

## Grow in love with God

### Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:16-18; Romans 8:37-39

One of the devil's main strategies to keep us from God is to plant lies. He tells us that we are not enough. He tells us we don't compare to those around us. Maybe the worst of all is that he tells us we are unlovable. Of course he has no basis for this, but that doesn't stop us from believing his lie. The devil tells us time and time again we are not worthy of love.

God wants to reassure us that this could not be further from the truth. God loved this world enough to send us his son. And it is through his son that we have everlasting life. In Romans we are told that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. This is a truth the devil wants to hide from us. But who are you going to believe? Are you going to believe the one who created this world, the one who knit you together in your mother's womb, the one with all authority on heaven and earth, or the one who creates nothing but chaos. The devil has no authority over you or this world unless we let him.

Instead, stand firm in the love of God. Know that there is nothing in all of creation that can separate you from the love of God. God is holding you firmly in his hand and there is nothing that will cause him to let go. You are his precious child.

Today, pray Ephesians 3:16-18 multiple times. Pray that "I" being rooted and established in love... Pray that "My Family" being rooted and established in love... Pray that "Bethel Church" being rooted and established in love ... Pray that "Your neighbor" being rooted and established in love... Pray this again with whoever God calls to mind.

**Song:** "Who Am I" by Needtobreathe



# Bethel



day 29

Sunday, February 16 | 2025

## *Kids Hope, Hand2Hand*

### **Bible Reading: John 15:9-14,17; Micah 6:8**

These words from Micah 6 are a call for compassion. John 15 is a command to love. Both of these passages and so many more are calling God's people to share what they have received from God to the world around them. There are so many different ways that we can do this, but one of the first things we can do is meet people where they are.

In Kids Hope, mentors meet with students who need a buddy. They need someone who they can trust will be there. It can feel like such a little thing, but knowing you are not alone can make a world of difference in someone's life.

In Hand2Hand, you are meeting more of a physical need. Hand2Hand is making sure that kids who have a lack of food at home are getting some food to bring home. You can't expect anyone to thrive without food.

In both of these programs we seek to meet these kids where they are. We want to care about them and love them. Not because we want anything in return, but because that is what Christ has modeled for us. Jesus met us in our greatest time of need, and he sought to alleviate that need by taking our pain from us and giving us his life. Pray today that all the kids and families connected to these organizations will experience the overwhelming love of God and a community that cares for them.

### **Journal Notes:**

day 34

Friday, February 21 | 2025

## *More and Better Disciples*

### **Bible Reading: Matthew 28:18-20**

Some of the most powerful words of the great commission from Matthew 28 are found at the beginning and the end. Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The command in the great commission is to go and make disciples of all nations. This is what God desires of us, but we don't do it by ourselves. We go with the one who has all authority. We go with confidence that God is with us always to the very end of the age. We will never be able to make disciples of all nations in our own strength. But with God there is no limit. With God we could make disciples everywhere we go.

What then does it look like to make a disciple? Another word for disciple could be apprentice. When someone is learning a trade they take an apprenticeship. During this time they seek to learn all the skills from their master. These skills will sometimes be the things that are specifically taught, but they will also be the ones that are picked up just by watching the master at his work. To be a disciple of Jesus means to become like Jesus. We watch him, we stay close to him, and we listen to his commands and the more time we spend with him the more and more we become like him.

True disciples then make disciples. True disciples are not content keeping the wealth of God's love to themselves, but they want others to know it and experience it as well. They want others to come into relationship with Jesus and learn from him as well.

Pray that God would help you to grow as a disciple, and that you would be a disciple who makes disciples. Pray that God would help Bethel Church to create a path of discipleship which helps take people who are far from God and bring them closer to him one step at a time.

*Lost be found***Bible Reading: Luke 15:1-7; John 3:16-21***[ Video: Pastor Jon Bosma ]*

One of the greatest joys in the life of a Christian is seeing someone else repent and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This is a moment of eternal significance. It is an incredible moment of seeing someone walk out of the darkness and into the light. You get to see scales fall off their eyes like Saul/Paul had as he was converted. They once lived a life of the flesh, and now they are in the Spirit. And the celebration isn't just ours, but all of heaven joins in. They too have a party in heaven each time someone believes in Jesus.

In Luke 19:10 Jesus says, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." God has loved us so incredibly much that he was willing to send his son. Jesus came into this world to seek and save the lost. Let's praise God today for all those who have joined the kingdom of heaven! Let's join the celebration!

At the same moment we need to remember the lost. We cannot give up on them as Jesus has never given up on us. Pray that God would soften hearts and lead people to himself. Ask God how Bethel Church can participate in this incredible joy of seeing the lost found.

**Challenge:** If you have never done so before. Name 5 people who do not know Jesus. This could be someone you know well or someone you barely know. But name those people to God. Ask God to draw them into himself. Commit to pray for these 5 people regularly until they come to know Jesus.

*Doors of Hope, Family Life Center***Bible Reading: Galatians 6:2; John 13:34-35**

Similar to yesterday, Doors of Hope and the Family Life Center are trying to meet people where they are. As Kids Hope and Hand2Hand were more child focused these organizations are focused on adults and their families. But they all have the same goal. Love. Love the way that Jesus loved us. Paul specifically encourages us to carry each other's burdens. There are times where we are weak and we need the support of others. There are other times where we might be granted strength so that we can support someone else.

Pray that both Doors of Hope and the Family Life Center will have all the resources they need in order to help carry the burdens of those going through some difficult circumstances. Pray that those who walk in their doors would immediately be overwhelmed by the love that is being shared with them. Pray that through their love they can point to Jesus, the one who loves us more than we could ever imagine.

**Journal Notes:**

day 31

Tuesday, February 18 | 2025

## Revival at Bethel Church

### Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31; Ephesians 1:18-23

As Bethel Church we just celebrated our 75th anniversary. What a beautiful milestone! God truly has been faithful to this community of believers. And God has done so many incredible things for his kingdom through this community. But there comes a time in any organization that it grows a bit tired. It has been pushing and pushing and now it is growing a bit weary.

I would imagine that Bethel has probably reached this point on more than one occasion. But the good news is that God is the one who can renew our strength. He is the one who can lift us up onto the wings of eagles. He can rejuvenate our spirits once again.

God doesn't grow tired or weary. He has a strength that is beyond our understanding. He is the one we can lean on when we get tired and he renews our strength. He shares his incomparably great power with those who believe. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in us. So, if we feel like we have a weariness that cannot be overcome we should think again.

Pray that God would renew your strength as an individual, and that he would renew our strength as a body of believers. We want to see a renewed spiritual energy in our midst. We want a revival. All for the glory of God!

### Journal Notes:

day 32

Wednesday, February 19 | 2025

## Outreach

### Bible Reading: Luke 10:1-2; Romans 10:14-15

In the word outreach we see two smaller words, out and reach. In these two words we can see the heart of outreach. Reaching is stretching out in order to touch or grasp something. But you don't reach for something that you don't desire. This means that you first have a desire for that thing. Do we have a desire for our community? If we do, we will want to touch them with the love of God. But this requires stretching. Stretching is pushing your muscles beyond what is comfortable in order to be able to perform at a higher level later. For us to reach into our community it is going to require stretching our spiritual muscles further than we thought possible. But as we lean into this discomfort God will use us for more than we ever thought possible.

The second word is out. It is reaching beyond ourselves. We are not just trying to touch those in the church, but we want to also reach those out of the church. Again, this may not always be comfortable. It may not come naturally to us, but Jesus tells us that the harvest is plentiful. There are people right now in our community who need the love of Jesus. The problem is that the workers are few. We pray that God would send workers into the harvest of Zeeland. Pray that God would train us to be his workers.

### Journal Notes:

week 5

40 days of Prayer