

A sepia-toned photograph of a church service. In the foreground, several people have their hands raised in worship. In the background, a man in a white shirt is seen from behind, leaning forward. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and devotion.

# ONE

THE GOSPEL GOES FORWARD

ONE.

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**But you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit has  
come upon you, and you will  
be my witnesses in Jerusalem  
and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth.**

**Acts 1:8**

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## Two Cities Family,

I have heard it said that if your stories of sharing your faith are more than two weeks old, they are out of date. I spent almost ten years on the college campus, immersed in sharing the gospel with lost college students and seeing the **power of the gospel** change lives.

However, over the last few years, I have had fewer gospel conversations with those far from God and close to me than I would like to admit. I desire for that reality to change; I want to grow in **personal evangelism** and recommit to the discipline and delight of sharing my faith.

This is uniquely personal for me because I came to Christ through the personal evangelism of my friend, Joe Dutko, in high school. I often wonder, "Where would I be if Joe had never shared Christ with me?" I was the person in his life who was close to him and far from God, and I am glad he did something about that!

Martin Luther said the way forward in the Christian life is to constantly begin again. So, I am beginning again. **Would you join me in taking personal risks to bring Christ to every relationship?** I am on this journey of repentance and personal renewal with you.

Looking back, I am grateful for how God used **The Forward Initiative** to help us grow deeper, wider, and stronger as a church. It set the course that we will follow all the way to our new home and hub on Patterson Avenue at the end of this year.

We have always desired for Two Cities Church to be a **missional church**, and this has worked itself out through intentional partnerships, Community Group involvement, and ministry focus. But God hasn't just called us to be a missional church; he's called us to be a church of **missional people**.

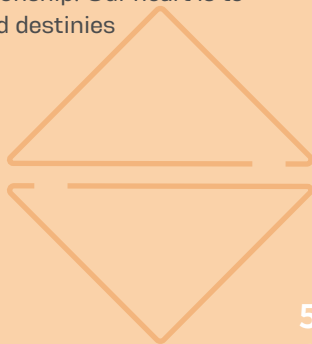
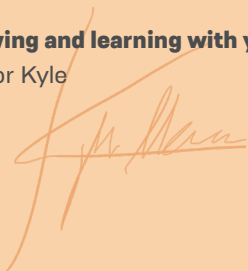
That is why we are launching **The ONE Initiative**. This is a season in our church of being hyper-focused on who God has already put in front of us. We believe the gospel goes forward **ONE relationship** and **ONE gospel risk** at a time.

We are asking every person who calls Two Cities home to identify **ONE** person they will embrace as their **ONE**. It is that simple. We want each **ONE** to reach **ONE**. We hope to have a **culture of evangelism** in our church, where everyone is talking about and praying for their **ONE**.

In the weeks and months to come, we hope to be a place with many new stories. Stories about gospel risks that were taken to bring Christ to every relationship. Our heart is to be a **conversion community**, a place where people's eternities and destinies are changed by Jesus.

**Growing and learning with you,**

Pastor Kyle



# The power of ONE.

Paul's ONE encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus led to a missionary movement that reached the world. Check out the timeline to see how we can trace Paul's influence all the way to Winston-Salem and Two Cities Church.

## Circa 34-36 AD

Paul encounters Jesus, becomes a follower of Christ, and is baptized by Ananias, who prepares him and affirms his mission. Paul then begins preaching the gospel in Damascus synagogues.

## Circa 36-38 AD

Due to opposition from Jewish leaders, Paul leaves Damascus and heads to Jerusalem to join the apostles there. While there, he again **proclaims the gospel**, but he faces opposition, so the apostles send him back to his hometown of Tarsus.

## Circa 45-58 AD

Barnabas brings Paul with him to Antioch, and they spend a year **teaching and ministering to the church** there. From there, Paul sets out on his first missionary journey with Barnabas. Many more **missionary journeys** follow, where Paul continues to spread Christianity to the Eastern Mediterranean, Asia Minor, and Greece.

## Circa 57-58 AD

Paul writes his epistle to the Romans, one of his most influential letters. He is later imprisoned in Rome, where he **continues to write letters** to various Christian communities, letters that would minister to the larger Christian community long after he is gone.

## Circa 200-400 AD

Migration and trade routes facilitate the **movement of people and ideas across Europe**, including Central Europe, where the Czech lands are located.

## 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries

The influence of Christianity increases in the Bohemia and Moravian regions of Czech, and **churches and monasteries are established.**

## 1753-1766

**The Moravians come and settle in Salem** to be a city on a hill and a bright and salty community. Once settled, they contribute to the develop of infrastructure and roads, making the area more accessible to other Christian denominations.

## 1975

Lynn and Carol Greear become members of Salem Baptist Church, along with their son, **J.D. Greear**. There, J.D. learns the gospel and the Bible and begins to have a heart for missions.

## 2015

With a vision to plant 1,000 churches in a generation, Pastor J.D. and others create The Summit Network (now **The Summit Collaborative**), a church planting network and a family of churches on mission together.

## 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries

Neighboring missionaries introduce Christianity to the Czech lands, and **the gospel spreads** as Saints Methodius and Cyril develop the Glagolitic alphabet, making Christian teachings accessible to new groups of people.

## 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries

The **Protestant Reformation** spreads across Europe, leading to the establishment of various Protestant denominations, including that of the **Moravian Church**, which begins establishing communities and missions in various parts of the world.

## 1898-1909

A Sunday school outreach of First Baptist Church begins to reach unreached children in the West Salem area. Out of this outreach, **Salem Baptist Church** is formally established as a church.

## 2001

J.D. Greear becomes pastor of Homestead Heights, which becomes **the Summit Church**.

## 2016

The Summit Church sends **Two Cities Church** to plant a new gospel-centered church in downtown Winston-Salem.

# ONE VISION

**A vision to take personal risks to bring Christ to every relationship, one person at a time.**



## ONE GOAL

### **As a church.**

10% of our church growth would be new believers/conversions in the next year.

### **As Community Groups.**

every Community Group would celebrate a baptism in the next year.

### **As individuals.**

every person would own their ONE in 2023 and beyond.



# How to use this book

Throughout this series and initiative, we'll look at different aspects of personal evangelism as we seek to reach our ONEs. Each week will feature a space for sermon notes and a brief devotion, followed by a video, questions, helpful tools, and next steps that we hope will equip you as you go out into your homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.



## **At the Weekend Gathering:**

- Bring this book with you to church to take sermon notes.

## **During the Week:**

- Engage with the devotions, videos, questions, and tools with your Community Group and on your own.
- Put into action everything you are learning as you take ONE Next Step each week.



**[twocitieschurch.net/one](https://twocitieschurch.net/one)**

- Watch weekly videos
- Access extra resources
- Share stories from your ONE journey

# ONE HOPE

WEEK 1



Acts 9:1-22

# ONE PERSON

## Sermon Notes.

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## ONE Hope.

Everyone is looking for **hope**. From the work-addicted businessman who hopes that success and money will satisfy, to the addict hoping for escape or recovery. From the woman battling cancer who hopes for a successful treatment, to the elderly person grappling with the challenges of aging, loneliness, and loss. Everywhere you look, you will find people searching for **hope**.

Hope misplaced never satisfies, but the good news is that you and I actually have real hope to offer – the gospel. The gospel applies to all individuals, extending hope not just to a select few but to each and every person who will receive it. That is **good news**. We carry a hope that speaks to our insecurities, comforts us in our anxieties, and meets us in our sin and suffering. **And that hope isn't just a concept. It's a person. Jesus.** Jesus can save anyone and redirect their life; they just might not know it yet, and that is where **YOU** come in.

## ONE Person.

Every day, you cross paths with people who need the **hope** that you carry. That guy at your gym. The mom at your kid's preschool. That girl in your math class. The coworker in the next cubicle. That guy on your kickball team. Your next-door neighbor. Even your family. Someone you know needs to **see, hear, and respond to the good news of Jesus**. And at one point, you did, too. Can you remember who first shared this hope with you? Who did the Lord use in your life to bring the hope of the gospel to you? (Write their name in the first blank of your Family Tree Of Faith on pg. 16.) Just like God used them to share with you, he wants to use you to bring the hope of the gospel to others. Who are the people that God has intentionally placed in your path?

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 1 - Who is my ONE?**

# Tools.

## FRANC

Take a moment to use the tool below to list out the people in your life that are far from God but close to you.

**F**riends \_\_\_\_\_

**R**elatives \_\_\_\_\_

**A**cquaintances \_\_\_\_\_

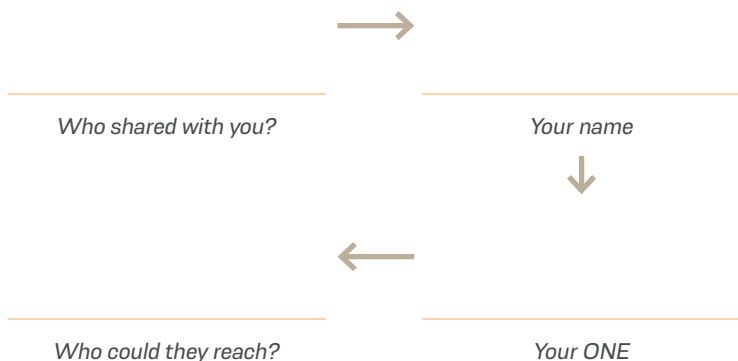
**N**eighbors \_\_\_\_\_

**C**oworkers/Classmates \_\_\_\_\_



## Family Tree of Faith

Once you've used FRANC to brainstorm a list of people far from God and close to you, select ONE person and commit to intentionally pursuing them like never before. Then, write their name on your Family Tree of Faith.



The gospel moves forward through ONE. ONE relationship at a time. ONE conversation at a time. ONE person at a time. You are the ONE who could connect your ONE to Christ. If you don't, who will?

**Watch this video to learn a simple gospel-sharing tool.**





## Reflect.

- 1** **Read Acts 9:1-22.** Why is Paul's conversion so radical? Why would God want to save someone like Paul? How can your conversion and your new life in Christ point people to the hope of Jesus?
- 2** Where have you tried to find hope outside of Christ? How has the gospel provided a better hope for your life?
- 3** How would you explain the hope of the gospel to someone far from Christ but close to you? (Hint: Your answer should hit on all the following: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration).
- 4** As you think about pursuing your ONE, who in your life first pursued you with the gospel? How did the Lord use them to bring the hope of the gospel to you?

## ONE NEXT STEP

Practice sharing the gospel with at least ONE person this week. This could be a fellow Christian, a friend, a family member, or a stranger. Try asking them this - "I'm trying to learn how to share my faith. Do you mind if I practice with you?"



# ONE WAY

WEEK 2



Acts 10:1-48

# Sermon Notes.

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## ONE Way.

Last week, we established that we each carry a great message of hope - the gospel of Jesus Christ. If that's true, **why don't we share our faith more often?** What are your hesitations in pursuing those far from God but close to you? Do you fear what they will think of you? Are you worried that what you say won't be good enough? Or do you simply believe they can't or won't be saved? **No ONE is too far from God.** When we begin to believe that the Holy Spirit can work in anyone's life and that he can use us despite our limitations, it gives us the confidence to boldly love and share with our neighbor.

Here's the truth. Not every effort you make to share the gospel with your **ONE** is going to lead where you want it to. There isn't a magic formula for sharing your faith. **Jesus is the only way** to salvation, but there are many ways that people come to know him. And the cool thing is, God simply wants you to be obedient when he gives you opportunities, and he will do the rest. He is always working in the Christian's life and in the life of the nonbeliever. He can give you the boldness you need to reach your **ONE**, and he can simultaneously work in their life in ways you couldn't begin to ask or imagine.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 2 - How do I reach my ONE?**

# Tool.

## BLESS

The quickest way to overcome our hesitation to share is by taking a next step. Use the tool below to brainstorm some ways that you can begin to "BLESS" your ONE.

### B<sup>L</sup>egin with Prayer.

Set aside some time each day to pray that God would give you opportunities and open the heart of your ONE to hear and receive the gospel.

*When will you do this each day? Are there specific things you will pray for?*

### L<sup>I</sup>sten.

Start conversations with your ONE and make it a priority to ask good questions, listen, and respond with care.

*From past conversations with your ONE, what are some good questions you can ask to follow up and show you care?*

### E<sup>E</sup>at.

Invite your ONE to dinner or simply over for a cup of coffee. Hospitality paves the path for good conversation.

*Brainstorm some different ideas to eat with or show hospitality to your ONE.*

### S<sup>E</sup>erve.

When we serve, we model the life and heart of Christ to others.

*What are some ways you could serve your ONE?*

### S<sup>H</sup>are.

Take time to share "Your Story" and "The Story." Share what God has done in your life and the good news of what God has done for them, too.

*What have you already shared with your ONE about "Your Story" and "The Story?"*

*What do you hope to share in the future?*

## Reflect.

- 1 Read Acts 10:1-48.** Why was Peter hesitant to go to the Gentiles? What types of people are you less likely to share the gospel with and why? When you were lost, were you any closer to God than they are now? How should this change your perspective?
- 2** What happens when Peter obeys God's call and goes to the Gentiles? What does this teach us about how God is constantly working in the lives of believers and nonbelievers? How does this story model the consistent way that God saves people?
- 3** What are your hesitations with sharing the gospel with those far from God but close to you - specifically with your ONE?
- 4 Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-13.** How can this passage empower you to boldly pursue your ONE this week?

## ONE NEXT STEP

You can't pursue or "BLESS" your ONE if you never see them. Reach out to your ONE and make a plan to get together with them over the next few weeks. Invite them over or out for dinner or meet up for a walk or a coffee. Offer to lend a hand with a project they are working on. Whatever you plan, make sure it will allow you to connect meaningfully with your ONE.

# ONE POWER

WEEK 3



Acts 12

# Sermon Notes.

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## ONE Power.

By now, you've hopefully identified **ONE** person far from God but close to you and begun to "BLESS" and pursue them. The action you are taking to reach them is so important, but it's nothing if you're not connected to the **ONE true source of power - the Holy Spirit**. Consider a light switch. You can flick it all you want, but if it isn't connected to electricity, nothing is going to happen. It's the same for us. You can pursue your **ONE** all you want, but if you are not seeking the Lord in **prayer**, you won't get very far.

**Prayer is an access point**, and it is our best tool for reaching those far from God but close to us. By the Spirit, we speak to the Father and petition him to move. So why is it then that prayer is often our last resort? Do you tire of praying the same prayer over and over again and not seeing any immediate results? Or do you simply think God doesn't hear you or doesn't care? If we're honest, our prayerlessness often shows our lack of belief that God can and will move and our overconfidence in our own power to affect change.

God wants us to humbly come to him with **bold, desperate prayers** - the kind of prayers where we admit that without him, we are helpless to accomplish the thing for which we ask. And he wants us to expect that he will move... because he will. When you pray boldly, prepare to be amazed at what the **power of God** is able to accomplish.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 3 - How do I pray for my ONE?**

# Tool.

## Praying for Your ONE with Scripture

Often, we don't pray because we aren't sure where to start. At Two Cities, we believe that our prayers should be Spirit-led, Scripture-fed, and worship-based. In Scripture, we find words and prayers that align with the heart of God. We hope this tool provides you with a good place to start.

**Fill your ONE's name in the blank:**

✦ **Pray that God would draw \_\_\_\_\_ to himself.**

- John 6:44

✦ **Pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would desire to know God.**

- 2 Chronicles 15:4
- Acts 17:27

✦ **Pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would understand and believe the Scriptures.**

- Luke 24:45
- Romans 10:17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

✦ **Pray that Satan would be bound from blinding \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth.**

- Matthew 13:19
- 2 Corinthians 4:4

✦ **Pray that God would send you and others to lead \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.**

- Matthew 9:37-38

✦ **Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict \_\_\_\_\_ of their sinfulness and guides them into all truth.**

- John 16:8-11
- John 16:13

✦ **Pray that God would grant \_\_\_\_\_ the grace of true repentance and saving faith.**

- Acts 3:19
- Ephesians 2:8-9

✦ **Pray that God would open \_\_\_\_\_'s heart to respond to the gospel.**

- Acts 16:14

✦ **Pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would believe in Christ as their Savior.**

- John 1:12
- John 5:24
- Acts 16:31

✦ **Pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would confess Christ as Lord.**

- Romans 10:9-10

✦ **Pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would surrender everything to follow Christ.**

- Matthew 16:24

## Reflect.

- 1 **Read Acts 12.** How do we see the power of prayer, especially praying together, in this passage? What does it reveal about the nature in which God moves?
- 2 How did the church respond to Peter's imprisonment? What can we learn from them about earnest and persistent prayer? What can we learn from their responses when their prayers are answered?
- 3 How have you seen God answer bold prayers in your own life or the lives of others? How does this motivate you to pray more boldly?
- 4 What is ONE bold prayer that you need to pray for your ONE that you know only God can answer? What could God do if you committed to earnestly praying this for your ONE and believing that he will answer?

## ONE NEXT STEP

Commit to praying a few of the "Praying for Your ONE" scriptures and your bold prayer for your ONE each day. While you are at it, partner with another person on this ONE journey and commit to praying for each other's ONEs this week.

**Want to have a BOLD PRAYER NIGHT with your Community Group?**  
Check out this video about how one Community Group incorporated a bold prayer night on a regular basis and how they saw God move.



# ONE MISSION

WEEK 4



Acts 13:1-12



## ONE Mission.

Last week, we discussed the power of prayer and the role it plays in reaching our **ONEs**. When we are seeking God in prayer, we are more attentive to where and to whom he is leading us. Whether it's your home, your neighborhood, your child's preschool, your college campus, your gym, your job, or even your local coffee shop – everywhere you **live, learn, work, and play**, God has sent you there. **Everyone is sent, everywhere you are**. For what purpose? To bring glory to God and draw others to him.

What if you reframed the way you thought of these spaces? What if, in every environment, you asked the question – **why has God sent me here, and who has he sent me to?** How can I do my job and interact with my coworkers in a way that reflects Christ? How can the way I love, serve, and speak to my neighbors point them to Jesus? Who has God placed in my path today who needs the help and hope of Christ?

When we reframe how we view our day-to-day lives, we can more clearly see the opportunities God has placed in front of us. We no longer move through life mindlessly; **we move on mission**, looking for opportunities wherever we go.

Sometimes, it can seem daunting when we open our eyes to the lostness around us, but here's the good news – **we're never sent alone**. God sends us out with **his Spirit and his people**. God provides us with community. Who can enter these spaces with you? Who can partner with you to pray for your workplace, your neighborhood, and your **ONE**? Just as God has intentionally placed you in other's lives, he has intentionally given you **gospel partners** so you can move forward **on mission together**.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 4 - Where am I sent?**

# Tool.

## Interacting with my ONE

To help you think a little more strategically about the spaces you interact with your ONE, think through the following questions and prayers.

- ✦ **What spaces has God strategically placed you in? Specifically, think about the spaces where you engage with your ONE.**
  
- ✦ **What unique opportunities do you have to be salty and bright for Christ in those settings? How can you care for people (or your ONE) in these spaces? What opportunities can you take to make Christ more known in these spaces?**
  
- ✦ **Take some time to pray specifically for ONE of the places you have listed using the following prompts as a starting point.**
  - Lord, as I go to \_\_\_\_\_, remind me that I am going primarily to bring glory to you and good news to others.
  - Lord, open my eyes to opportunities at \_\_\_\_\_ to show your love and care to my ONE and others far from you.
  - Lord, make \_\_\_\_\_ a fertile ground for me to share about you.
  - Lord, forgive me for \_\_\_\_\_ (something you have done or not done in this place) and how it has hurt my witness.

## Reflect.

- 1 **Read Acts 13:1-12.** What do we learn about how we are sent “by” the Spirit and God’s people and “with” the Spirit and God’s people? How can this encourage us in our endeavors to reach our ONEs?
  
- 2 **Reread verses 8-10.** Paul tells Elymas to “stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord.” Often, we may be the only picture of Christ those we encounter see. In what ways can you make it difficult for people to come to Christ? What would it look like for you to show others a straight path to Christ in the places you are sent to each week?
  
- 3 Why is it so easy for us to compartmentalize our faith and not act sent in every area of our lives? How can you begin to see every environment in your life as a place that God has sent you to be on mission?
  
- 4 We are never sent alone. What gospel partners has God given you? Think of people in your Community Group, DNA Group, Serving Team, or other Christians in your life who can partner with you. How can they help you faithfully minister where you live, learn, work, and play?

## ONE NEXT STEP

Take some time this week to connect with ONE of the gospel partners you brainstormed earlier. Meet up for a coffee, go for a walk, or simply connect over a phone call or video chat. Together, evaluate your efforts at engaging your ONE thus far. Call each other up, give each other encouragement and advice, and pray for each other as you both seek to share Christ with your ONE. If it’s helpful, use the questions and prayer prompts above to jump-start the conversation.



# ONE MESSAGE

WEEK 5



Acts 16

**Sermon Notes.**

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## ONE Message.

We established last week that God has called us and sent us to every place and space that we are. As we engage with people in these environments, we will likely encounter different backgrounds, different experiences, and diverse opinions. Despite our differences, we are at least united in **ONE** thing - **the world we live in is broken**, and as people living in it, we are too. Rich or poor. Young or old. Latino or Asian. Black or White. Christian or Non-Christian. **We are all broken**. But as Christians, by the grace of God, we are in the process of being made whole. And while each person is uniquely different, the **ONE message of the gospel** is living and active and can speak to the deep longings, hurts, and desires of each person's soul.

You may be saying, "Okay, I get it. Everyone needs Jesus. Didn't we talk about this a few weeks ago?" And yes, we did, but that's because it is so important. Everyone needs Jesus because **everyone is broken and separated from Christ**, and it is that brokenness and need that bridges the gap between our differences and allows us to **enter into conversations** with those far from God but close to us. The more we realize that every part of who we are intersects with every part of the gospel, the easier it becomes for us to communicate the gospel in our day-to-day lives and interactions. **The story of your brokenness**, and Christ's intersection with it, is the very thing your **ONE** needs to hear. Our stories allow us to **contextualize the gospel** in a way that connects to each person and situation.

As you enter into conversations with your **ONE**, you'll quickly see that **they have a story** full of the same brokenness, burdens, and questions that you once had. As you listen, look for opportunities to ask questions that engage these threads of brokenness and watch as God opens doors for you to **share your story of his grace in a broken world**.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 5 - How do I share my story?**

# Tool.


## Sharing Your Story In A Broken World

Use the tool below to begin thinking through common threads of brokenness in your life. Try to identify common emotions, experiences, thoughts, and feelings that you can use to connect with your ONE.

**Directions:**

- On the left side of the cross, write three words that describe your life before Christ.
- Under the cross, write three words that describe your experience of salvation.
- On the right side of the cross, write three words that describe your life with Christ. Make sure each word connects to the word you wrote on the left side of the cross.
- Then, try using different combinations of those words/thoughts to share your story in a minute or less.

**Example:**

<p><b>Life before Christ</b></p> <hr/> <p><i>anxious</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>not good enough</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>ashamed</i></p>	<p><b>Encounter with Christ</b></p>  <hr/> <p><i>surrendered</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>grace</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>forgiven</i></p>	<p><b>Life with Christ</b></p> <hr/> <p><i>peace</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>new identity</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>restored</i></p>
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**There was a time in my life when...** I felt **anxious** and thought I had to have control of every area of my life, but when I **surrendered** to Christ and put my **trust** in him, I found **peace** because I no longer had to carry my burdens alone... Christ is always with me. **Can you relate to this?**

**There was a time in my life when...** I felt I had to always **be perfect** and meet others' expectations of me, and I always **fell short**. But when I realized that Christ had already paid for my brokenness on the cross, I was able to **surrender** my life to him. And now, because of his **grace**, I can rest in my **new identity** in Christ and be secure in what he has done for me. **What do you think about that?**

**Now your turn:**

**Life before Christ**

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**Encounter with Christ**



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**Life with Christ**

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Use the space below to write out your story in at least two different ways using the words you generated above. If you can share your story in this amount of time, you'll be better equipped to interject your story in conversations with your ONE.

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## Reflect.

- 1 **Read Acts 16.** Silas and Paul obediently answered God's call to go to Macedonia, not knowing what or who they would encounter along the way. Yet, in every situation, they were prepared to share the good news of Christ. What can we learn from Silas and Paul's obedience and readiness to share the gospel? Why do you think they are able to so easily connect the gospel to others' lives?
- 2 In this passage, Silas and Paul encounter and introduce many different people to Christ. How can our awareness and understanding of others' unique backgrounds, experiences, struggles, and needs provide opportunities for us to connect and share the hope of the gospel?
- 3 Consider Paul and Silas' interaction with the Philippian jailer. How did their reaction to the jailer meet him in his brokenness and need? How did this provide an opportunity for the jailer to hear the gospel?
- 4 As you think about your ONE, what areas of brokenness can you identify in their life? What burdens and questions are they wrestling with? What similarities can you draw to your own story? How can knowing your ONE's desires and struggles help you engage in more spiritual conversations with them?

## ONE NEXT STEP

This week, practice sharing your story with at least ONE person. You could share with someone in your Community Group, on your Serving Team, a family member, or a close Christian friend. Ask them to practice sharing their story with you, too! We all need to be ready to share what Christ has done for us, and we need to hear and celebrate what he has done in the lives of other believers.

# ONE ANSWER

WEEK 6



Acts 17:22-34

## Sermon Notes.

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## ONE Answer.

Last week, we talked about how our testimonies can provide us with opportunities to connect with our **ONE** and share the gospel, and this week, we're taking that one step further. Everyone is searching for **answers**, and people often look to the world because they don't know there is a better alternative.

Cultural norms and opinions can often create barriers between our **ONEs** and Christ, and **understanding culture, the lies it tells, and how our ONEs relate to it** is important if we are going to slowly chisel away at that divide. Culture is loud, and our temptation is often to "scream" back louder, but unfortunately, all that does is increase the chasm between them and God.

Instead, we must **consider the example of Jesus**, who led with relationship, care, and curiosity and asked questions to draw others near. Consider his encounter with the woman at the well in **John 4**. She had bought into the **lies of culture**. She'd had many husbands, and now she was living with a man who was not her spouse. Jesus could have called out her sin immediately, and instead of drawing her close, he would have pushed her away and the conversation would have ended. Instead, Jesus **observed her** at the well, **saw her need**, and **engaged her** with a simple ask, "Give me a drink." And from that one interaction, he got her asking questions and began to speak to her heart, opening the door for him to **share the truth**. He didn't offer her condemnation; he offered her living water that would never run dry, and in turn, her entire life changed. When face to face with the **truth of the gospel, the lies she had bought into fell apart**.

Your **ONE** has felt and experienced the brokenness that comes from trying to find life and answers in the world. When you are **curious, ask questions, and listen**, they will start asking their own questions. And when they do, they need you to be ready to give an answer. The **only answer** that really matters. **Jesus**.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch

**Video 6 - How do I engage with culture?**

# Tool.

## Asking Questions Like Jesus Did

Asking questions can help you enter into caring conversations with your ONE that open the door for spiritual conversations. Use this tool to take your conversations with your ONE further.

### ✦ More than “How are you?”:

- How are you really doing?
- How is work going for you?
- What are you most excited about in your life right now?
- How is your family doing?  
(use family members’ names)
- Didn’t you tell me \_\_\_\_\_?  
How is that going?
- What did you do this weekend?

### ✦ Continuing the conversation:

- What did you learn from that experience?
- What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- How did that work out for you?
- That’s interesting. Can you tell me more about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Can you explain what you mean by \_\_\_\_\_?
- What makes you believe that?
- How do you know that? What convinces you of that?
- Isn’t it possible that \_\_\_\_\_?  
(insert a spiritual truth)

- You talk about \_\_\_\_\_ a lot. It must be important to you. Can you tell me about that?
- That’s interesting. It sounds like you are saying \_\_\_\_\_. Is that right?

### Spiritual questions to ask:

- What have you found helpful when you are going through something difficult?
- Who do you think Jesus is? Who is he to you?
- What keeps you from believing in Jesus?
- What do you believe happens after we die? How do you think someone gets into heaven?
- Have you ever read the Bible for yourself?
- Is it okay if I share what I think/believe about \_\_\_\_\_? (after they share)
- I’ve been praying for you. Do you mind if I pray for you right now?
- Some people find it helpful to pray. Do you? Who do you pray to?

## Reflect.

- 1 **Read Acts 17:22-34.** How does Paul go about addressing the men of Athens? What can we learn from how he “perceives” and “observes” before speaking? What types of things does he observe and perceive?
  
- 2 **Reread verses 32-34.** How did the people respond to Paul? What does that reveal about how different people respond to the gospel? How does it encourage you to continue to share?
  
- 3 **1 Peter 3:15-16** tells us to “... always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” (NIV). What about your relationship with your ONE would lead them to ask you (or not ask you) where you find your hope? How would you answer this question if your ONE asked? Why is it important that you do so with gentleness and respect?
  
- 4 You have to know your ONE to reach your ONE. What have you “perceived” and “observed” about your ONE? What are their idols? What do they worship? What questions are they asking? Where do they look to for life and hope?

## ONE NEXT STEP

This week, try to be more curious in your day-to-day life. Observe, perceive, and ask good questions of the people you encounter. Try incorporating some of the questions from the tool into your conversations this week, especially your conversations with your ONE.







## ONE God.

For the past several weeks, we've been discussing how to reach our **ONES**. We've been praying bold prayers and partnering together to bring Christ to every relationship. But this week, we want to turn our focus from the outside to the inside. This week, we want you to **examine your own heart**. Your personal **spiritual health** is just as important for your **ONE** as your attempts to reach them.

One way we can evaluate our spiritual health is by **identifying the idols we have placed before God**. What is an idol? An idol is something that captures our hearts and our minds more than Christ. There is a reason God gives us the first commandment, "You should have **no other gods** before me" (Exodus 20:3), before he goes on to tell us not to murder, steal, lie, or covet. It's because all of our sin, all of our disobedience and unrighteousness, stems from **ONE** thing - our attempt to place ourselves and our own desires before Christ, our attempt to **elevate created things above the Creator**. We often turn good things like relationships, accomplishments, work, or good health into "god" things. We take the **safety, security, and significance** we should be finding in Christ and place it in things that will never really satisfy us.

As you continue to **pursue your ONE**, make sure that you are first **pursuing Christ**. Identify the idols of your heart, surrender them to him, and watch as he transforms your life and the lives of those around you.

## Watch.

Scan the QR code on pg. 11 to watch  
**Video 7 - What are my idols?**

# Tool.

## Diagnosing Our Idols

Use these diagnostic questions to help you identify the idols of your heart.

- ✦ **What do I worry about most? What is my greatest nightmare?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ✦ **Where do I go for comfort when things become difficult?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ✦ **What unanswered prayer would make me think about turning away from God?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ✦ **Where do I find my self-worth? What do I find pride in?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ✦ **What do I really want and expect from life? What would make me the happiest?**

**Sum it all up:** Based on your answers above, what do you tend to idolize? (i.e. comfort, approval, power, control, relationships, work, money, materialism, safety, success, etc) Why?

## Reflect.

- 1 **Read Acts 19:21-41.** How do the craftsmen respond when their idols are threatened? How can you relate to their response? How have you responded when your idols have been threatened? How does the truth of the gospel overturn your idols?
- 2 **Read Acts 19:26, Habakkuk 2:18-20, and Psalm 135:15-18.** What do we learn about the nature of idols from these verses? What can our idols give us? How do our idols lie to us? How do our idols affect us long-term?
- 3 Why do we often turn to idols instead of turning to God? What does this reveal about what we believe (or don't believe) about God? What unbelief do you need to repent of today?
- 4 How could your idols be a stumbling block to those far from God but close to you? What are you willing to walk away from so that others can follow Christ?

## ONE NEXT STEP

This week, take action to uproot the idols in your life by making a plan and sharing it with a member of your Community Group, DNA group, your spouse, or a close Christian friend. What steps do you need to take today to start prioritizing your relationship with God and your spiritual health? How do you need to rearrange your schedule or your life to put God first? (Do you need to fast from something? Do you need to join a DNA group for accountability? Do you need to make a plan to spend time in the Word and prayer daily?)



# ONE JOURNEY

WEEK 8



Acts 20:17-38

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**Sermon Notes.**

Ruled area for sermon notes.

## ONE Journey.

This week, we come to the end of our **ONE Initiative**. For the past seven weeks, we have asked the question, “*Who is my ONE, and how can I reach them?*” As pastor Kyle has said, the gospel moves forward **ONE relationship** and **ONE gospel risk** at a time. We hope that during this series you have taken **personal risks to take the gospel to every relationship** – especially your relationship with your **ONE**, and we can’t wait to hear how God has moved in the process. We pray that this short series will propel you to a lifetime of reaching those far from God but close to you, **ONE relationship at a time**. We are excited to see the impact this will have for generations to come.

# ONE Commitment.

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
commit to continuing to pursue

\_\_\_\_\_ and many ONEs to come.

X \_\_\_\_\_



## Reflect.

- 1 Read Acts 20:17-38.** What from Paul's final address to the elders in Ephesus jumps out to you? How can this encourage you to live boldly and consistently on mission in your day-to-day life?
- 2 Reread verse 27.** What's ONE way you were bold and didn't "shrink back" during this initiative? What progress have you made in personal evangelism?
- 3** What have you learned during this series? How have you seen God move in your life, the life of your ONE, and others during this initiative?
- 4** What are your next steps after this series? How will you continue to pursue and reach your ONE?

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**But I do not account my life  
of any value nor as precious  
to myself, if only I may finish  
my course and the ministry  
that I received from the  
Lord Jesus, to testify to the  
gospel of the grace of God.**

**Acts 20:24**

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There is a reason we end every Two Cities worship gathering by saying, "You are sent." We want being sent into the world to be a deep part of how you understand yourself as a Christian. This initiative is hopefully just the beginning of experiencing what it means to live sent. I hope for the rest of your life you are always asking who is that ONE person who is far from God and close to me.

**Pastor Kyle**

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— YOU  
ARE  
SENT.



**TWO CITIES**  
CHURCH

*In Winston. For the World.*