

In the Beginning...

The story that makes sense of it all



CONTENTS:

Page 4

Introduction to “In the Beginning”

Page 6

Spiritual Practice: Evangelism

Page 11

January 4, 2026, Week 1: Creator Creates...

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 17

January 11, 2026, Week 2: Glory of Being Human

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 23

January 18, 2026, Week 3: One Command

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 29

January 25, 2026, Week 4: Messing with our Minds

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 35

February 1, 2026, Week 5: Grace Outside the Garden

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 41

February 8, 2026, Week 6: Starting Over

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 47

February 15, 2026, Week 7: God and the City

Pastor Brian Robertson

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES

Join with other senior adults for fellowship and a good lunch. Lunches are open to all and provide a great way to connect with others!

For any questions, please contact

Sharon Hooker: 419 - 303 - 2221 or Terri Ward: 419 - 234 - 4067

Thursday, January 8th @ 1pm

Meet at Golden Corral, 2620 Elida Rd. in Lima

Thursday, February 12th @ 11:30am

Meet at The American Table, 705 N. Cable Rd. in Lima



HONDURAS 2026



Honduras Mission Trip is Sunday, August 2nd to Saturday, August 8th. Cross-cultural experiences help to shape our hearts in Christ-like compassion. Through our partnership with Heart to Honduras, we coordinate trips to serve alongside the people in rural Honduras providing support and hope. Join us in praying for the people of Posas de Agua. If you are on the 2026 team, deposits are due Sunday, January 11th.

INTRODUCTION

As followers of Jesus, it is good for us to regularly come back to the narrative that helps us make sense of our world. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God Himself has provided a grand narrative and preserved it for us in the Bible.

The sixty-six books in the Bible contain the story of God and His master plan of establishing a community of loving persons, with Himself included as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.

Pastor and author Darrell Johnson has noted that the first eleven chapters of Genesis provide a context to understand the rest of the narrative of Scripture.

These chapters of the opening book in the Bible speak to fundamental questions we ask in every age:

- Where do we come from?
- Why are we here?
- What does it mean to be human?
- What is wrong with humanity?
- Where is God in all of this?
- Can the world be fixed? Who will do the fixing?

When we come to study and live in the stories of Genesis 1-11, we come to realize just how good the gospel of Jesus Christ really is.

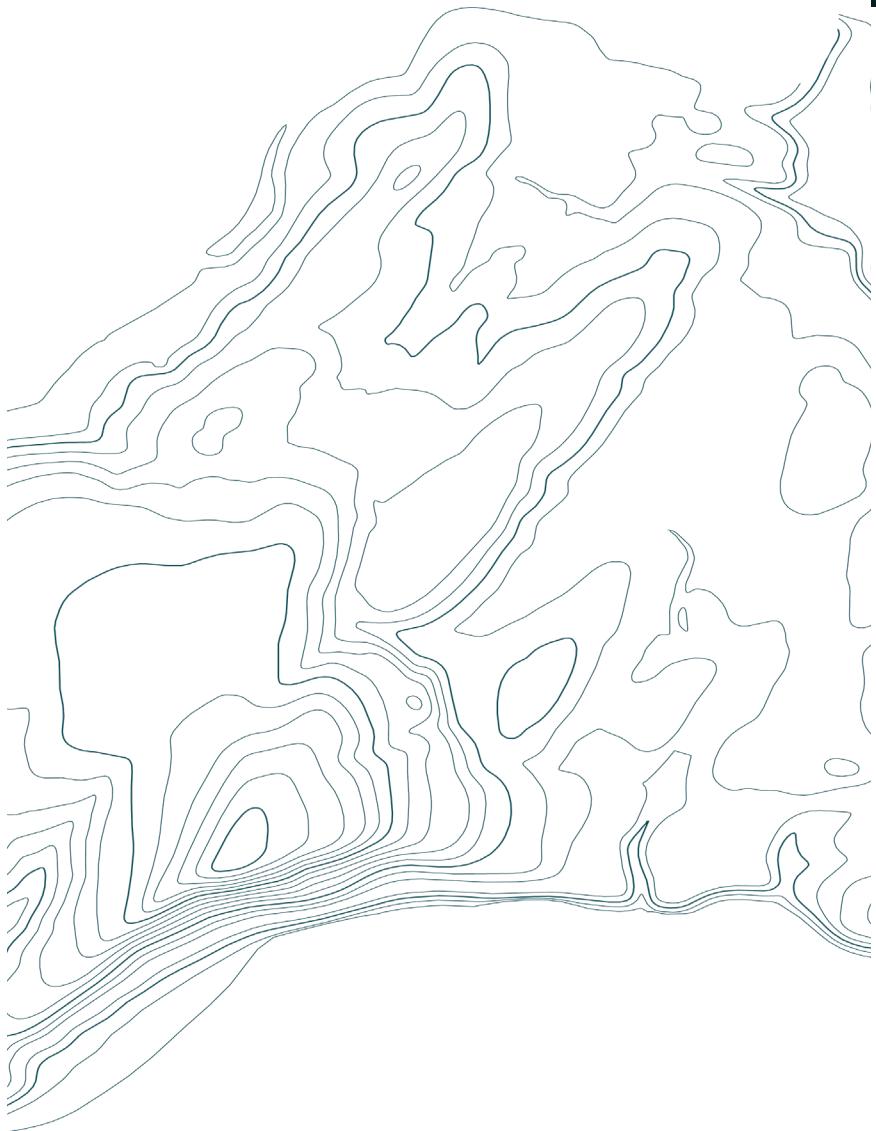
Understanding this story will take all of our life. In these moments, we are invited to allow them to shape and reshape our life to reflect the heart of God.

Much of the background and questions for this series come from Darrell Johnson's book entitled *The Story that Makes Sense of Our Stories*.

INTRODUCTION

In addition to the questions, you will find a Spiritual Practice to accompany the series. During this series, we are all invited to the practice of Evangelism.

- Pastor Brian Robertson



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: EVANGELISM

Melodie Sun writes, “I have never accidentally shared the gospel with anyone. That is not to say that I have never had an unexpected encounter with someone that led to a gospel [conversation], but even then, there was an intentional decision to steer the conversation toward Jesus.”

Sharing our faith can be intimidating for various reasons: feeling unequipped and fearing rejection to name a couple. We know we are to share our faith, but many of us avoid it.

The nature of a Spiritual Practice is something we intentionally do to help enable us to do what we currently do not do. In this way, there are intentional steps for each of us to do to help position us to share our faith in Jesus.

Step 1 – Pray for openness. In this step, we pray for an openness with someone. This might be someone you want to specifically share with or someone in general. Pray that you would sense an openness from the other person.

Step 2 – Watch with an open heart. Pay particular attention to the conversations you are having where someone is aware of a deeper longing/hurt.

Step 3 – “Tell me more about that.” When sensing someone’s openness to deeper things, invite them to share a little more about that.

Step 4 – Connect your story. After hearing some of their story, is there a way where your story interacts with theirs? Offer a simple connection.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE CONTINUED:

Step 5 – Pray with them. Offer to pray with/for them. Usually people are not opposed to others offering a prayer for them.

Step 6 – Offer an invitation. If possible, invite them to join you for a worship service. This is another way to continue spiritual conversations with people. Ask how they experienced the worship service and how it might connect with their desire for a life with God.

I offer these steps as an introduction to the discipline of sharing your faith – not as a rigid timeline to legalistically follow. As we are intentional and prayerful, I believe the Holy Spirit will guide and lead our conversations to be fruitful.



DESSERT AUCTION & CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 1st @ 5pm in the Gym



Each year this event is to raise money to help with a special ministry of the church. This year the funds are being designated towards a project the Honduras team will aid in when they travel to Honduras in August 2026. Set aside the evening to come and have fun with our Crossroads family as we auction off desserts, share a meal together and witness the chili cook-off.

CHILI COOK-OFF:

NEEDED: 10-12 cooks to submit your famous chili for the cook-off. If interested, please register online. Participants will be on a first-come basis.



DESSERTS:

NEEDED: LOTS and LOTS of desserts for auction. Any type are welcome. Desserts will need to be in the Café on or before 4pm on the day of event. Ingredient cards will be available in the lobby on Sunday, January 25th. Please complete and have one for each dessert item.

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION:

15-20 desserts (which will include the winning pie from the Fall Picnic & Festival) will be included in the live auction. All other desserts will be available in the silent auction.

MEAL:

Event Meal will consist of chili (with or without meat). Not a chili fan? Hotdogs will also be available, salad, and cornbread. Cost: \$6/person. Children under 3 are free.

FORMATION RETREAT: "AN ATTENTIVE LIFE"

Scan the QR Code to register:



Special Guest: Rob Loane

President of VantagePoint3
(author of The Journey course)

**Friday, February 20th @ 6:30pm
Saturday, February 21st @ 9am**

“We do not learn by experience ... we learn by reflecting on our experiences” (Trevor Hudson).

Taking moments to be attentive to the movement of God in our life lays the groundwork for an experience of a with-God life that brings goodness to our days. This one and a half day retreat/workshop will help to flesh out our life with God. Many have found this to be catalysts for spiritual growth. We hope you will choose to join us!

Cost: \$20/person, Where: Crossroads Church of God



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT LT



Families are invited to come together for Family Movie Night

**Saturday, January 24th at 6pm
in the Gym**

Creating family memories is one of the ways we can help our kids. This is not only true for our individual family but also to have good experiences with the extended church family! We want our kids to grow up knowing that church is a safe place where they belong. Movie Night is one way we can help our kids/families make good memories together with others in the church - we hope you'll join us for a fun-filled evening.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th @ 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season of preparation as we consider our brokenness and need for a Savior.

We invite you and others to join us!

WEEK 1: CREATOR CREATES...

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

JAN. 4, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.”

Psalm 148:1-4,13-14 NIV

Community Prayer:

Trinity United Methodist Church - Jim Nathan
Our Daily Bread - Randy Kimpel

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What is one thing you can take away from this service?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: EVANGELISM

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 1: Creator Creates ...

Read Genesis 1

1. How does Genesis 1 connect with (or confront) culture's attempt to make sense of reality?
2. How would life be different if people believed that "Creator Creates Creation?"
3. What difference does it make that God made things good?

Further reflection: The universe is not an accident. You are not an accident. There is a Creator who is personal. This Creator delights in creating. You are in whom God delights. Do you believe this?



SPORTS MINISTRY



Sports ministry helps to break down barriers and give kids a good experience on our campus. Help us provide a fun atmosphere teaching basketball fundamentals to kids in our community!

This is a great way we can bless our community through a fun, loving experience. In this way, our campus is a blessing.

You can be a part of an outreaching community for children to learn life-long skills, character development, and making friends!

Do you want to have some fun mornings by helping with the Basketball Clinic?

Let Pastor Jake know you are interested in helping with our next basketball clinic!

Scan the QR Code to sign up to help or email Jake, at jake@limacrossroads.org with any questions you may have about the ministry.



WEEK 2: GLORY OF BEING HUMAN

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

JAN. 11, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.

They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.”

Psalm 145:1-7, 21 NIV

Community Prayer:

Philippian Missionary Baptist Church - Lamont Monford
Lima Rescue Mission - Chuck Ferguson

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

If you could summarize what you are learning in one word/phrase what would it be?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: EVANGELISM

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

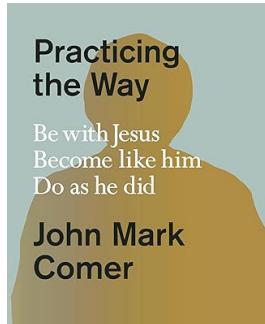
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 2: Glory of Being Human

Read Genesis 1-2:3

1. If someone asked you what it means to be human, how would you answer?
2. What does it mean that we were made in the image/ likeness of a God who is relational?
3. What does Genesis 1 teach us about Sabbath and rest as it relates to being human?

Further reflection: As you go through your week, practice intentionally seeing others as image-bearers of God. How does that change your interaction with them?



PASTOR BRIAN'S BOOK CLUB



Looking to dive into rich conversations about life, faith and growing in your apprenticeship to Jesus?

Join Pastor Brian as we explore this practical guide to spiritual formation through Jesus' teachings. While reading good books doesn't guarantee spiritual growth, God will often use the right book at the right time to speak into your life—especially when you read and pray and discuss in community.

Book club will meet five times (three times in person and twice on zoom) - beginning Thursday, March 26th. *There is no cost, other than purchasing your own copy of the book.



Share your story

We would love to hear how God has been moving in your life. If you have witnessed God's goodness, seen His hand at work, or experienced His presence in a meaningful way, we invite you to share it with us.

Send an email to catie@limacrossroads.org sharing your story. We cannot wait to celebrate God's faithfulness alongside you and share in the joy of what He is doing.

WEEK 3: ONE COMMAND
PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

JAN 18, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

the Lord gives sight to the blind,

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.”

Psalm 146:1-10 NIV

Community Prayer:

Shawnee Alliance - Kris Browning

Uganda - Tim & Colleen Stephenson

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

In what way were you challenged to grow in faith today?

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 3: One Command

Read Genesis 2:8-18

1. Describe the first time you remember disobeying something your parents told you to do.
2. What is 'knowledge of good and evil'?
3. Why was the command given in the first place?

Further reflection: Where do you sense God's invitation to trust him this week (or trust again/more)?

DINNER ROUNDS

**Looking for a fun way to connect
with others at Crossroads?**

Dinner Rounds are monthly informal gatherings in order to casually connect with others in the church family. Many have found these life-giving and an easy place to 'know and be known'.

Families are encouraged to bring kids when possible – it is a great way to put into practice hospitality for one another and build cross-generational relationships.

We will be starting a new round of Dinner Rounds in early 2026. Look for more information soon!



DEEP WOODS



Are you looking for a space of peace and quiet?

The Deep Woods, where we have our cabins, is the perfect retreat. The cabins are for personal reflection, solitude, and meaningful time with God. **To reserve a cabin, please call our church office at 419-229-4074.**

WEEK 4: MESSING WITH OUR MINDS

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

JAN. 25, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice[.]”

Psalm 95:1-7 NIV

Community Prayer:

St. Charles Catholic Church - Fr. Kent Kaufman
Learning Tree - Shanda Cox



SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What song connected with you in a particular way this morning?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 4: Messing with our Minds

Read Genesis 3:1-7

1. How was Satan depicted as you grew up? In what ways does this differ from the portrayal of him in Genesis?
2. Eve twists and misquotes God's words. Why is misquoting so dangerous? Can you relate a time when you discovered you had been doing that with God's word?
3. What does Genesis 3 reveal about sin?

Further reflection: In what ways do you relate to God with suspicion and/or distrust?



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

**VBS is happening from
Tuesday, July 14th to Friday, July 17th**



MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER

Serving is a key way we learn to live in the way of Jesus. Many have found special trips to be catalysts for a deeper life with God. This summer, our Students Ministry will have an opportunity to serve others on a Mission Trip from **Sunday, June 14th to Friday, June 19th**. Consider having your student join us for this wonderful opportunity.

WEEK 5: GRACE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

FEB. 1, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.”

Psalm 96:1-6 NIV

Community Prayer:

Zion Lutheran - Don Gutman
Echo Ranch - Randy & Allyson Alderfer

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What do you sense the Lord wants you to do with what you have heard?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 5: Grace Outside the Garden

Read Genesis 4

1. Do you have any siblings? Describe your relationship with them.
2. Why was God pleased with Abel and his sacrifice and not with Cain?
3. Read Luke 10:25-37. How does Jesus answer the question, "... Who is my neighbor?" and how does that correlate to "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Further reflection: Think of three people this week and consider what it means to be 'my brother's (or sister's) keeper'.

SERVING

WANT TO BE A PART OF CROSSROADS?

As we continue to grow as a church, let us grow our teams too! We are looking for some people to add to our volunteer teams! Crossroads functions best when we all shoulder the load of ministry and help where needed. If you have been stuck and looking for a place to grow/develop in your life with God, consider joining one of our great volunteer teams - we would love to see you put your gifts to use! Many opportunities do not require experience, we will learn and grow together. We are looking for volunteers to serve in the following areas:

Crossroads Kids (Sunday mornings 9 or 10:45am)

Crossroads Students (Sunday mornings 10:45am and special events)

Hospitality (Café and refreshments)

Greeters (Welcome team and greet first time guests)

Tech Team (Sound, lights, video, and multi-media)

Worship Team (Musicians and vocalists)

Grounds/Maintance Team (Lawn care, minor repairs, and snow removal)

If you are ready to serve, connect, and be part of what God is doing, let us know which team(s) you would love to join by writing on the communication card in the chair pocket or scaning the QR Code:



WEEK 6: STARTING OVER

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

FEB. 8 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.”

Psalm 98 NIV

Community Prayer:

Great Lakes Church - Katherine Smith
Heart to Honduras - Randy Bargerstock

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What is something you connected with in the service?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 6: Starting Over

Read Genesis 6-9

1. What does the fact that other cultures have flood stories say to you about the biblical story?
2. Why did the flood happen? What does this reveal about God's character?
3. What surprises you about this part of God's story?

Further reflection: Look for a rainbow this week. What does it remind you about God's faithfulness?

NEED A NEW RHYTHM?

PSALM 97:3

500

Fire goes before him,
and burns up his adversaries all around.
His lightning strikes in the world,
the earth trembles and quakes.
The mountains melt like wax before the fire.
With trumpet and the sound of the

horns,
make a joyful noise before the King, in
the Lord, let the sea roar, and all that is in it.
Let the sea roar, and all that is in it.

Hurry robs us of joy, peace, patience, and gentleness (among other things). This is why we often say we must learn to ruthlessly rid ourselves of hurry. Set up a meeting with Pastor Brian to help establish new rhythms in your spiritual life.

Reach out to Rachel at rachel@limacrossroads.org to make an appointment.



MINISTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



In a way to steward our resources well, we partner with local and global ministries that seek to care for others in the name of Jesus. Our Daily Bread is a soup kitchen in Lima providing hot meals for those in need. Our financial support (along with serving breakfast a couple of times a year) helps provide hope and support to those in our community.

WEEK 7: GOD AND THE CITY

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

FEB. 15, 2026

WORSHIP RESOURCES

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalm 100 NIV

Community Prayer:

In Faith Ministries - Michael & Kim Lyons
International Justice Mission (IJM) - Gary Haugen

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

SERMON NOTES

What is something you take away from this series?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:

As you are thinking of those you know who do not know a life with God, offer this prayer...

“Father,

Help me see your presence in everything, from my morning coffee to my difficult conversations, recognizing that your story unfolds in all of life.

Empower me to be your hands and feet today. When I hesitate, remind me:

‘If not me, then who? If not now, then when?’

Use my words, my actions, my very presence to radiate your Good News, making my life a living testimony. May your Kingdom come, in me and through me, today and always.

Amen”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Week 7: God and the City

Read Genesis 11

1. How does this story explain human pride and arrogance?
2. “Judgement is always God giving us the full implication of the path we have chosen. The story of the Tower of Babel tells us that the centrifugal forces set in motion by a shift in what is at our center pulls us apart.” What do you think about this quote?
3. In what ways do you see grand buildings as an attempt to ‘make a name for yourself’? Can grand buildings be a good thing?



“Inviting
people to
apprenticeship
to Jesus”

Sundays: 9 & 10:45 am

Online: 10:45am

Follow Us:



Address: 775 S Thayer Rd. Lima OH 45806

Phone: 419-229-4074 | **Website:** LimaCrossroads.org