

*Message*  
**Notes**  
— and —  
*Small Group*  
**Guide**





## Lesson 1

# God has a NEXT for Everyone!

### ICE BREAKER

After high school, how did you decide what you would do next?

### PRAYER TIME

### INTRODUCTION

#### Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

#### The story of Abraham exclaims five things:

1. God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_!
2. God Promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us His \_\_\_\_\_!
3. God Promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us to be a Blessing!
4. God Promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us in our NEXT \_\_\_\_\_!
5. The NEXT journey will require a \_\_\_\_\_!

### NEXT IS ABOUT:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Change – in ministry and culture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Future Generations – by enhancing spaces and supporting kids and youth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Kingdom – by being the light of Christ locally and sharing the good news globally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lives – by leading people to Serve and Share.

HAVE I BELIEVED IN  
JESUS CHRIST FOR  
SALVATION?

**Romans 3:23-25**

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; and are **justified freely by His grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.”

**Romans 10:9-10**

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Romans 6:23**

“For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**Romans 5:8**

“That if you **confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- ACCORDING TO THESE VERSES, HOW ARE WE SAVED?

Lord Jesus, for too long I've kept You out of my life. I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. By faith I gratefully receive Your gift of salvation. I am ready to trust You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth. I believe You are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day as a guarantee of my own resurrection. I believe that Jesus paid the price and did all that will ever be necessary for me to stand in Your holy presence. Thank You for bearing my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I believe Your words are true. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and be my Savior.

Amen.

Takeaway: God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone.



## Genesis 37:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.<sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup>We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.<sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”<sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”<sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

### ➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- What is Joseph's NEXT?
- Did Joseph know all the details of his NEXT?

## Four THINGS RELATED TO JOSEPH'S NEXT

### 1. God's NEXT is NOT Impacted by the Past

#### ➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- What are some of the things Stewart shared about Joseph's past?
- How does your past effect your walk with God?

## 2. God's NEXT Includes Protection not Necessarily Ease

### Genesis 37:26-28

<sup>26</sup>Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup>Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup>So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.



#### TALK ABOUT IT

- Why did Joseph's brothers want to get rid of Joseph?
- If you were Joseph, how would this event have impacted your belief in your NEXT?

## 2. God's NEXT Includes Protection not Necessarily Ease

## 3. God's NEXT Includes Hardships from Doing the RIGHT Things.

### Genesis 39:6-14

<sup>6</sup>So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,<sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"<sup>8</sup> But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup>No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup>And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.<sup>11</sup> One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.<sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.<sup>13</sup> When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,<sup>14</sup> she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

▶▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What were some hardships that Joseph faced in the above passage?
- Why did Joseph not sleep with Pharaoh's wife?
- How do you respond to hardships in your life? How about temptations?

4. **God's NEXT Includes the Need for Extended Faithfulness**

**Genesis 39:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup>the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup>So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

▶▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What was the result of Joseph not sleeping with Pharaoh's wife?
- Why did the prison warden grant Joseph favor?
- Have you ever faced times when you wondered about God's faithfulness?

**WRAP UP**

God's plan for NEXT includes making a commitment to hold the course for 2 years of spiritual growth through change. Everyone at Fellowship of the Rockies should be praying about their NEXT and seeking the Holy Spirit's wisdom and revelation. Here are some questions to ponder over the next few weeks.

- **Am I willing to spend time in prayer asking God to show me His NEXT?**
- **Do I believe that God will be faithful in helping me to achieve His NEXT?**



**G O D P R O M I S E S T O  
S H O W U S H I S N E X T**

Genesis 12:1-3, Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:4-5, 12

**N O T E S**

**Genesis 12:1-3**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

*Key Truth #1:*

**God Promises to Show Us His  
NEXT**

*Key Truth #2:*

**Not All Change is GOOD and Not  
All Change is BAD!**

*Key Truth #3:*

**God's NEXT in Life Always  
Includes Change**

**Nehemiah Discovers God's NEXT:**

- **Nehemiah 1:1-4**

**God's NEXT:**

1. Often Comes as a Need or Problem is Revealed
2. Is Discovered Through Prayer
  - *Nehemiah 1:4-5*
  - *Nehemiah 2:4-5*
3. Is Placed in our Hearts
  - *Nehemiah 2:12*

## Lesson 2

# God Promises to Show Us His NEXT!

### ICE BREAKER

When did you move to Colorado Springs?  
Was God involved in your decision to move?

### PRAYER TIME

### INTRODUCTION

#### Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

#### The story of Abraham exclaims five things:

1. God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_!
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3. God Promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us to be a Blessing!
4. God Promises to \_\_\_\_\_ us in our NEXT \_\_\_\_\_!
5. The NEXT journey will require a \_\_\_\_\_!

### NAVIGATING CHANGE - IN MINISTRY & CULTURE

- Embracing our identity in Christ.
- Adopting positive and Christ-honoring social media practices.
- Responding with new ministry models in light of the post-Christian reality of America.

*Takeaway:* **God's NEXT in life always includes Change.**

▶▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What are some changes in our culture that you think are good?
- What are some changes in our culture that you think are bad?
- Which one of the three topics listed on the previous page do you find the most interesting?

*Takeaway:* **Not all change is GOOD and not all change is BAD!**

**NEHEMIAH'S NEXT REVEALS *Three* IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT GOD'S NEXT**

**1. God's NEXT Often Comes as a Need or Problem is Revealed  
Nehemiah 1:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,<sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."<sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.<sup>5</sup> Then I said: "Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments,<sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What is the problem that Nehemiah has been made aware of?
- How did Nehemiah react to the problem?

## 2. God's NEXT is Discovered Through Prayer

### Nehemiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, <sup>2</sup>so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, <sup>3</sup>but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" "The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup>and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What was Nehemiah's job?
- Why was Nehemiah sad when he went before the king?
- Why was Nehemiah afraid to answer the king?
- What did Nehemiah do before he answered the king's question?
- What did Nehemiah tell the king that he wanted?



### 3. God's NEXT is Placed in Our Hearts

#### Nehemiah 2:7-8

<sup>7</sup>I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? <sup>8</sup>And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

#### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What did Nehemiah ask the king to give him?
- What was the purpose of the letters?
- Why did the king give Nehemiah what he wanted?
- Why did Nehemiah have the confidence to ask the king for the letters?

#### WRAP UP

Nehemiah heard about a problem, and it broke his heart. He fasted and prayed about the problem and his heart was open to God. During the two years of NEXT, there will be many opportunities for you to hear about what our church is doing. When you hear these opportunities, will you pray and ask God to speak to you?

- Am I willing to spend time in prayer asking God to show me His NEXT?
- Do I believe that God will be faithful in helping me to achieve His NEXT?





## God Promises to Bless us to be a Blessing in our NEXT Journey!

### ICE BREAKER

When is the last time you blessed someone outside of your family? How did you bless them?

### PRAYER TIME

### INTRODUCTION

#### Genesis 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

#### ➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- What did God promise to do for Abraham in verse 2?
- What did God promise to do for Abraham in verse 3?
- Who will be blessed by Abraham?
- How will all peoples be blessed by Abraham?

***The "E" in NEXT is about equipping future generations. Fellowship is a multi-generational church, and each generation has their needs. We have programs for all the generations here at FOR. During NEXT we are focusing on kids and youth because we believe that there some things we need to do better. Kids and youth are the future of the church.***

**EQUIPPING FUTURE GENERATIONS  
- BY ENHANCING SPACES AND  
SUPPORTING KIDS AND YOUTH**

Over the next two years, we are going to:

- Better equip our future generations by creating an exciting, kid-friendly ministry place
- Provide an extended hours option for Pre-School
- Invest in future ministry leaders through two 12-month internships
  - One future youth/kid's ministry leader
  - One future worship leader.

*Takeaway:* **God Promises to Bless us to be a Blessing in our NEXT Journey!**

**WE WILL BE DISCUSSING HOW GOD  
BLESSES US AND HOW WE MIGHT USE  
THOSE BLESSINGS IN THE FOLLOWING  
THREE AREAS:**

1. Time
2. Talent
3. Treasure



*Time*  
**God  
blesses us  
with time  
- how am I  
being a  
blessing  
with what  
he has  
given me?**

## Ephesians 5:11-17 (The Message)

Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.

Wake up from your sleep,  
Climb out of your coffins;  
Christ will show you the light!

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What is useless work or busywork according to this passage?
- What is a scandal according to this passage?
- What does it mean to make the most of every chance you get?
- How do we make sure we understand what the Master wants?

*Gifts & Talents*

**God blesses us with gifts and talents - how am I being a blessing with what he has given me?**

### 1 Peter 4:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. <sup>11</sup> If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

▶▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What is hospitality?
- Where do our gifts come from and what should we do with them?
- What gift(s) has God given you?

*Resources*

**God blesses us with Resources - how am I being a blessing with what he has given me?**

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

▶▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- How do you feel about the principle of sowing and reaping?

**Give** \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Chronicles 29:14**

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

▶▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What does it mean to give humbly?

Give \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2 Corinthians 8:12

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

### Mark 12: 43-44

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything- all she had to live on.”

#### TALK ABOUT IT

- Some people have never made a commitment to give. How do these verses change your perspective on giving to God?

#### WRAP UP

### Our NEXT initiative has two audacious God-sized and Holy Spirit-filled goals.

- **Primary Goal** is 100% Participation!  
Are you willing to take a bold step of faith to be a part of NEXT?
  - Commit to being a change agent amid the overwhelming change in our culture
  - Commit to equip future generations so they can thrive in Christ by doing your part to expand the Kingdom.
  - Commit to growing as a follower of Jesus
- **Secondary Goal** – Funds are pledged to meet NEXT initiatives
  - Grow in giving out of all God’s blessings





## God Promises to Protect us and Provide for us in our NEXT journey!

### ICE BREAKER

Has God ever protected you and provided for you? Can you share some details?

### PRAYER TIME

### INTRODUCTION

*Takeaway:* **God Promises to Protect us and Provide for us in our NEXT journey!**

#### Genesis 17:3-7; 15-19

<sup>3</sup>Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,<sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.<sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.<sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.<sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup>God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.<sup>16</sup>I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”<sup>17</sup>Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?”<sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”<sup>19</sup>Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- Why did God change Abram's name to Abraham?
- How long will God's covenant with Abraham last?
- Why did God change Sarai's name to Sarah?
- How did Abraham respond to God telling him that Sarah would have a son?
- What was Abraham and Sarah's Next?

***The "X" in NEXT is about eXpanding the Kingdom by being the light of Christ locally and sharing the good news globally. Fellowship is a mission focused church. We have both local and international opportunities at Fellowship of the Rockies. During NEXT we are focusing on making more local opportunities for families to participate in and making international opportunities more affordable.***


## **EX**PANDING THE KINGDOM – BY BEING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST LOCALLY AND SHARING THE GOOD NEWS GLOBALLY.

*Over the next two years, we are going to:*

- 1. Provide three local mission opportunities for people of all ages to be the light of Christ in our city.**
- 2. Support 80 people to attend our Juarez mission trip to help build four houses, feed a local church, and minister to local children.**
- 3. Encourage our members to visit their sponsored children in the Dominican Republic by reducing the cost of the trip to just the airfare.**

God Protects and Provides for Those Who...  
are Committed to Moving Forward in Their NEXT

**Exodus 14:10-18**



<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” <sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” <sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup>Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

➤ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What were the Israelites afraid of?
- What was Moses’ response to the Israelites?
- What concerns you as you pray about God’s Next for you?
- What did God say to Moses after Moses responded to the Israelite’s concern?
- What did God say that the Egyptians would know after He destroyed their army?
- Are you confident that the LORD will be with you in your Next?

## God Protects and Provides for Those Who...

### Exercise Faith in Their NEXT

#### **Exodus 14:19-22**

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,<sup>20</sup> coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,<sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

#### TALK ABOUT IT

- What did God do for the Israelites?
- What keeps you from having great faith?
- Do you think that the Israelites believed that God could and would part the sea?

## God Protects and Provides for Those Who...

Trust in Him and Follow His  
Leadership in Their NEXT

### Exodus 14:26-31

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” <sup>27</sup>Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea.<sup>28</sup>The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.<sup>29</sup>But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.<sup>30</sup>That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.<sup>31</sup>And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

#### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- How did Moses follow God’s leadership?
- How did the Israelites respond when they saw what God was doing?
- Are you willing to follow God’s leadership in your Next?

WRAP UP

-Will your Next include participating in a local or international mission event?

-Will you spend time this week to allow God to speak to you about your Next?



**Our NEXT initiative has two God-sized and Holy Spirit-filled goals**

- **Primary Goal** is 100% Participation!
- **Secondary Goal** – Funds are pledged to meet NEXT initiatives

*Remember that this is a 2-year initiative and it's not about giving only, but it's our vision – the vision God has given us – for the next 2-years at Fellowship of the Rockies.*

*We hope you can make attendance for the next 2 weeks a major priority. For our church to be all that it can be over the next two years, we need everyone to participate. Please continue to pray for what God has NEXT for you.*

**Reminder:  
Commitment Sunday is Sunday, March 2nd.**



Lesson 5

**The NEXT Journey Will  
Require a Step of Faith!**

**I C E B R E A K E R**

What is one of your steps of faith that you have taken in your life?

**P R A Y E R T I M E**

**I N T R O D U C T I O N**

**Hebrews 11:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.<sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for.

▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What is it that we are hoping for?
- What does the word assurance mean?
- What does it mean to be commended for something?
- In your own words, what is faith?
- What is a step of faith?

***The key truth for our “NEXT” study series is “God has a NEXT for everyone.” God has a plan and a task for your life. Over the next few weeks, we hope you are encouraged to seek what God has planned for you. Fellowship has a vision for what God wants the church to do and we need your help to accomplish all that is in our future.***

**The “T” in NEXT is about Transforming Lives – by leading people to Serve and Share.**

Our strategy

Life change happens best as we connect, commit and serve.

We are adding 'share' to our strategy:

Life change happens best when we connect, commit, serve and **share**.

▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What do you think the word share means in this context?
- How would learning more about sharing transform your life?

**TRANSFORMING LIVES – BY LEADING PEOPLE TO SERVE AND SHARE**

Over the next two years, we are going to:

1. **Equip people to share their faith in practical and effective ways.**
2. **Equip people to understand their spiritual gifts and be more Christlike by serving**



## Takeaway: The NEXT Journey Will Require a Step of Faith!

### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What was the step of faith that the four men took?
- Why did the men have to lower the paralyzed man through the roof?
- Who did Jesus commend for their faith?
- Why was what the men did called faith?
- In this story do you identify with the paralytic, his friends, or the teachers? Why?
- Why did Jesus Christ start with “your sins are forgiven” instead of “take up your mat and walk”?

### Mark 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.<sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.<sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.<sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,<sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?<sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?<sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man,<sup>11</sup> “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”<sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

# Sharing

## 1 Peter 3:13-15

<sup>13</sup>Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

<sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

<sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- How do you answer the question in verse 13?
- What happens if we suffer for doing good?
- What is the reason for the hope that you have?
- Do you feel comfortable sharing your faith?
- What does giving an answer with gentleness and respect mean?

## Colossians 4:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

### ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- How do you make the most of every opportunity?
- What does it mean to have your conversation full of grace?
- What does seasoned with salt mean?

# Spiritual Gifts

## 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.<sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.<sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.<sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.<sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,<sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,<sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.



### TALK ABOUT IT

- Who is the giver of spiritual gifts and who determines who gets what gift?
- What does it mean that gifts are given for the common good?
- Have you ever taken a spiritual gift assessment? If yes, what are your gifts?

## Romans 12:3-8

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,<sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;<sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;<sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

## ➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- What should we do with our spiritual gifts?

## WRAP UP

- **Will you use your gifts and talents to help make Fellowship of the Rockies the best church possible?**
- **Will you spend time this week to allow God to speak to you about sharing your faith?**
- **Are you ready to take your step of faith?**

Will you join me in a step of faith... to expect great things from God in NEXT and attempt great things for God in NEXT. We can individually and collectively

- **N**avigate Change
- **E**quip Future Generations
- **eX**pend the Kingdom
- **T**ransform Lives





Lesson 6

**I Commit to My NEXT Step of Faith!**

**ICE BREAKER**

When you were growing up, who was your biggest encourager?

**PRAYER TIME**

**INTRODUCTION**

**NEXT** Challenge **I Commit to My NEXT Step of Faith!**

**Genesis 22:2-3**

<sup>2</sup>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.”<sup>3</sup>Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

▶ **TALK ABOUT IT**

- What was Abraham told to do?
- What would you have done if you were Abraham?
- What did Abraham do?
- What was Abraham’s step of faith?

## Hebrews 11:17-19

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup>even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” <sup>19</sup>Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

### ➤ TALK ABOUT IT

- What was the promise that God had made to Abraham?
- Why did it take faith for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?
- What did Abraham think might happen if he sacrificed Isaac?

**FAITH AND COMMITMENT  
WILL BE TESTED**

*Takeaway:* **When God asks us to let go of something it is to grow our Faith.**

## 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- What is mercy?
- Because of God's mercy what have we been given?
- What does this passage say about trials?
- What do these trials prove?
- What is the end result of our faith?
- What will you do when your faith is tested during your NEXT step?



## FAITH AND COMMITMENT ARE A HUGE EXAMPLE TO OUR FAMILY

### Galatians 6:9-10

<sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

## ▶ TALK ABOUT IT

- Do you ever become weary in doing good?
- When will we reap a harvest?
- Does your NEXT step include doing good?
- Who should we be doing good for?
- When you see people doing good does it encourage you?

**FAITH AND COMMITMENT ARE REWARDED**

**Colossians 3:23-24**

<sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,<sup>24</sup>since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

**▶▶ TALK ABOUT IT**

- What does it mean to work at something with all your heart?
- What is the reward for hard work?
- What is the inheritance?

**WRAP UP**

Thank you for spending time thinking about your NEXT step!

Over the NEXT two years we will be focusing on:

- **Navigate Change**
- **Equip Future Generations**
- **eXpand the Kingdom**
- **Transform Lives**





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*Prayer*  
**Guide**

## GOD HAS A NEXT FOR EVERYONE

### WEEK 1

DAY 1 ***Romans 12:1-2***

Ask God to renew your thinking - that you would not be conformed to this world, but to the will of God.

DAY 2 ***Philippians 1:9-11***

Ask God for the ability to experience and express the abundant love of Jesus Christ

DAY 3 ***Philippians 2:5-11***

Pray that your attitude might reflect the love, humility, and sacrifice of Jesus.

DAY 4 ***Matthew 6:33-34***

Confess the times you have sought worldly things before the Kingdom, and commit to a renewed pursuit of God.

DAY 5 ***Ephesians 3:13-14***

Pray that God would spark a revival at the heart of Fellowship of the Rockies - that we would "arise from the dead" and be truly alive.

## GOD PROMISES TO SHOW US HIS NEXT

### WEEK 2

DAY 1 ***Ephesians 3:14-21***

Pray that you would be continually filled with the Spirit - with His strength and His love.

DAY 2 ***1 Corinthians 15:1-11***

Praise Jesus for His sacrifice, and ask God for constant reminders of the Good News of the Gospel.

DAY 3 ***Matthew 28:18-20***

Thank God for inviting you into His redemptive Plan for the world and ask for the strength to do your part.

DAY 4 ***Isaiah 6:8***

Pray that God would give you a clear purpose, and that He would send you to fulfill it.

DAY 5 ***Ezekiel 47:1-12***

Pray that the love of Jesus would flow outward from our church into the communities that we minister to.

## GOD PROMISES TO BLESS US TO BE A BLESSING IN OUR NEXT JOURNEY

### WEEK 3

DAY 1 ***Ephesians 1:3-6***

Thank God for choosing you to be adopted into His family, and ask Him for complete unity with Christ.

DAY 2 ***Acts 4:32-35***

Ask God for a new perspective on your resources, and ways that you could use them to strengthen the church.

DAY 3 ***1 Corinthians 1:10***

Pray that Fellowship of the Rockies would be of one mind, unified by God's Holy Spirit.

DAY 4 ***2 Corinthians 9:10-11***

Ask God to show you how His name might be lifted up as you share generously with what He has given you

DAY 5 ***Philippians 4:19***

Thank God for all He has provided for you.

## GOD PROMISES TO PROTECT US AND PROVIDE FOR US IN OUR NEXT JOURNEY

WEEK 4

DAY 1 **2 Timothy 1:7**

Reject a spirit of fear and thank God that His Spirit is one of power, love, and self-control.

DAY 2 **Joshua 1:7-9**

Pray for the courage to do hard things, and thank God that He is with you wherever you go.

DAY 3 **Zechariah 4:6**

Thank God for the power of His Spirit, and ask Him to increase in you a reliance on that Spirit.

DAY 4 **Ephesians 6:13-17**

Pray on each individual piece of God's armor, and thank Him for equipping you for the battle.

DAY 5 **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Pray for the unity and endurance of Fellowship of the Rockies, that we may press on together as one.

## THE NEXT JOURNEY WILL REQUIRE A STEP OF FAITH

WEEK 5

DAY 1 **Ephesians 2:6-10**

Thank God for the immeasurable riches of His grace, and that we have been saved by grace, through faith.

DAY 2 **1 Corinthians 2:3-5**

Pray for your own faith - that you would have greater faith in the things of God than in the things of this world.

DAY 3 **Matthew 21:21-22**

Ask God to give you an unshakable faith - the kind of faith that can move mountains.

DAY 4 **James 2:14-17**

Reflect on the state of your faith, and ask God to give you a faith that bears good and healthy fruit.

DAY 5 **Hebrews 11:1**

Pray that God would bless the future of our church, and that your hope would be greater than any doubt.

## I COMMIT TO MY NEXT STEP OF FAITH

WEEK 6

DAY 1 **1 Chronicles 29:14**

Thank God for the resources He has given you, and ask for humility in your attitude towards them.

DAY 2 **2 Corinthians 9:9-11**

Pray that God would richly bless you for the sake of being a blessing to others, and that He would multiply your gifts.

DAY 3 **1 Peter 4:10-11**

Ask God to show you how to be a good steward of His resources, and that you would be inspired to use them.

DAY 4 **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

Ask God to show you what it looks and feels like to find joy in generosity and giving.

DAY 5 **Proverbs 3:9-10**

Pray for the people of this church - that Fellowship of the Rockies would experience the profound blessing of generosity.



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