



Beyond

FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

**Family Discipleship
& Sermon Guides**

Sermon Guide Week 1

“Where We Find Ourselves”

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.’”
Acts 17:22–28 (ESV)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What are the three stories we participate in within our lives?
2. How does the story of your life fit into the larger story of God’s kingdom?
3. Which story have you let give defining meaning to your identity, purpose, and belonging?
4. How can you embrace God’s story as the defining force in your life?
5. How does belonging to God’s people impact the way you consider your identity and purpose within God’s story?

Family Discipleship

Read

Acts 17:24–28

Define

Good – God is what is best.

Provider – God meets the needs of His children.

Faith – having full confidence in the goodness of God, even though we do not see Him

Family of God – The Church is God’s family. God calls, adopts, and grows His family.

Ask

What does this passage say about God?

God made everything. God is not limited. He can be everywhere, in Heaven and on the Earth.

God made man in His image. God is with us. Say, “God has given His children everything they

need to be saved in the person and work of Jesus!”

What does this passage say about us?

We are created by God. Our identity (who we are) and our purpose (what we do) are determined

or chosen by God. Because God is good, we can trust His plan and purpose for our lives.

Pray

Spend time praying as a family using these prompts:

Praise – Tell God how great He is (attributes).

Thanksgiving – Thank God for what He does and gives.

Lament – Talk to God about what feels hard, hurtful, or wrong.

Confession – Tell God the truth about your sin.

Request – Ask God to do or give something.

Sing

Listen at vll.ge/beyondfd1.

“The Story of Scripture”

“God Made Everything”

“Doxology”

Family Discipleship Moments

Take time this week to go on a nature walk. Take pictures of God’s creation or take a notebook and draw pictures of what you see. When you get back home, draw a picture of your family or take a picture and print it off. Next to each person write down things that are unique or special about them. Honor each other by sharing things that you love about the way God made each of you.

Make a creation wheel using a paper plate. Draw out each day of creation on the plate. You can get creative and color your wheel or gather items like grass and animal stickers to make your creation wheel. As you show off your creation, praise God as the Creator of all things.

Sermon Guide Week 2

“Our Moment”

We live in a moment of history that is outraged, anxious, and divided. Our biblical illiteracy, cultural compromise, and political solutions have aided in the failure of Evangelicalism. But we know how this story ends, and this is our moment. With our church body's unique mixture of giftings, the neighborhoods God has placed our families in, and the specific people God has placed here at TVC, we choose to push back the darkness and establish light and life in His Name.

He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

Luke 12:54–56 (ESV)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How are you impacted by the outrage, anxiety, and division of our day?
2. What are the gifts and talents you have been given to steward for the kingdom of God?
3. What gifts do you see in your community?
4. How can these be leveraged intentionally to push back darkness, establishing light and life instead?

Family Discipleship

Read

Genesis 2:15–17 & 3:6–7a, Romans 6:23

Define

Sin – more than just the “bad things” we think, feel, do, and say; it’s why we do them. Sin is loving or trusting anything more than God. It starts in our hearts and comes out in our actions. Sin is caused by having a self-centered heart instead of a God-centered heart.

Holy – God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

The Church – God’s family

Ask

What does this passage say about God?

God made everything, and it was so good! He gave Adam and Eve a job to do, but Adam and Eve sinned against God. Because sin entered the world, everything broke. Sin affects everything.

What does this passage say about us?

We are sinners separated from God and unable to save ourselves. But God sent Jesus to take the punishment of our sin, by dying on the cross. Jesus came to save sinners! God calls, adopts, and grows His family. Say, “God wants to use His family (those who love and trust Jesus, the Church) to share with all people who Jesus is and what He has done!”

Pray

Spend time praying as a family using these prompts:

Praise – Tell God how great He is (attributes).

Thanksgiving – Thank God for what He does and gives.

Lament – Talk to God about what feels hard, hurtful, or wrong.

Confession – Tell God the truth about your sin.

Request – Ask God to do or give something.

Sing

Listen at vll.ge/beyondfd2.

“Great Is Your Love”

“Jesus Came to Save Sinners”

“Doxology”

Family Discipleship Moments

Practice generosity as a family. Talk about all that God has done for you. Remind each other of His great love and generosity for His children. Those who love and trust Jesus should be generous because God is perfectly generous to us. Think about specific ways that your family can be generous with the time and resources God has given you. This could look like a food drive for a local food pantry, gathering toys and clothes for a local shelter, or serving in your neighborhoods by helping with yard work or bringing someone a meal. You can gather money and bring it to church as an offering.

Lament over the sin of the world together. This could look like a time of confession, reflecting together on how you are doing with obeying God’s Word. You can talk to God and each other about the hard things in the world caused by sin. Spend time asking God to help you live in His world, His way. Encourage older children to keep a prayer journal where they can record their prayers to God.

Sermon Guide Week 3

“What Does Faithfulness Look Like?”

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:34–40 (ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16–20 (ESV)

The Mission of TVC

We exist to love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

The 2030 Vision of TVC

We are a **welcoming home** to thousands of people seeking Jesus Christ and growing in the grace of the gospel. We are a **diverse community** of men and women, young and old, single and married, discovering together our identity, purpose, and belonging within God’s good design. We impact thousands of kids and students week in and week out. With all our efforts **wholly dependent** on God, we **make disciples** across all ages; **every stage of life** has a portion in the church. We celebrate 300 baptisms every year. We are a **refuge** for the broken and suffering to receive hope and care, and a place where God heals and enriches marriages. We demonstrate the **ministry of presence** as we rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. We **send wholehearted leaders and disciples** into their homes, into neighborhoods, into our city, and into the nations. We have **planted and revitalized** 30 churches and have 100 goers reaching 10 **unreached people groups**. We have seen more than 50,000 individuals reached by the gospel through our campuses, church plants, revitalization efforts, and goers. We have **generously resourced** millions of people across the globe as we share the gifts that God has entrusted to us. **Every day, in all spaces, through each season of life, we are joyfully building beyond ourselves, living the greater story together, and creating a kingdom legacy for generations to come.**

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. As a member of God’s people and of The Village Church, how does our mission statement inform your life?
2. Reading through each part of the 2030 Vision, which phrases and ideas stick out and excite you?
3. How can you contribute your gifts, presence, and resources for us to become this kind of people?

4. What does it look like for you to engage the 2030 Vision in your neighborhood and serve within TVC?

Family Discipleship

Read

Matthew 28:18–20

Define

Trinity – There is one God who is three Persons. God the Father is God. Jesus, the Son, is God. The Holy Spirit is God.

Faithful – God always does what He says He will do.

The Church – God’s family

Baptism – to dip someone under some water and bring them back up—like Jesus died and was raised to back to life—to show everyone that God has given them a new heart like Jesus

Ask

What does this passage say about God? Jesus has been given all authority, or power, by God the Father. Jesus gives His disciples a special command, or job to do. Jesus tells them to “go,” “baptize,” and “teach” others about Him. Jesus promises to always be with His followers, the children of God.

What does this passage say about us? Those who know, love, and trust Jesus are to obediently tell others about Jesus. “To go” means to intentionally seek out those who don’t know Jesus—friends, family, or strangers. “To teach them” means to share all that you know about God, from His book, the Bible, with others! Say, “God’s plan for His family has never changed because God is unchanging! God wants to use His children to share the good news of Jesus to grow His family!”

Pray

Spend time praying as a family using these prompts:

Praise – Tell God how great He is (attributes).

Thanksgiving – Thank God for what He does and gives.

Lament – Talk to God about what feels hard, hurtful, or wrong.

Confession – Tell God the truth about your sin.

Request – Ask God to do or give something.

Sing

Listen at vll.ge/beyondfd3.

“Great Is Your Love”

“Jesus Came to Save Sinners”

“Doxology”

Family Discipleship Moments

Find time this week to pray for your lost friends, family members, and neighbors. Bake cookies for a neighbor, write a card for a family member, or help a neighbor with their yardwork. After serving those around you, ask how you can pray for them.

You can spend time prayer walking around your neighborhood. Take chalk with you for a fun and creative way to engage those who live in your neighborhood. You can draw pictures, write Bible verses, or write prayers on the sidewalk. As you ride your bike down the street or walk past homes, pray for your neighbors to come to know Jesus.

Sermon Guide Week 4

“For Us and For Them”

The story of the Bible is one story, and it is not finished yet. Our generation commends the work of Christ to the next through our lives and the legacies we leave. Key to the legacies we desire to initiate and impart are the ministries of prayer and presence. Facilities, finances, and expansion all serve the mission and vision of TVC. There are thousands of people around the world who do not know Christ but who will be brought into the Kingdom by the grace of God through the ministries and prayers that flow out of our building. What an exciting, yet weighty opportunity!

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
Psalm 145:4 (ESV)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Pray for TVC to grow deep and wide, that we might embody what we wish to impart through prayer and presence.
2. Pray for the nations. Ask God to use our facilities, people, and resources to impact the world.
3. Consider the next generation. What can you do to commend the works of God to them?
4. Where might you give your attention, time, and resources to do so?

Family Discipleship

Read

Hebrews 12:1–3

Define

Disciple – a friend and follower of Jesus

Delight – Hearts are happy because God is in the highest place.

Temptation – when our hearts or other people tell us that sinning is better than obeying God.

Temptation tests our belief in God.

Wisdom – living in God’s world, God’s way

Ask

What does this passage say about God? Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith. That means Jesus gives us the gift of faith to believe in Him. Jesus joyfully died on the cross because of His great love for God’s children. Jesus is with God, in Heaven. Jesus doesn’t want His followers to be sad or discouraged, but to joyfully follow Him.

What does this passage say about us? We are not alone. We are surrounded by other believers here on earth and we have the Bible, God’s True Word, which is full of stories about God saving and using His people. Children of God are to say “No!” to temptation and live in God’s world, God’s way. We do this by remembering what Jesus has done for us. Say, “When children of God trust in God’s goodness and obey Him, they are living in God’s world, God’s way. This is the only way to experience true delight and lasting joy.”

Pray

Spend time praying as a family using these prompts:

Praise – Tell God how great He is (attributes).

Thanksgiving – Thank God for what He does and gives.

Lament – Talk to God about what feels hard, hurtful, or wrong.

Confession – Tell God the truth about your sin.

Request – Ask God to do or give something.

Sing

Listen at vll.ge/beyondfd4.

“Shout Joyfully”

“God Is Good”

“Doxology”

Family Discipleship Moments

Spend some time as a family thinking about the “great cloud of witnesses” whom God has put in your life. Using a large piece of paper, create a scroll and take turns sharing your favorite characters from the Bible and why. Take a few minutes to share about important people in your life who encourage you or those who have taught you about God. As you talk about people, write down their names on the scroll. If possible, write them a letter of thanks or draw them a picture to thank them for sharing about Jesus.

Draw a big heart on a piece of paper and write or draw things that you love inside. As you think about what makes you happy or brings you joy, thank God for giving His children the gift of joy. Pick one of the activities from inside the heart and do it together. This could be cooking a family meal, going to see a friend, eating a special dessert, or doing a fun family activity.

Sermon Guide Week 5

“All In”

To be consecrated is to be set apart for holy purposes. A disciple is someone who surrenders all of life to God’s good design for identity, belonging, and purpose. This is consecration. For you to be “all in” involves seeing the layers of your story woven into TVC’s story, as it is woven into God’s story.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:23–27 (ESV)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, where do these two passages inform your daily life? Where can you surrender to God’s good design?
2. In the body of Christ, we are members of each other. We are designed to live interdependently, which is countercultural to our time and place in history. How has your life been interwoven with the lives of those around you at TVC, and with the work of the Lord at TVC?
3. The body of Christ has a role to play in the unfolding of history as we push back darkness, establishing light and life in the world. Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to guard, keep, and use the community of believers at TVC, that we might use our gifts for His glory.

Family Discipleship

Read

Luke 9:23–26

Define

Merciful – God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Sacrifice – giving something special and valuable to God to show Him that He is better

Sanctification – God makes His children become more like Jesus in their thinking, feeling, speaking, and doing.

Ask

What does this passage say about God? Jesus tells the truth about how following Him requires sacrifice. Eternal life with God is more important than temporary comfort or ease here on earth. God wants what is best for His children. Being with God is always best. To be “ashamed” of God means to refuse to believe that you are a sinner in need of being saved.

What does this passage say about us? Following Jesus is worth the sacrifice. The only way to be saved from sin is to believe that Jesus died on the cross and was raised again. He took the punishment we deserved because of God’s great love for us. Say, “One of God’s gifts to His children is the act of growing them. God makes His children become more like Jesus in their thinking, feeling, speaking, and doing. This is called sanctification. If you love and trust Jesus, then you have the Holy Spirit to help grow you!”

Pray

Spend time praying as a family using these prompts:

Praise – Tell God how great He is (attributes).

Thanksgiving – Thank God for what He does and gives.

Lament – Talk to God about what feels hard, hurtful, or wrong.

Confession – Tell God the truth about your sin.

Request – Ask God to do or give something.

Sing

Listen at vll.ge/beyondfd5.

“Great Things”

“Jesus Came to Save Sinners”

“Doxology”

Family Discipleship Moments

Take time this week to go to the store and buy seeds. This could be herbs, flowers, or a plant. As a family, plant the seed and put it somewhere in your home where you can check on it regularly. Water and take care of your plant and watch it grow. Remind each other that God has provided everything we need to grow. Just like you are taking care of the plant and helping it grow, God grows His children.

Cut strips of paper and write out each word in the verse of Romans 1:16a. “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.*” Create a chain by stapling the strips of paper together and hang it in your living room or dining room. Practice memorizing the verse together as a family by reciting it each night at dinner.

