith because God asks for it, not because it makes sense and certainly not because it seems natural. It doesn't matter how much you have. God is not looking at the size of your bank account. He's looking at the size of your faith and the measure of your obedience. And in His hands, He can turn our seemingly small gifts into an abundance of blessings for many!

Today, take a moment to pray and ask God to help you see clearly your current perspective and to help you see more clearly from His.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Thursday Devotional

He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted. JOB 5:9 NIV

Back in week one, we looked at what it means to go beyond our own imaginations. Sometimes before you can believe the impossible from God, you first have to get clear about what you believe about God. The pages of the Bible are filled with miracle stories where God did what only God can do. But sometimes, it is easy to think of those Bible stories simply as "stories"— something that happened a long time ago. We wonder if God does miracles today.

This isn't unique. The same doubt we experience today existed during Jesus' earthly ministry. Matthew 13:58 (CSB) tells us that the people from Jesus' hometown took offense with Him and that "he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." As we said before, this verse doesn't mean God is dependent on our faith in order to move. God is God entirely independent of us. Our right belief in Him is not what makes Him exist, but it is what can often determine how He works in and through us.

Let's look again at our key verse for One Life, Ephesians 3:20 ISV, "Now to the one who can do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us." As a church, we are believing for God to do an incredible financial miracle through our church to expand the reach of His kingdom in Central Texas. But what about you, on a personal level? What need do you have in your life today? Is there something that seems impossible? That matters to God just as much as the big picture. In fact, that's how it works. God works in the individual pictures to create the big picture.

So today, take a moment to bring your need to God. When you do, ask in faith! Believe He will work on your behalf, and you may just find the God of miracles alive and well today!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 93

Friday Devotional

Now to the one who can do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us. EPHESIANS 3:20 ISV

Keeping our key verse in front of us, is there something in your life so impossible that you can only ask God to do it? Is there something so impossible you can hardly imagine it? Ephesians 3:20 says you serve a God who can meet that need and exceed your wildest imagination. He doesn't just work in the confines of what we can imagine. He goes beyond that!

When it comes to what you can give in this journey of more, there are three levels of giving to consider. The first level is what you can afford. This is what you can easily give. It's what you can fit into your budget. It is a gift, and it is entirely possible.

The second level of giving is what you can sacrifice. This goes a step further. It is no longer safe. At this level, you have to give something up. Maybe it is your morning coffee, a new flat-screen TV, a family vacation, or a house renovation. Whatever it is, it's a sacrifice—but it is possible.

This leads you to the final level of giving, which is what you can trust God to do through you. This is the supernatural level. This is the miraculous. At this level, the miracle is far beyond and so much more than what you can calculate or even sacrifice. It is something only God can do. How amazing would it be to hear God, step out in faith, and go beyond yourself to experience what only God can do?

Today, take a moment and pray. Ask God to show you the expanse of His kingdom vision for the impact our church will make. His plans are certainly far beyond our plan. They are more than we could ask or imagine. But ask anyway. Ask Him to show you just how farreaching this will be, and ask Him in faith what your part to play might be.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Logan's Journey

IT STARTS Prayer

Logan Jordan's journey is a powerful testament to the transformative power of faith. Before discovering Element Church, Logan was a selfproclaimed nonbeliever. He often felt frustrated, like he was aimlessly wandering through life without direction.

Though he grew up attending church with his family, he never believed in God and eventually fell into worldly beliefs, making science his "god." In college, Logan stopped going to church altogether, convinced that he was smarter than those who still believed. His life became rooted in pride, and he relished in proving others wrong.

After college, Logan's life took a turn for the worse. Despite his academic success, he was deeply unhappy and felt like he lacked a purpose. The so-called "hustle culture" consumed him, leaving him overwhelmed, overworked, and ultimately, a "hateful person." Reflecting on this period, Logan admits, "I didn't love myself, so why should I love others?"

In late 2022, everything began to change. A roommate invited Logan to attend Element Church, and though it took time for him to start believing, he continued to attend. He would observe during pravers, not vet ready to join in. Around this time, Logan began reading The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale, not realizing it was a Christian book. This book marked the beginning of his transformation. Logan recalls, "I realized I wasn't who I wanted to be, so I took a chance on attending Element Young Adult and went hiking afterward." During that hike, Logan tried something he hadn't done in years: he prayed. "The book encouraged me to pray, so I figured I would try it on the hike," he shared. What happened next was beyond anything Logan could have expected. "I felt the full "THE MORE I POURED INTO THE BIBLE, THE MORE I REALIZED THAT SCIENCE COULDN'T PROVE THE ANGER THAT WAS IN MY HEART. BUT JESUS COULD. AND HE OFFERED ME A WAY OUT OF IT."

presence of Jesus come upon me, as if He was walking right beside me," Logan remembers. "I went from walking to crying because I was so overwhelmed." This powerful encounter with Jesus was a turning point. "Through that prayer, I felt the urge to seek Jesus and find the work that He needs me to do."

Logan brought all his problems and everything he didn't like about himself to Jesus. From that moment on, everything changed. He found a new job and started to pour into his relationship with Christ. "Element taught me that you first need to give your time to Jesus, then everything will fall back into place," Logan says. Now, Logan's life is filled with purpose and joy. He attends classes at Element Church, serves in Element Kids and Young Adult ministries, and leads a small group. He even met his fiancée at Element Church. Logan's faith journey has also led him to understand that there is spiritual evidence—along with scientific evidence—of God. "The more I poured into the Bible, the more I realized that science couldn't prove the anger that was in my heart. But Jesus could. And He offered me a way out of it."

Today, Logan encourages others to take the first step toward faith. "Jesus is a stepping stone to finding a greater purpose than your own," he says. "Take the first step. He is one prayer away." For Logan, serving others and living a life of surrender has brought him a deep sense of fulfillment and purpose. He has gone from being rooted in pride and self-fulfillment to living in a state of complete surrender to God. As Logan puts it, "The more I gave God my time, the more everything else followed."



GOD'S REWARD



Message Notes

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

Everything in this world is passing away. Only one thing will remain, God's Word. Jesus is the Word of God and sustains eternity. When we put His Kingdom first, we are most blessed and leave an eternal legacy in the lives of those who come after us.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"It's not about equal contribution - it's about equal sacrifice."

"As a member of God's Family, when you do your part, your life changes."

"When you're in Jesus, your legacy keeps going even after

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **DISCUSS** What do you think of when you hear the word "legacy"?
- 2. **DISCUSS** What personal legacy do you want to pass on to others in your life?
- **3. DISCUSS** What is the spiritual legacy we are passing on to the next generation at Element Church?
- **4. DISCUSS** What is our One Life journey really about? How would you describe what we are doing?

NEXT STEPS

Take some time this week to get alone. Write out what you want your personal and spiritual legacy to be at the end of your life. Pray and ask God what He sees in you and how you can leave a lasting legacy. Then take a few minutes to evaluate yourself honestly, and see what steps and changes you need to make in your life in order to leave that ideal legacy.

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, John 6:1-13, Mark 6:37

Monday Devotional

Where there is no vision, the people perish... PROVERBS 29:18 KJV

Vision is a powerful motivator. When we receive and embrace God's vision for our lives, He empowers us to work together toward the fulfillment of that vision. We've been doing a lot of imagining on this journey, but imagine again how much more God could do through us if we tapped into His vision for our lives, church, and community.

Here are three characteristics of a vision from God. First, God's vision always aligns with His mission and is bigger than you! If you can accomplish it in your own strength, it is probably not God. Our entire journey to more is a God-sized vision only He can do. Second, God's vision always releases passion in you. God's vision will not let you go. It draws you in. It captivates you and pulls you toward God's goal for your life.

Finally, God's vision impacts future generations. Psalm 127:1 NKJV says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it," and verse 3 continues, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord." You see, a God-vision is something that can only be accomplished through Him, but it ultimately has to do with family. It leaves a lasting impact that is felt for generations.

What we are building at Element Church is not really about land and buildings. It is about creating space to reach people and build family. It is about building something beyond ourselves. It's about reaching this generation and the ones that come after us. The big picture of what God can do through us starts at the smaller picture of what God can do through you. Take some time today to pray and ask what His vision for your participation is. We don't approach miracles based on what we see but on what He sees. Ask God for His eyes today. Ask Him for His vision and ask Him to give you a glimpse of how your participation will impact others. And as you pray, remember... His vision is far more than you could ask or imagine. So keep pressing in and leaning in and listening until He moves you to more than you can see on your own!

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 105

Tuesday Devotional

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9 NIV

What do you think of when you think about leaving a legacy? Some may think of leaving a great business or organization. Some may think of leaving wealth and possessions. Others may think of the family they leave behind or even the way people talk about their character. But in all of these examples, one thing is consistent. A legacy has to do with what you leave behind. It is how people will remember you one day.

This raises an important question: What will your legacy be? You can live for selfish goals or momentary pleasures, or you can decide to leave a spiritual legacy for future generations.

According to Deuteronomy 7:9, your legacy is tied to your relationship with God. Think about that. The legacy you leave for your children and grandchildren flows out of your love for God and your obedience to Him. This is why our journey to more is so important! We are believing for what God has for the people in our communities, now and in the years to come. Also this journey also offers a practical way to get closer to God's heart as you step out in obedience. When you understand and embrace God's vision for your life, you can leave a legacy of righteousness for those who follow you.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

One Life 107

Neolnesolary Devotional

Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver.

1 CHRONICLES 29:3 NKJV

In the Old Testament, the temple of God had great significance for Israel. It was the dwelling place of God's presence among His people. In preparing to build the temple, King David made all the necessary preparations and gave extravagantly from his own resources. But notice how he connects his heart to his gift, "Because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God."

While some may have given lip service to God's house, David demonstrated his heart by what he gave. Centuries later, Jesus would echo this same idea in Matthew 6:21 ESV when He said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

There are many causes out there and tons of places you can invest your time, talent, and treasure. But none is more powerful than the local church. One of the most amazing things about giving to build God's church is that it will change your heart. Sometimes we give because our heart is attached to something, and we want to give to it. Sometimes we give because we see what God is doing and we want our heart to be attached to it, and it is in that act of giving that our heart for what He is doing grows! If you want to have a bigger heart for God and His kingdom, invest in what He is doing.

Take a moment today and ask God to help you see where your heart is. Is your heart set on the things of this world or the things God wants to do through you, in the world? Ponder that important question and allow room for the Holy Spirit to speak.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Thursday Devotional

...Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord? Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly... Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly to the Lord...

1 CHRONICLES 29:5-6,9 NKJV

David gave his wealth to build God's temple. Then the leaders of Israel gave, followed by the people. But there was a process they all went through first—a process of consecration.

The word "consecrate" means "to set apart." The people first set themselves apart for God. They determined in their hearts that they would belong to God. They would do things His way, not theirs. And it is something they were willing to do. Then the evidence of their consecration was expressed through giving. Notice the verses say they "offered willingly." Not out of compulsion. Not because they had to. But because they wanted to give to God.

Here is the principle: Willful consecration leads to willful giving. Like we talked about a few weeks back, it all starts with surrender, and out of a surrendered and consecrated heart comes an offering. Are you willing to be set apart for God? Will you join God on this journey in consecrating your heart, your life, and your finances to Him? Imagine what God could do through you as you give willingly to build His kingdom.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Friday Devotional

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" JOHN 11:40 NIV

Sometimes it can be challenging to get around our own logical thoughts to make room for God. Jesus faced the same type of skepticism in His ministry. In John 11:40, Jesus spoke these words to Martha after her brother Lazarus had died. He instructed that the tombstone be rolled away, and Mary questioned Jesus' logic. It made no sense. Lazarus had been dead four days. There was an odor! Jesus simply encouraged Martha to believe, and she would see the miracle. And Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!

To experience God's power in our lives, we must remove any limitations we have placed on Him. In all of our knowledge, we must make room for what is beyond our comprehension. The God who created everything desires nothing more than to show up in your world in miraculous, unexplainable ways if you believe.

That is what our journey in believing that One Life is all about. It's about hearing from God, stepping out in faith, and seeing God do a miracle.

Take a moment today to reflect on our theme verse once again:

Now to the one who can do infinitely more than all we can ask or imagine according to the power that is working among us. **EPHESIANS 3:20 ISV**

Over the last few weeks, we've encouraged you to believe for a miracle in your life and through your life. Take a moment again to bring before the Lord the miracle you are believing for in your life, in your family, and in your community. Take a moment to pray again about these things and take time to listen to what He is saying about them. Remember, He is speaking!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Derek's Journey

HE WONT Turn You Way

Derek Sager's story is one of transformation and finding faith after years of searching for fulfillment in the wrong places. Derek's parents divorced when he was two years old, and he spent most of his childhood with his mother in St. Louis, visiting his father, who lived in southern Illinois, every other weekend, Growing up in the Catholic Church, Derek felt disconnected from God, A pivotal moment occurred during a Catholic Mass when his Lutheran father was turned away from receiving communion. "I knew in my heart this wasn't God; I knew it was just this church," Derek reflects. "But I questioned why someone who wanted to show aratitude for Christ's sacrifice would be turned away. So, it pushed me away."

In eighth grade, Derek's life took another turn when his father gained custody, and he moved to southern Illinois. Despite the change of scenery, Derek continued to feel a void in his life. A painful breakup during high school deepened his depression and magnified the hole in his heart. "My life had its ups and downs, but looking back, there was always a hole in my heart," Derek admits.

As he got older, Derek used humor as a coping mechanism, relying on jokes to ease the pain. "If it's a serious moment, likely something stupid would come out of my mouth," he says with a laugh. But underneath the jokes was a deepseated need for something more.

After a serious relationship ended abruptly, Derek's world shook. "I built my life around her. And when she was no longer in it, everything collapsed," he confides. He moved back in with his mother and struggled to find his footing. It was during this time that he began sporadically attending Element Church with his mom and stepdad. "I had never been one of those people who went to church consistently," Derek explains. In the fall of 2021, Derek returned to Element Church, and this time, he was ready to commit. "I was scared to admit to myself that I wanted to give my life to Christ because then I needed to hold myself accountable and follow through with the commitment," Derek shares. Within a month, he knew he was all in. He got baptized and immediately started serving on the production team. The once gaping hole in his heart began to fill as he embraced his faith and the community at Element. "Life took a massive turn very quickly," Derek recalls. He found a new job and even received a promotion within a year.

Derek's journey with God has been transformative. "You're never going to be done pursuing Him," he acknowledges, understanding that his relationship with God is a lifelong journey. The memory of his father being turned away from communion still resonates with Derek, but he finds solace in the fact that at Element, everyone is welcome. "God won't turn you away. And every time we have open communion at church, I'm reminded that Element won't turn you away either," Derek says.

One of the most profound moments in Derek's walk with Christ happened on June 19, 2023. He received a text from his ex-the first contact since their breakup. The message triggered a flood of emotions and anxiety. "I'm a very easy-going person and it takes a lot to get to me. But the moment I received that text, I started to feel that hole again," Derek remembers. On the way to a movie, he turned on Pastor Erik's podcast, hoping for guidance. The episode was about overcoming stress in life. "I know it was Pastor Erik talking, but it was 100% God using him to talk to me," Derek says. The weight on his chest lifted, and he realized the significance of that day-it was the anniversary of his baptism. "It was a day I will never forget," he says with emotion.

Derek's story is a testament to the power of faith and the importance of community. The support he's found at Element Church has become a second family, helping him grow in his walk with Christ. His advice to anyone seeking God comes from Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Derek Sager's life has been a journey of finding hope and healing through a relationship with Jesus. Today, he knows that no matter what comes his way, God is with him, and he will never be turned away.

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Week Six

GOD'S ECONOMY

Message Notes

Small Group Quide

THE BIG IDEA

What do you think of when you think of miracles? Most usually think of something spectacular or supernatural. Many never stop to realize that the God of the supernatural is also the God of the natural and He has hidden his greatest gift in the most ordinary of places... in the ground. The unstoppable power of the seed is God's greatest miracle and the foundation of His work in our lives.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

"There are challenges for the seed, but when it hits good soil, over time it produces a great harvest."

"It all belongs to Him."

"We experience One Life through the process of Sowing & Reaping."

"God says if you're worried about your seed lasting, sow it."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **1. DISCUSS** What's something God has done in your life during our One Life journey?
- 2. **DISCUSS** How have you felt the most challenged over the last several weeks? What has seemed most natural to you?
- **3. DISCUSS** Have you ever witnessed the entire process (or been a part of the process) of a seed being planted that blossomed into something miraculous?

NEXT STEPS

Brainstorm ways you can plants seeds around you. Do you feel led to lead your own small group? Have you joined a serve team? These are both amazing ways to become leaders in the church and plant the seed that could grow into a garden. If this is something you would like to be a part of, reach out to a member of our team or visit our website at elementchurch. com/teamelement.

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 3:20, Genesis 8:22, Matthew 13:18, 23, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, Galatians 6:7

Monday Devotional

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! ... For there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.

PSALM 133:1,3 NASB

One of the incredible things about Element Church is that we are here to reach people. Not just some people, not just extra spiritual people, but all people. We also don't exist as a place where only a select special few people make everything happen. We all get involved! We all play a part. That includes you! And that is why our One Life journey has been so incredible. It is something we have done together. We heard from God. We exercised our faith. We gave our gifts, and we did it together. Everyone. Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.

There is a word that is used in our English language called "synergy." Synergy is defined as "the cooperation of two or more things to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of the individual parts." In essence, synergy means we accomplish more together. This is exactly what happens when God's people come together in unity to achieve God's vision. Think of it like this:

Our Unity + *God's Supernatural Power* = *Miraculous Results*

As we move through the final week of our journey (which is really just the beginning), take some time to reflect on everything God has done over the past six weeks. What has He done in you? What has He done in our church? Reflect on His blessings and His goodness. And remember, this is only the beginning. The best is yet to come!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Tuesday Devotional

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

MATTHEW 18:20 NKJV

As a believer in Christ, God is always with you. The Bible repeatedly teaches that His Spirit dwells in you (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Timothy 1:14, to list just a few). Yet Jesus makes the incredible promise that if two or more gather together in His name, He will be with us.

You see, something special happens when believers come together, unified in the name of Jesus. There is an expression of His presence that is uniquely sensed when we come together. It is why people visit Element Church and talk about the friendliness they experience, the warmth they feel, or the presence they sense during worship. It is Jesus! When we come together, He is with us in a unique and discernible way.

What's even more amazing is that in the prior verse, Matthew 18:19 (ESV), Jesus says, "If two of you agree on earth about anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." So here is the takeaway: When God's people gather together in agreement and in His name, He hears us, and He is with us!

Throughout One Life, we got to experience what Jesus promised. We joined together in unity, He was with us every step of the way, and He answered our prayers. Is there something amazing God did in your life during our journey together? Take a moment today to reflect and thank God for what He has done and continue to listen for what He wants to do.

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Wednesday Devotional

...The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 (CSB)

Throughout the Bible, we find the principle of sowing and reaping. It is a universal truth. And it is something that can work for you or against you, depending on what you do. But Paul takes the principle a step further in 2 Corinthians 9:6. Not only will you reap what you sow, but the more you sow, the more you will reap. Here is what that means: Do you want more of God's blessing on your life? Then sow more seeds! Jesus said something similar in Luke 6:38 (NLT), "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

Listen, the Bible is not just referring to money here. When you give in any area of life, it puts God in a position to bless you for your act of obedience.

Now, we do not give in order to get. Yet, we understand God's principle still works. The more you sow, the more you will reap. And remember: You cannot out-give God. Whenever you give to God, He always repays and blesses you even more in return. So, keep your expectation and faith level high. God's blessing is on the way!

Take a moment today to thank God for every blessing, every good thing He has given you. And take a moment again to ask and listen if there is anything He is still asking of you that you haven't given yet. Remember, giving isn't about losing. It's all about gaining what He has for you!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Thursday Devotional

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 ESV

It is true; you reap what you sow. It is also true that the more you sow, the more you will reap. But have you ever stopped to consider where the seed comes from in the first place? Think about it. Where does the ability to give anything come from? According to 2 Corinthians 9:10, the ability to give comes from God. It is God "who supplies seed to the sower." So, if you want to sow into God's kingdom, He provides the seed!

Here is what that means for you today. Maybe you went on this journey and asked God to speak to you. Perhaps you felt God tell you to give something crazy, something beyond what is even possible. And if so, here is the good news: You do not have to worry. You do not have to wonder where the provision will come from. God will supply the seed! And then He wants to multiply your seed so you can give even more, and in return, He will bless you. It is a beautiful cycle of obedience, provision, and blessing.

So remember, whenever God asks you to give, He is not trying to get something from you—He wants to give something to you and through you. He will provide the seed. You simply have to obey. And the end result is a harvest of righteousness!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

Friday Devotional

I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance.

LUKE 15:7 CSB

Here we are, in the final week of our launching pad into the future. How does it feel? We hope you have heard from God and been impacted along the way. We hope you have stepped out in faith and believed God for a miracle. And we hope this is only the beginning of an amazing new life—of surrendering, hearing God's voice, stepping out in faith, and seeing Him do miracles. What an incredible way to live! At the end of it all, we need to remember the reason we started this journey to begin with. Yes, it was to encounter God. Yes, it was to see Him move. But even more, the reason for our journey was very simple: To continue reaching people for Jesus!

This is God's mission. It has never changed. And neither has the mission of Element Church. We have always been and always will be about reaching people and building family. Everything you have given is to help make room for more people to come to Christ and to be a part of our spiritual family.

Take a moment today and ask yourself, "Who is someone I know who still needs Jesus?" Write their name in the space below, and say a prayer for them today. Let's believe God to do more than we could ask or even imagine!

HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

TALK TO GOD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH ONE LIFE? SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US AT ELEMENTCHURCH.COM/SHAREYOURSTORY

How do we ensure that we are reaching the **one life**?

No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring each of us to take our next step and do our part to reach people.

This guide is designed to equip you for the journey, show you how to engage your faith in new ways, and help you grow in your relationship with Christ. Together, we'll learn how to reach *everyone, everywhere*.

Starting with the one.



elementchurch.com/onelife

100 Mall Pkwy #500 Wentzville, MO 63385 (636) 332-9010 office@elementchurch.com