

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET



For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:5 ESV

FROM THE PASTOR

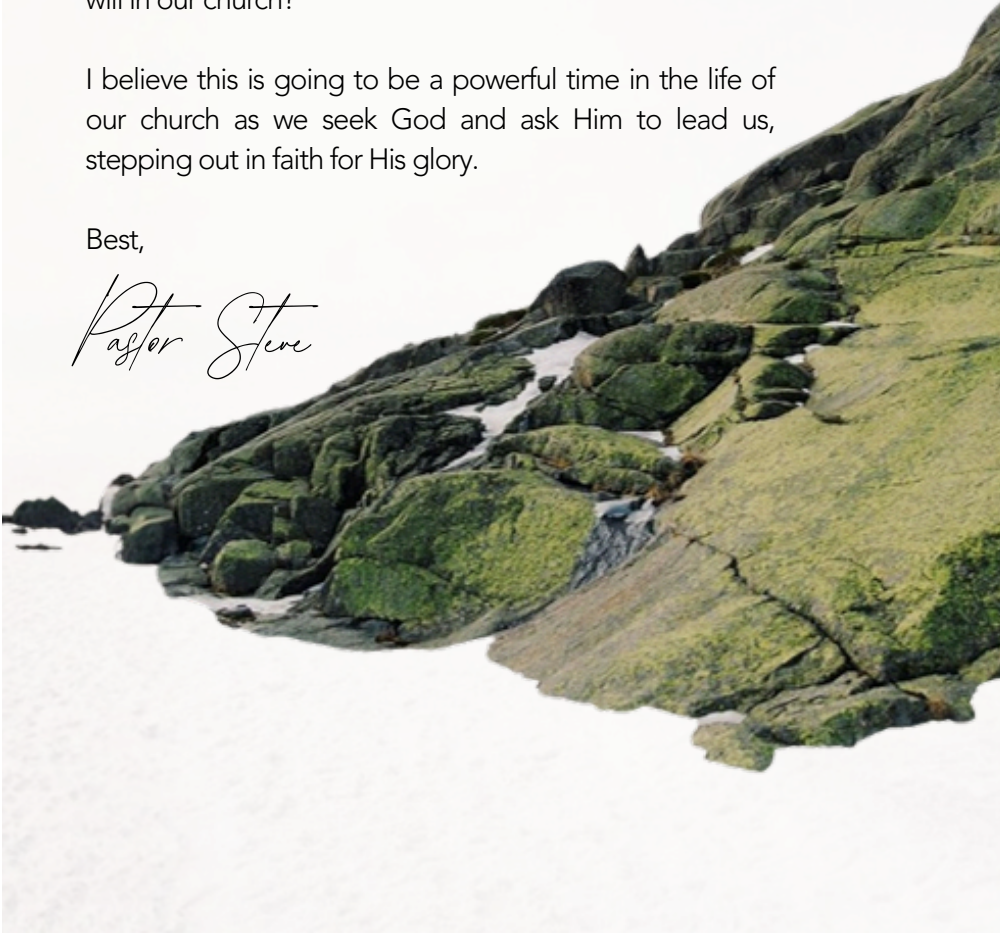
I'm excited about what God is going to do in our church over the next few weeks as we join our hearts together through this Forward in Faith devotional book. Every devotional was written by a leader at Emmanuel with the intention of helping us seek and experience God in a powerful way during this time.


As you read the devotional each day and listen to God's Word, remember there are hundreds of others doing the same thing. As you pray each day, pray this prayer: "God, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in our church?"

I believe this is going to be a powerful time in the life of our church as we seek God and ask Him to lead us, stepping out in faith for His glory.

Best,

Pastor Steve



A scenic landscape with a metal kettle in the foreground. The background shows a valley with a river and mountains under a cloudy sky.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love
endures forever, and his faithfulness to
all generations.

PSALM 100:5

QUESTION

How do we trust that God's goodness and enduring faithfulness will continue through our generation and future generations?

APPLICATION

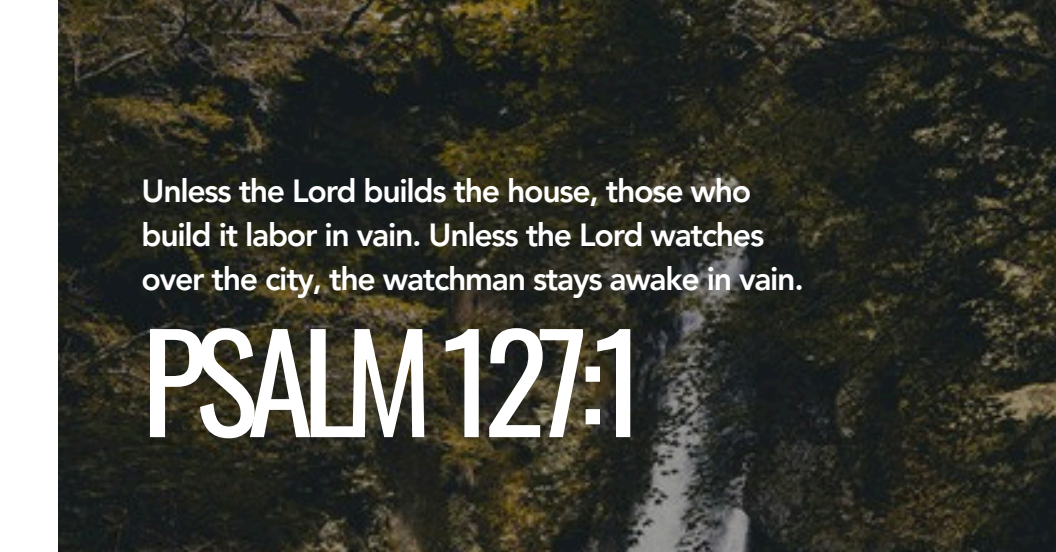
For seven generations God has blessed Church of Emmanuel, and the members of this church have been faithful to walk in these blessings, serving and sacrificing as God has led. More recently, God has blessed our church with numerical growth, and now this generation has an opportunity to follow God's leading in new ways.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the steadfast love and faithfulness you have shown to Church of Emmanuel through these generations. We are blessed to be inheritors of your faithfulness as well as the faithfulness of those who have gone before us. We long to see your kingdom come, and we ask for a renewed faith as we engage in the work of your kingdom. We also ask you to bless our offerings to expand your kingdom work not only for this generation but for future generations as well, until your Son, our savior, Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign over this world. Amen.

ERIC MATHEWS

DAY 1



Unless the Lord builds the house, those who
build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches
over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

PSALM 127:1

QUESTION

As we proceed with the capital campaign, how can we be sure that what is built will endure?

APPLICATION

Over the coming weeks, we invite everyone associated with Church of Emmanuel to pray over our building project and church plant, seeking God's guidance, blessing, and provision.

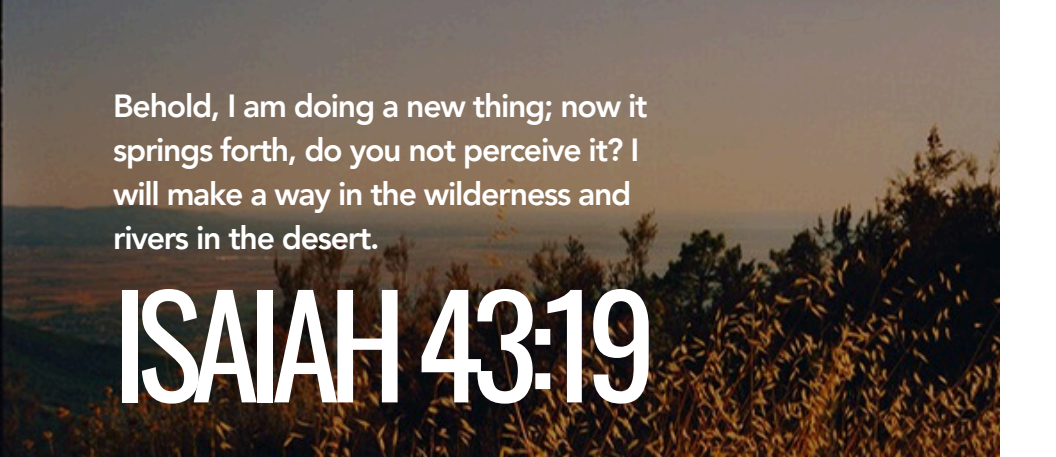
PRAYER

Father God, we know that Your people began their greatest works with prayer. Solomon sought You, Lord, for wisdom before beginning the work of the temple, and You affirmed that Your presence would dwell among Your people through the house built for Your name. And before Jesus began the work of the cross, He withdrew to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, surrendering His will to You, Father, and entrusting the work of salvation fully into Your hands.

As we step forward in faith, committing ourselves to the vision of expanding and restructuring our worship spaces, we seek to better support the life, work, and growth of Church of Emmanuel and our church plant. Our prayer is that every plan we make will be shaped by Your will, and that as we offer our plans and our labor to You, they will be consecrated, pleasing in Your sight, and blessed for Your purposes.

ADRIENNE FOSTER SCHARF

DAY 2



Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

ISAIAH 43:19

QUESTION

How can we join God in the new thing he is doing?

APPLICATION

In a world where we celebrate the newest celebrity, stand in line for the latest phone, and place great safety and comfort in our progress, we can forget that God alone makes all things new (Rev 21:15). This season is a time to be attuned to the new things God is doing through Church of Emmanuel. Let us trust him and partner with him in his mission to make a way of salvation in the spiritual wilderness of our region.

PRAYER

Lord, I am always looking for something new... something to hold my attention... something to entertain me... something to give me more comfort and security. But I confess that I rarely look for the new things you are doing. But in your mercy, you have allowed our church to be on the precipice of something new: planting a church and expanding our facility. We stand amazed and eager to join you in this project. Allow us to faithfully fulfill your mission, seeking the renewal of lost souls through the good news of Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LUKE PROCTOR

DAY 3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 PETER 1:3

QUESTION

Am I willing to take God's promises more seriously than my current circumstances?

APPLICATION

Our world is broken. It doesn't take any convincing to realize this fact. Pick up a paper, scroll a website, walk down the street or look in the mirror- brokenness is everywhere. Often, we feel overwhelmed and unable to offer any meaningful response. This verse challenges us to believe that the God we serve is able to provide real and meaningful relief. Rather than being paralyzed by our own lack of resources, let us be a people convinced of the goodness and providence of the God we serve.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for Your word.

Our broken world desperately needs You.

We confess that often we don't feel like we even have what we need for life - never mind godliness.

Forgive our unbelief.

Please help us to respond in faith to the circumstances in our world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

TIM HOWARD

DAY 4

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:1-5

QUESTION

How do we live our lives abiding in Christ? How do we accomplish his will by living with Him and in Him?

APPLICATION


The Lord reminds us that He is always here with us. We need to remain in fellowship and communication through His Word and frequent prayer. To remain in Him is to remain in love with Him. In seeking to know Him better, we find out what He loves, which is people! Our Father has a big family and he wants it even bigger. When we remain in Him, we align our heart with his, and we align our desires with His will. That is the happiest place to be!

PRAYER

Lord, forgive us when we run off without You and try to live this life apart from You. Help us and teach us what it means to live "in Christ." Holy Spirit, enable us to do just that. All honor and glory to You, Lord! I ask this in Your beautiful name, Lord Jesus, Amen.

STEVE DESANTIS

DAY 5



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

MATTHEW 6:33

QUESTION

Am I ready to step forward in faith, trusting in God's promise that He will take care of me if I put Him first?

APPLICATION

Seeking first the kingdom of God means investing in the lives of other people. The vision of expanding our worship space and supporting a new church plant is an investment in the lives of many people for many years to come.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, as we step forward in faith, show us what part you want us to have in supporting the vision put before us. Unite us as a church family and show yourself faithful in clear and mighty ways so that our faith will grow ever stronger. We love you and thank you for your love and faithfulness to Church of Emmanuel for over 100 years. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TERRY KLEINJAN

DAY 6

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10

QUESTION

How do we grow in spiritual maturity so that we all desire to please God with our actions and know God more deeply?

APPLICATION

The capital campaign will challenge the faith of everyone at church. Intercessory prayer is essential to seeing our vision as a spiritually wise undertaking.

PRAYER

Father, guide our leaders to be in prayer for the people they lead. Bring to mind the names and faces of our congregation so that we are all held up in prayer. Help us also to pray for our leadership. Please bless and protect our pastors and staff as they oversee this effort. Give us spiritual insight and vision to understand your kingdom, and how we might seek your kingdom first. We ask you to bear much fruit through our church in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ERIC MATHEWS

DAY 7

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.

ZECHARIAH 4:10

QUESTION

What are the first steps to take as we partner with God in this effort?

APPLICATION

The Exiles were overwhelmed by the daunting task of rebuilding God's Temple. They had God's strength and provision and still felt anxious. That's where these wonderful words come in: "Do not despise small beginnings." Before we set out on an impossible mission, God helps us take the first step. God's calling on our lives is just as real today as it was for the exiles. God continues to draw many to respond to a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ and is calling us to create community and teach the next generation.

PRAYER

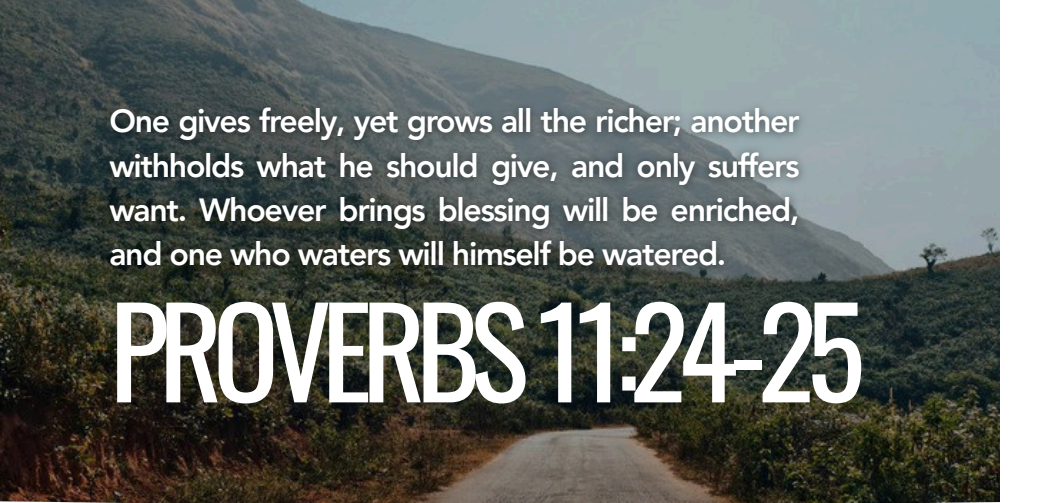
Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your sacrifice that redeems our lives and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You graciously call us to your purpose and allow us to partner with you in this life. You alone are worthy of power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.

Stir within me a desire to increase my financial giving as you continue to provide for all my needs. Please forgive me for looking at all you've given me and thinking I had anything to do with it. Help me in the first steps, the small beginnings of your work through Church of Emmanuel. Loosen my grip on this world's financial security and help me rest in complete confidence in you. May this step be the first of many as I seek to serve you and fulfill your purpose in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

REBEKAH MARSHALL

DAY 8



One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

PROVERBS 11:24-25

QUESTION


Do I trust Jesus with my whole life so that I will freely give of my earthly riches so that I may experience the spiritual richness of a full and abundant life with Jesus?

APPLICATION

Jesus once compared the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field which, when a man found it, he joyfully sold all he had to buy that field in order to obtain that treasure. Let us freely and joyfully invest in God's kingdom that we may bring blessing to those who walk through these doors. May they know and experience the love of Jesus and may we all share in the richness and abundance of the life we have in Him

PRAYER

Father, move me to freely and joyfully give to the work of your kingdom that I may experience true richness of life in you. Let me not suffer spiritual want by withholding my offering from you. Multiply this gift that, by your grace, many would receive the living water which proceeds from your throne and rejoice in the abundant riches of your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen



Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 JOHN 4:11-12

QUESTION

How does God prepare our hearts to love others?

APPLICATION


In writing to the church, John encourages us to remember the source of our strength and ability to love others: our gracious God who loved us first. In this season of great change and important planning, this scripture is a beautiful reminder to center our focus and ground our efforts in a deep, abiding love for others. Let us work towards the goals of expanding the building and planting this new church with a sincere desire to know and care for our neighbors better by showing them God's perfect love.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your perfect, enduring love. Please help me to love others as you have loved me. When I try to love out of my own strength, I inevitably fail, losing patience and growing weary. But your love is steadfast and complete. Let our hearts do this new work in your church with joy and hope for the neighbors who will be blessed and renewed through your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DANA PROCTOR

DAY 10



Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

PSALM 37:5

QUESTION

What would it look like for us to commit our ways to the Lord and trust Him to act?

APPLICATION


Whether you've been at Emmanuel for decades or just days, God's faithfulness to this church is evident. Now, as we prepare to enter a new chapter at Church of Emmanuel, we are seeing the visible fruit of God's blessing: a new church plant, more people hearing the gospel, and a growing need to expand our facilities in Foxboro. We are doing these things not only for our church family, but for those who have never stepped foot into a church. What would it look like if we fully committed our ways to God in this Capital Campaign? What would it look like for us to trust Him completely in this new season? God will act. May we commit our ways and trust Him fully as He leads Church of Emmanuel forward.

PRAYER

Abba Father, you are a God who acts, and your ways are perfect, not mine. In your grace and mercy, you have been faithful to Church of Emmanuel. I pray that we would continue to be used to share your good news, both locally and globally. Father, you know what is to come; you know the plans you have for this church. Would you help us commit ourselves to your ways? In Christ's wonderful name, Amen.

JONATHAN LOBATO

DAY 11



He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:5-7

QUESTION

When the scope of these projects feels so large it brings us concern and apprehension, how can we let God's promises guide us to continue forward by faith, rather than relying on what we can see or conceive?

APPLICATION

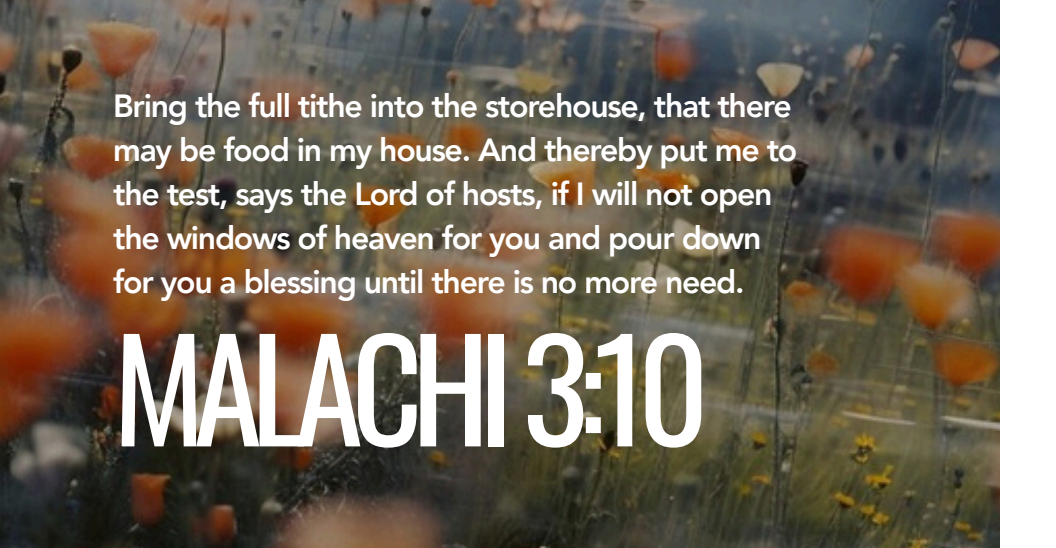
As we take on this work that the Lord has called us to do, it is natural to have concerns about the size, cost, and complexity. Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit is God's downpayment on a pledge that what He promises will come to pass. While we may not see the full outcome, we are invited to walk by faith, trusting God to guide each step, and allow Him to shape us in the process.

PRAYER

Precious and Holy Lord, You are our God who prepares us for what lies ahead. You have given us Your Spirit as a guarantee that Your promises stand firm. As we step into this season of commitment, we confess that in our weakness we cannot see all that You will do. We see plans and numbers. Help us see transformed lives, opened hearts, and eternal impact — as You do. Teach us to walk by faith and not by sight. Guard us from limiting You by what we imagine or plan. We entrust this work to You, confident that the One who gives the guarantee is faithful to complete what He has begun. Amen.

ADRIENNE FOSTER SCHARF

DAY 12



Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

MALACHI 3:10

QUESTION

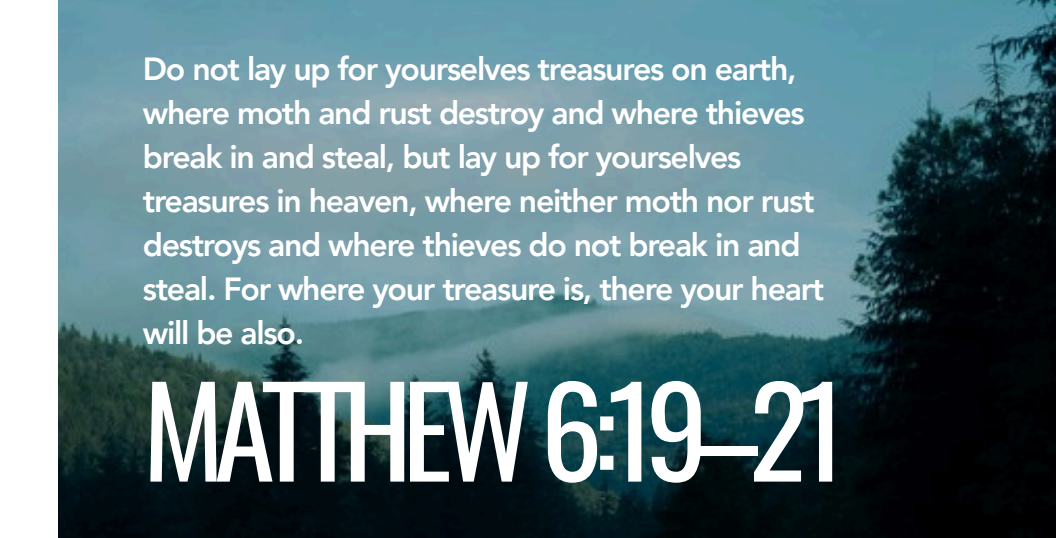
How can we learn to trust God completely with the promise from this verse?

APPLICATION

This is the only verse in Scripture when God says “test me.” Many other verses in the Bible say do NOT test God. In this verse, God not only tells us that it is ok to test Him but encourages us to do so. If we want to be spiritually blessed, then may we obey God in regards to generosity.

PRAYER

Dear Father God, as we think about this verse, help us to both test you and trust you in regards to our finances. As believers, we trust you with our eternal destiny - help us to completely trust you with our finances as well. We pray this in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:19–21

QUESTION

What does this passage reveal about where our hearts truly rest?

APPLICATION

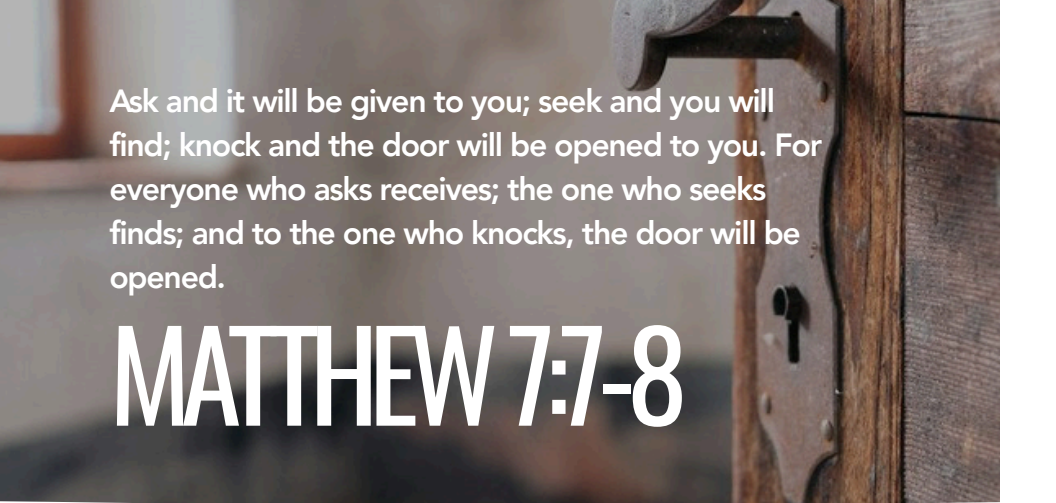
Jesus does not merely warn us about losing money — He warns us about displacing our hearts. Earthly treasures are temporary and vulnerable. They decay, depreciate, and disappear. Heavenly treasure, however, is secure and eternal. Giving is not simply about meeting needs; it is about directing our hearts. When we invest in what honors Christ and advances His kingdom, our hearts follow. Stewardship is not first about dollars — it is about devotion. If we want our hearts anchored in heaven, we must intentionally place our treasure there.

PRAYER

Gracious Heavenly Father, as we consider the words of Jesus, search our hearts and reveal what we treasure most. Guard us from placing our hope in things that fade. Teach us to invest in what is eternal and to trust You with all that You have given us. Align our hearts with Your kingdom and help us live with eternity in view. We pray this in Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.

JOHNNIE HADDAD

DAY 14



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

MATTHEW 7:7-8

QUESTION

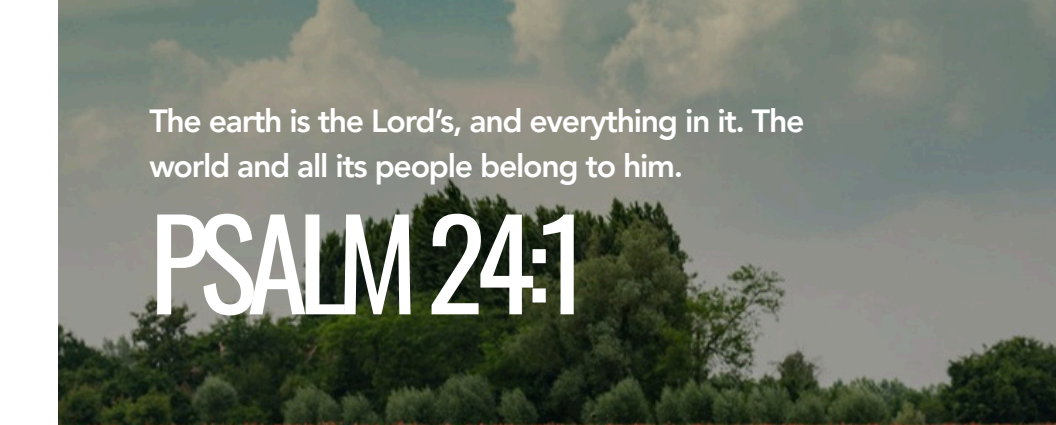
As a church body, are we willing to walk through new doors that God is leading us through, especially if we have asked and God has answered?

APPLICATION

As we embark on this kingdom investment that God has called us to, let's picture the doors (old and new) that will open wide to the community around us. Imagine all who will enter in, and who will hear of God's love for them. Lives will be transformed! Jesus' words in Matthew are an invitation to be in communion with our Heavenly Father, and to be open to where He leads us once we start knocking.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for inviting us to be bold in our prayers. In return, let us seek Your will and follow Your guidance. Make Your direction clear, so we can walk through all of the doors that await our church with confidence. Amen.



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

PSALM 24:1

QUESTION

Am I living in a way that shows I believe that everything, including all that I have, actually belongs to God?

APPLICATION

Psalms 24 uses a beautiful phrase to describe the Lord: "the King of Glory." David writes that the Lord is the One to Whom the whole world belongs. If we're honest, we tend to live our day-to-day lives making our own plans with our time, talents, and treasures. It is easy to forget that everything we have is actually God's. He is the source of all that we have. He doesn't need us to participate in His plans. He doesn't need us to partner with Him to accomplish His goal of glorifying His name. He is the King of Glory and will be glorified no matter what. But in His great love for us, He invites us to participate in what He is doing in the world. In His mercy, He chooses to bring us into His mission to bring Jesus to all people.

PRAYER

Lord, you are worthy of more than we have to give. But you welcome us to you, with the little that we have, and in your mercy, you do great wonders for Your glory. Will you show us if we are holding anything back from you? Please convict our hearts and change us from the inside out so that we truly live our lives with You on the throne. We pray all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

RENEE LOBATO

DAY 16

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

ACTS 13:2-3

QUESTION


How do we hear and confirm that the Holy Spirit has called us to do a new work, and once confirmed, how do we send them off?

APPLICATION

As we send a team from Church of Emmanuel to plant a new church, we ask God to prepare our hearts with joy and blessings.

PRAYER

Father, we lift up Pastor Luke, Dana and their growing family as they prepare to start a church in an area that is mostly unreached with the Gospel. We pray for the church plant launch team, that the Holy Spirit would unite them in love and purpose, and that you would create the identity after the person Jesus Christ. We pray for a location, a building, and a name for this church. We ask for favor to be shown by the local community. We pray that Church of Emmanuel would bless them with prayer, startup efforts, and finances through the capital campaign. We pray that your Holy Spirit would gather new believers to this body of faith. We pray that you would allow this church to be a blessing to the community and bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus. Amen.



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God
loves a cheerful giver.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

QUESTION

Where is God inviting us to move from comfortable giving to courageous generosity?

APPLICATION

As we embark on this new work that we have been called to, let us prayerfully consider specific ways to practice joyful generosity in supporting the Capital Campaign and Emmanuel's ministries.

PRAYER

Precious Heavenly Father, You are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Breathe into us the joy of generosity, that we might mirror Your heart in all we do. Keep before our eyes Jesus and His perfect sacrifice for our sin, so that what we offer is a simple, grateful echo of your gift. Open our eyes to the provision You have entrusted to us, and show us how it is to be poured out for Your Kingdom. Reveal the gifts You have woven into our very being and make clear where they are needed — where our time must be given, where our voices must rise, where our hands can serve, and where our compassion can bring healing. Grant us the boldness to give beyond comfort, over and above what we think is possible, with cheerful and willing hearts. Make our lives a living sacrifice: joyful, surrendered, and alive with holy purpose. We place all that we are and all that we have into Your faithful hands, trusting that You will multiply what we surrender, and use it for Your glory. Amen.

ADRIENNE FOSTER SCHARF

DAY 18

Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.

PSALM 102:18

QUESTION


Are we willing to be the generation that writes a story of God's faithfulness today, so that future generations have a spiritual home where deep connection, resilient faith, and authentic community can thrive in an increasingly isolated world?

APPLICATION

We're building something today that will bless people we haven't met yet - "a people yet to be created." It feels like we are building a Generational Bridge, a place where families grow closer, and where we intentionally create space for discipleship in Christ. This church will be a sanctuary where people can slow down, reconnect, and experience relationships shaped by God's love. We are not just adding space; we are creating a place where every generation can grow in faith, find their purpose, and live boldly for Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord, we come before You with grateful hearts as we step into this season of vision, faith, and expansion. Help us be the generation that prepares a place for those who will come after us. As our world changes and moves faster every day, we pray that you strengthen our families, empower our men and women in prayer and leadership, and let our youth find identity and purpose as we build for the future. Amen.



...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

QUESTION

In this new direction at Emmanuel, what will help me maintain my confidence in prayer on the days when there are challenges and my feelings waver?

APPLICATION

Since our thoughts and our feelings vary from day to day, we may pray enthusiastically one day, and other days want to retreat back to the known and familiar, especially when obstacles arise. A patient, loving Father prompts us with a gracious answer to our question - Who is faithful to complete this Plan?

PRAYER

Father, help me pray in faith for Your plans at Emmanuel. When my feelings waver, please stabilize me in the truth of who You are and what you have accomplished. I know that you have a plan. You began this good work and You will complete it.

In You, there is no retreat. You never sway from Your plan to spread Your good news to as many as possible, as quickly as possible, in as relevant a way as possible. May we see You continue to miraculously draw people to Yourself! Praise be to God who does all things well! Amen.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

QUESTION

What do you do when you can't find your footing or make heads or tails of your situation?

APPLICATION

When was the last time you went looking for an item but came up empty? You started with the obvious location before turning your search to the unusual, knowing full well the chances of finding the missing item were slim. You may have recruited the help of others only to be left wondering where it could have gone. Unlike the frustrating search for an elusive item, God delights to make Himself known to us. He not only listens to us when we pray but reveals Himself in unmistakable ways.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You alone are the author of our hope and future. Your perfect plan is not derailed by my imperfect life. Please clean the corners of my heart from doubt and distraction and dependence on myself. Strengthen my spirit. Rise above my light and momentary problems. Teach me to look for you, welcome you, and trust you as you draw me to fulfill your purpose in my life. Steady my heart. In your Holy Name, Amen



church of
EMMANUEL