



**nextgen
follow**

Junior High

Name:

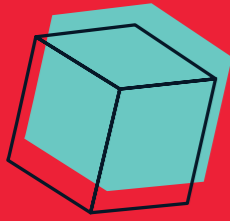
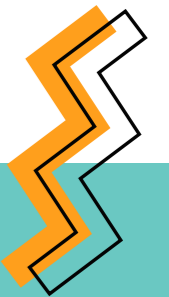
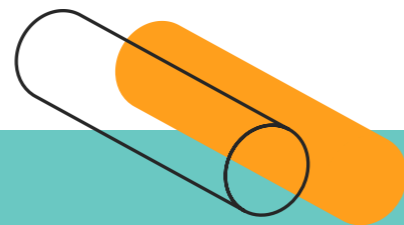
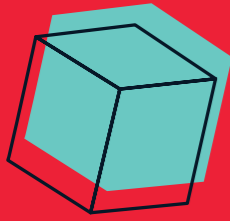


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 4	What is NextGen FOLLOW
Page 8	Important Dates
Page 9	Achievables/Awards
Page 10	September (Know God)
Page 30	October (Love People)
Page 32	November (Impact the City)
Page 34	December (Know God)
Page 40	January (Love People)
Page 42	February (Impact the City)
Page 44	March (Know God)
Page 64	April (Love People)
Page 66	May (Impact the City)
Page 68	June (Know God)





WHAT IS NEXTGEN FOLLOW?



Why was NextGen Follow Created?

NextGen Follow for NextGen KIDS and YOUTH is a program designed for Grade 1 to Grade 8 children. We created this program for two main reasons:

1) We noticed a huge gap in children's knowledge of the Bible, who Jesus was, and their application of this knowledge.

AND

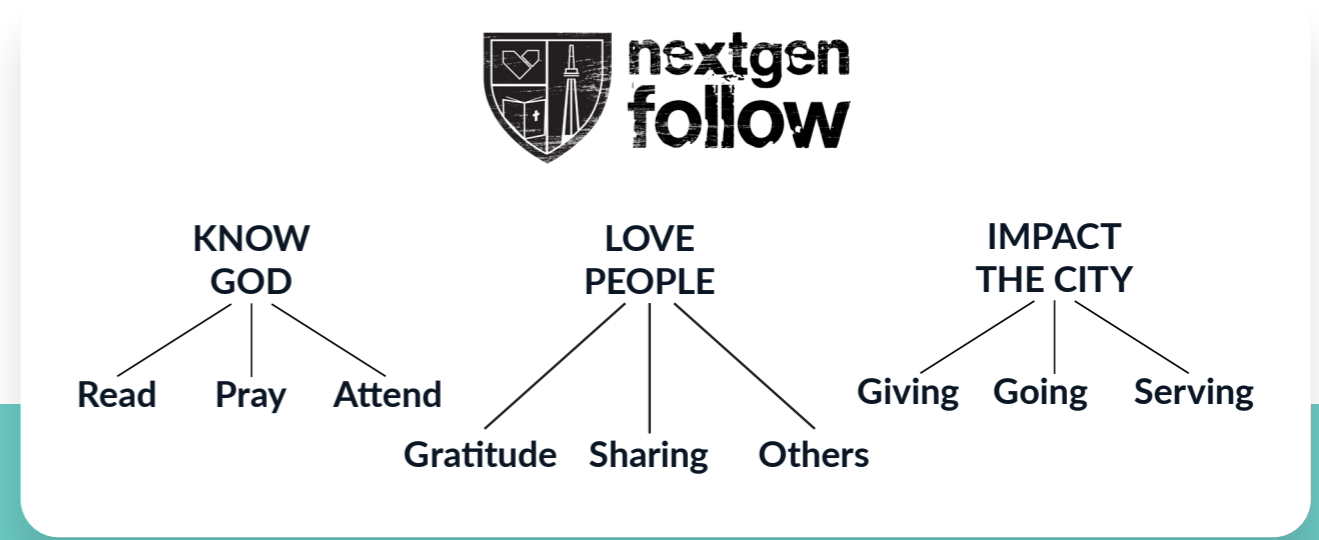
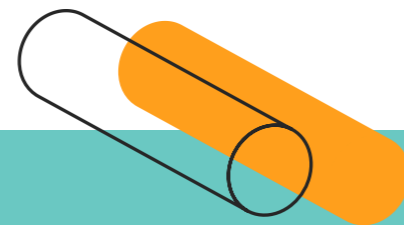
2) Attending church once or twice a week is not enough for our KIDS and YOUTH to truly understand what it means to be a follower of Christ.

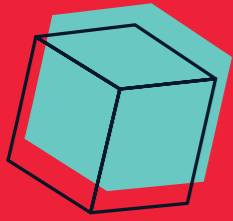
What is NextGen Follow?

Here at OneChurch.to, our vision statement is to **KNOW GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and IMPACT THE CITY.**

We took these values and translated them into tangible tasks that we call ACHIEVABLES. These achievables help our KIDS and YOUTH understand how they can strive to live like Jesus.

NextGen Follow is a 10 month program running from September to June. Throughout these 10 months we will be asking the NextGen KIDS and YOUTH to complete achievables in the three categories, KNOW GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and IMPACT THE CITY.





NEXTGEN FOLLOW YOUTH



JR HIGH (11 - 14)

In this stage, your child is motivated by acceptance. They're looking to build affirming relationships and asking themselves "Who am I?" "How do I fit in, in this world?" As they grow, we are encouraging them to find their identity, and partnering with you in celebrating their journey to maturity. It is time for US to affirm their personal journeys.



Identity

Celebrating The Journey
Towards Adulthood



KNOW GOD

- Owning their own faith
- Weekly small group discussions
- Annual conventions and retreat moments



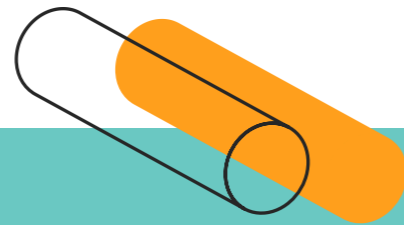
LOVE PEOPLE

- Serving within the church
- Invitational social events
- Creating a safe and fun environment



IMPACT THE CITY

- Local and Global impact trips
- Exercising faith in their social settings
- Inclusive NextGen events



Fun fact:
Kindness makes you energetic



IMPORTANT DATES

FOLLOW start date: Sept 11th, 2022 **FOLLOW end date: June 26th, 2023**

Check-In Dates

September 21 & 25
October 26 & 30
November 27 & 30
December 25 & 28
January 25 & 29
February 22 & 26
March 26 & 29
April 26 & 30
May 28 & 31
June 25

Important Dates

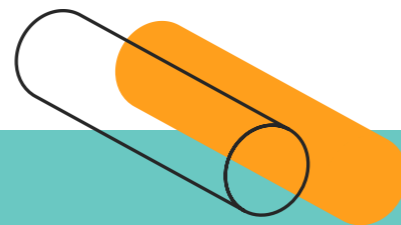
October 26 @6:30PM
In-person Packing Party
November 12 @10AM
Daytime Tea and Spelling Bee
February 25
Coldest Night of the Year
April 16 @6:30PM
Park Clean-Up

Once a month on a Wednesday and Sunday, the NextGen team will be hosting evaluation days. On these days, children can submit their completed achievableables for grading.

Follow us on social media for updates



Search “@OneChurch.to_youth”



ACHIEVABLES/AWARDS

As we journey with our children throughout the year, we want them to feel recognized, fulfilled and special by celebrating their achievements as they complete their Follow Plan. Because of this, we are introducing a star award system...

At the beginning of the NextGen Follow program, all children who sign up will receive a **GOLD STAR** with their photo and name. Each month, their handbooks will be reviewed and marked by a NextGen Ministry Staff. If the month's challenge is completed, they will maintain their **GOLD STAR** ranking. If not, their ranking will be changed to a **SILVER STAR**. If in the following month, the student completed the requirement, they will then be upgraded back to a **GOLD STAR**. If not, their ranking will be changed to a **BRONZE STAR**.



GOLD STAR:
Completes Month Challenge



SILVER STAR:
Did not complete the month prior, but still has a chance to go back to **GOLD STAR** ranking by completing the following month.



BRONZE STAR:
Did not complete two months prior. Has a chance to go back to **SILVER STAR** ranking by completing the following month and if they complete the next following month's challenge they can earn their **GOLD STAR**.



Fun fact:
There are over 1,600 parks in Toronto.



September - Know God

YASS

KNOW
GOD
SEPTEMBER

OH
OK!



KNOW GOD | Bible Plan

Reading scripture not only helps us understand God's plan for our lives. It also helps us grow closer to Jesus. Throughout this month we are inviting you to read this bible plan along with us. You can read it on your own, or you can read it along with your family.

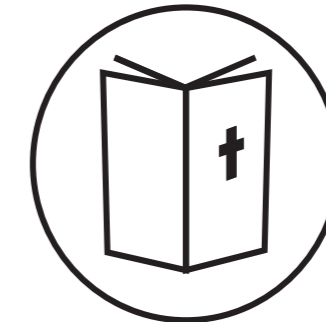
The standard format for each of these weeks will be—

Read This → A passage from scripture.

Think About This → The main lesson we can learn from this passage.

What's do you think? → Be honest when you answer the questions.

Next Steps → Apply what you learned and what is suggested for the next couple of days.

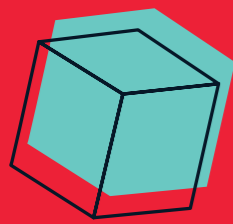


EVALUATION: By the end of the month, we will go through this bible plan. Here's the plan - read the passages, complete the questions and complete a prayer journal after each devotional day.

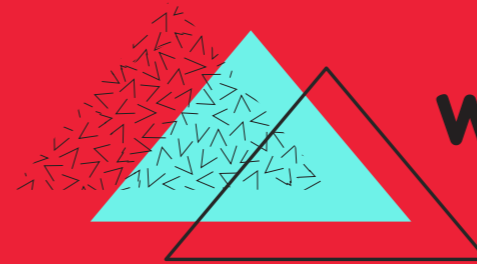


Memorize This! | 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.



Week 1 - Monday



Week 1 - Monday



COMPLETED

Read This | John 2:1-11 NIRV

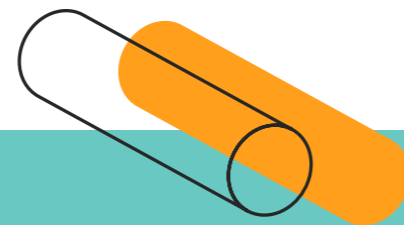
“On the third day there was a wedding. It took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Dear woman, why are you telling me about this?” Jesus replied. “The time for me to show who I really am isn’t here yet.” His mother said to the servants, “Do what he tells you.” Six stone water jars stood nearby. The Jews used water from that kind of jar for special washings. They did that to make themselves pure and “clean.” Each jar could hold 20 to 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the top. Then he told them, “Now dip some out. Take it to the person in charge of the dinner.” They did what he said.

The person in charge tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He didn’t realize where it had come from. But the servants who had brought the water knew. Then the person in charge called the groom to one side. He said to him, “Everyone brings out the best wine first. They bring out the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink. But you have saved the best until now.” What Jesus did here in Cana in Galilee was the first of his signs. Jesus showed his glory by doing this sign. And his disciples believed in him.”

Think About This!

This was the first miracle Jesus did and the first time He showed power to people by the miracle he performed. This made His disciples believe in Him even more.

Jesus’ first miracle was to show his power and authority over all things. The process of winemaking takes time - but Jesus did it in an instant. Like the water in the jars, Jesus wants to turn the ordinary things in your life into something special and meaningful. Trust Him and obey Him. The servants did what they were told without question.



What’s do you think?

1) What is something in your life that you can look to God to make special and meaningful?

2) What is involved in obeying what Jesus says so that it can happen in your life?

Next Step:

Write down something that would be good to change so that what God can happen

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?

Fun fact:
The Toronto Zoo has 16 000 animals



Read This Passage | Luke 5:12-16 NIRV

“While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along. He had a skin disease all over his body. When he saw Jesus, the man fell with his face to the ground. He begged him, “Lord, if you are willing to make me ‘clean,’ you can do it.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing to do it,” he said. “Be ‘clean!’” Right away the disease left him. Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone. Go and show yourself to the priest. Offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded. It will be a witness to the priest and the people that you are ‘clean.’” But the news about Jesus spread even more. So crowds of people came to hear him. They also came to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often went away to be by himself and pray.”

Think About This!

Leprosy was an extremely contagious skin disease that could spread to anyone touching the person. Everyone knew that by touching those sores on the skin one could get leprosy too, and die. It is likely that no one had touched this man for a long time. Maybe the man longed for someone to care enough to touch him. Jesus did.

In a way, our hearts have a terrible disease too – a disease called sin. Jesus, who never sinned, came to earth to walk alongside us sinners to show how much He loves us. He was willing to take all our terrible sin and put it on Himself. He died so that we could be healed and live.

Answer This!

1) Why do you think the man’s faith was so strong? What made him believe Jesus could heal him?

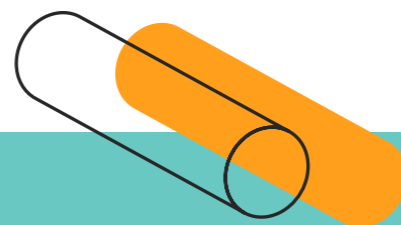
2) What helps you show others why having faith in Jesus is so important?

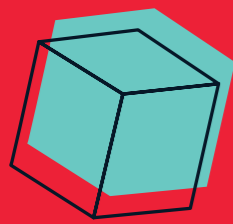
Next Step:

The Bible encourages us that we should confess our sins to Jesus and when we do, He will forgive them and make our hearts clean. It’s important to take time each week to not only thank Jesus for the good but to sit for a moment and think of the things you have done that have not been right. Is there sin in your life that you would be better off if you confessed it to Jesus?

Prayer:

Take a moment to pray this prayer: “Jesus forgive me for _____. Thank you for loving me enough to die on the cross to cleanse that away. Help me learn to want to trust you more so that I don’t damage myself with stuff that’s not good for me.. Amen”





Read This Passage | Luke 7:11-17 NIRV

“Some time later, Jesus went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went along with him. He approached the town gate. Just then, a dead person was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother. She was a widow. A large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, he felt sorry for her. So he said, “Don’t cry.” Then he went up and touched the coffin.

Those carrying it stood still. Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother. The people were all filled with wonder and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” This news about Jesus spread all through Judea and the whole country.”

Think About This!

This young man was the first person that Jesus raised from the dead. Jesus didn’t do this to become popular among the people or to show off His power. He felt a deep sadness and love for the widow. Jesus cares for us in the same way. When we are sad, He feels it; when we are hurt, Jesus knows and understands.

Jesus died so we can be raised to eternal life one day.

What Do You Think?

1) How have you helped someone this week? What did you do?

2) Has there been a moment where you felt like you didn’t want to help? How did it make you feel after?

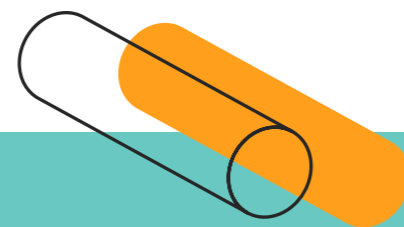
Next Step:

Find someone to help. It can be someone in school, a park, at home, or a friend who would benefit from your caring words or actions.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Passage | Luke 8:22-25 NIRV

“One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and left. As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep. A storm came down on the lake. It was so bad that the boat was about to sink. They were in great danger. The disciples went and woke Jesus up. They said, “Master! Master! We’re going to drown!” He got up and ordered the wind and the huge waves to stop. The storm quieted down. It was completely calm. “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples. They were amazed and full of fear. They asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him.”

Think About This!

The disciples were amazed and asked, “What kind of a man is this that even the wind and the waves obey Him?” Jesus showed His complete power over nature, and why shouldn’t the One who created everything have the power to control it? Jesus created you too, and when it feels like there’s a storm inside of you with waves of anger, fear or worry, all you need to do is call on the One who is always with you and brings peace.

What Do You Think?

1) How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus can help you in times of anger, fear or worry?

2) What can you do to bring peace when someone is fighting, arguing, or being annoying to you?

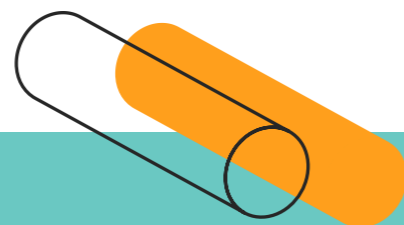
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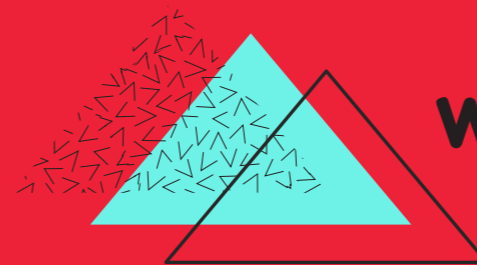
Jesus is always with you on the boat of life! Take deep breaths and say “God you are in control” the next time you feel overwhelmed.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Passage | John 6:8-15 NIRV

“Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He said, “Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish. When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. “Gather the leftover pieces,” he said. “Don’t waste anything.” So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten. The people saw the sign that Jesus did. Then they began to say, “This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world.” But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So he went away again to a mountain by himself.”

Think About This!

The boy gave all his food to Jesus not expecting to get any of it back. He gave all he had, not knowing that he’d bless over five thousand people.

Even though Jesus was the One who supplied the food, He gave thanks to His Father for it. Jesus showed that it is good to thank the Lord for every meal He provides (even when someone else buys and prepares the food we eat).

What Do You Think?

1) Are you thanking God for even the daily food, clothing and shelter that you have? What are some ways you show your gratitude to God?

2) What has God done that you did not expect?

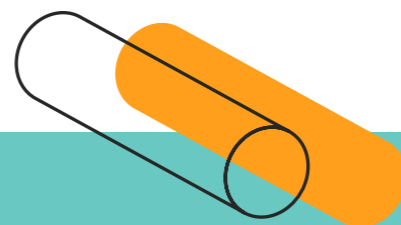
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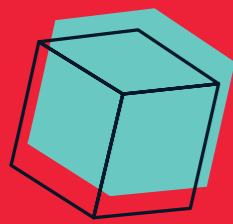
Set a reminder throughout the day to find time to just say thank you God. It could be about anything.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Passage : Matthew 14:22-27 NIRV

“Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone. The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it. Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said. And they cried out in fear. Right away Jesus called out to them, “Be brave! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Think About This!

Jesus said to them, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” What wonderful words of hope Jesus spoke to the fearful disciples. They had been rowing half the night, fearing that their boat would sink ... and then they thought they were seeing a ghost!

When life gets stormy and it feels like you’re about to get swamped by waves of trouble, you fear the worst. You struggle on your own until you’re exhausted; and just when you think you can’t carry on, things get worse. Just stop! Put down the oars of your boat and pray. Jesus is coming to help you. Do not fear!

What Do You Think

1) In your opinion, what does God need to do to let you know that he is there?

2) What’s distracting you from calling out to God what times get tough?

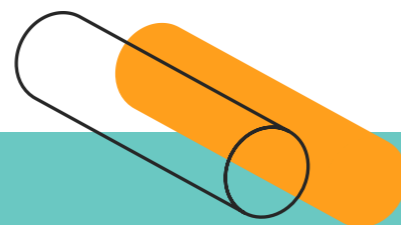
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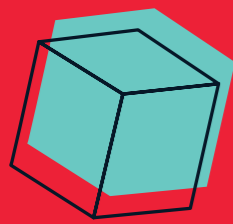
If you see a friend in need, don’t be afraid to ask if they’re alright or if they need help.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Passage | John 14:11-12 NIRV

“Believe me when I say I am in the Father. Also believe that the Father is in me. Or at least believe what the works I have been doing say about me. What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who believes in me will do the works I have been doing. In fact, they will do even greater things. That’s because I am going to the Father.”

Think About This!

Jesus said it himself. Those who believe in him will do the same work he has been doing. They will DO EVEN GREATER THINGS. You have the privilege of learning to do greater and greater things as God works in your life over time..

Answer This!

1) How have you noticed God working in your life? What is happening in your life that would not be happening if you weren’t following Jesus?

2) Why is it helpful to trust God when you’re feeling afraid?

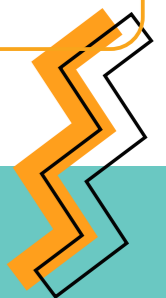
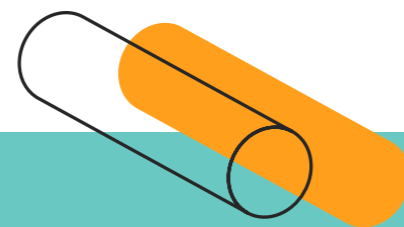
Next Step:

Remember that if God wants you to do something more He will also give you the strength to do it as you step out with faith in Him. . Be encouraged that Jesus wants to do more in your life than what He has already done.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Passage | Matthew 13:54-58 NIRV

“He came to his hometown of Nazareth. There he began teaching the people in their synagogue. They were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom? Where did he get this power to do miracles?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary? Aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Then where did this man get all these things?” They were not pleased with him at all. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own town and in his own home.” He did only a few miracles in Nazareth because the people there had no faith.”

Think About This!

The people from Jesus’ hometown were so amazed! They couldn’t believe what they were hearing, especially coming from a person who they knew since birth or by Jesus’ reputation from his family. Jesus came to share the good news but they were too distracted about his family line.

What Do You Think?

1) In what ways was Jesus’ power limited in his hometown?

2) How can we limit what Jesus wants to do in our lives?

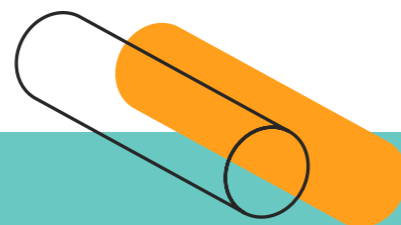
Next Steps:

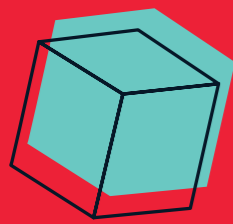
Remember, you also have a purpose in sharing the good news about Jesus. Don’t allow your friends to limit you in making your own decisions about living for and communicating about Jesus.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





Read This Verse | Exodus 34:10 NIRV

“Then the Lord said, “I am making a covenant with you. I will do wonderful things in front of all your people. I will do amazing things that have never been done before in any nation in the whole world. The people you live among will see the things that I, the Lord, will do for you. And they will see how wonderful those things really are.”

Think About This!

We sometimes forget how big our God is. We get distracted by the things in the world and end up putting God in either second, third or even last on our list of priorities. We have better days when we think about how powerful God is. He made everything we see, everything that has breath and everything that we don't understand. He really is an amazing God.

What Do You Think?

1) Why do we sometimes doubt God's power?

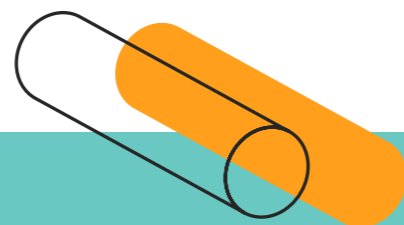
Next Steps:

Either big problems or small problems. Make a list of what you're struggling with and talk to God and let him handle your challenges.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about the following questions and include them in your prayer.

- What are you thankful for?
- What are you sorry for?
- Who do you want God to forgive?
- What are you asking God for today?





October - Love People



LOVE
PEOPLE
OCTOBER



LOVE PEOPLE | Sharing

Sharing is a great way for us to show people how we love them. The most important thing we could share is Jesus! Every year leading up to Christmas, we are given the opportunity to fill up a shoebox for a child to help remind them in this season that they are loved. We believe by asking YOU to participate in this you learn how to:

- 1) Think about others
- 2) Understand your privilege
- 3) Be a part of something bigger than KIDS Church

EVALUATION: The way to achieve this task is to bring in two completed boxes (one filled by you and one filled by a friend). This is a great opportunity for you to share with your friends why it's important to give back to the community.

At the end of the month, we will be hosting a packing party. This is an optional event but a great way to invite your friends to come and help you pack a box! If you can't come, you can host your own packing party at home!

This will be happening on **October 26th at 6:30 PM.**



Memorize This! | Galatians 5:22-23



But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.



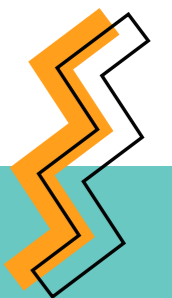
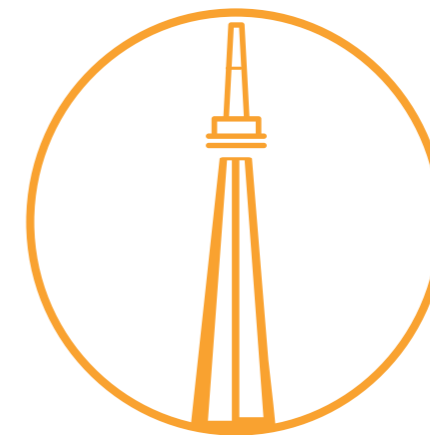
November Impact the City



COMPLETED



IMPACT THE CITY NOVEMBER



Memorize This! | Psalm 23

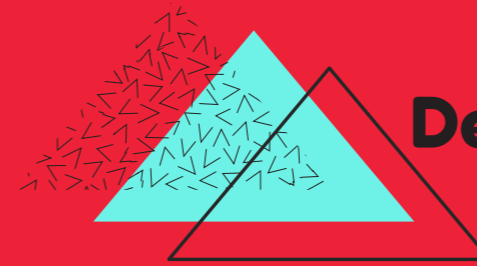
IMPACT THE CITY | Serving (Care Package Drive)

Part of impacting our city is serving people and the communities around us. On November 12th, 2022, we are going to be meeting at OneChurch.to's physical campus and creating care packages to give out to people downtown. This is an awesome way of serving and showing the love of God to others.

If you can not make it, we challenge you to make sandwiches and give them to the people in your community and to send us a picture.

EVALUATION: To obtain this achievable, your attendance will be required. If you can not make it, we encourage you to send us pictures or videos of you giving out sandwiches to the people in your community.

Event date/Time: November 12th at 10:00 am



KNOW GOD DECEMBER



KNOW GOD | Prayer (Advent)

This year our church family will be participating in an advent journey together. On November 27th, you will be able to pick up your Advent Journals at our physical location. If you attend Kids Church online, no problem, the advent journal will be available online in PDF form. We are asking all of our students of One church.to to take part in this Advent season with your family and your church.

Nov 7- Pick up Advent Journals

Nov 27 - Dec 3

Dec 4 - Dec 10

Dec 11 - Dec 17

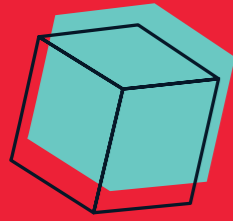
Dec 18th - 25th

EVALUATION: Prayer journal completion.



Memorize This! | Ephesians 4:29

Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.



Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional

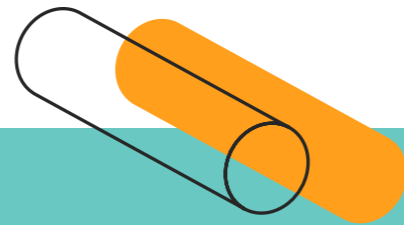


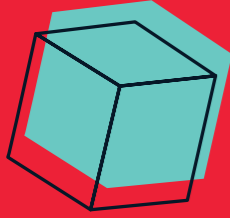
Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional

Lined writing area for the first week, consisting of 15 horizontal lines.

Lined writing area for the second week, consisting of 15 horizontal lines.





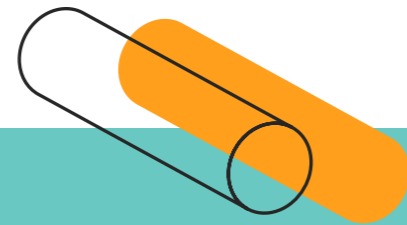
Dec. 11 - Dec. 17

Share with us what you are learning this week
from our Church Family Advent Devotional



Dec. 18 - Dec. 25

Share with us what you are learning this week
from our Church Family Advent Devotional



Fun fact:
Toronto has over 8,000 restaurants



LOVE PEOPLE JANUARY



LOVE PEOPLE | Gratitude

Gratitude is something we should all be practicing. It's easy for us to show gratitude when someone gives us something or when we know you're going to receive something. But we want you to practice gratitude even when you get nothing in return. So let's say THANK YOU to the people in our lives that deserve it.

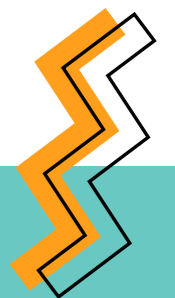
We are asking YOU to write 5 thank you cards or a note to:

- A teacher
- A family member
- A caretaker at school
- A community leader
- Someone you think deserves it

EVALUATION: Cards need to be shown to a leader before the end of January to obtain this achievable.



Memorize This! | Jeremiah 29:11



I know the plans I have for you," announces the Lord. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come.



IMPACT THE CITY FEBRUARY



IMPACT THE CITY | Going (Coldest Night of the Year)

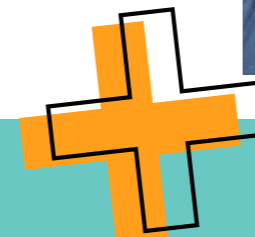
The Coldest Night of the Year is a super-fun, family-friendly fundraising walk that supports local charity partners who provide essential care and service for people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. We will join tens of thousands of Canadians stepping outside the warmth and comfort of home to shine a light of welcome and compassion in their communities.

On **February 25th, 2023** we will be meeting up at the OneChurch.to physical location to take part in this awareness walk.

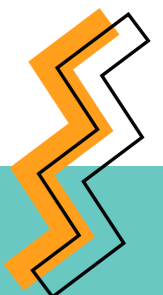
EVALUATION: We are asking YOU to participate fully in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser by raising funds with your family for the event.



Students will not be evaluated on the amount raised only on their participation.



Memorize This! | Proverbs 3:5-6



Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.



March - Know God



KNOW GOD MARCH



KNOW GOD | Read

International Women's Day is happening on March 8th. One way we'd like to celebrate this is by focusing on Women leaders in the bible all month long! Throughout this month we are asking YOU and YOUR FAMILY, to read this bible plan along with us.

The standard format for each of these weeks will be—

Read This → A passage from scripture.

Think About This → The main lesson we can learn from this passage.

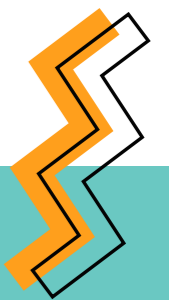
What's do you think? → Be honest when you answer the questions. If you're unsure how to answer it, start a conversation with your leader about the topic.

Next Steps → Apply what you learned and what is suggested for the next couple of days.

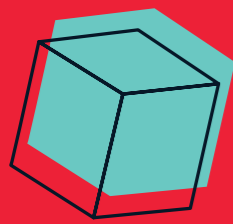
EVALUATION: After each story, there will be reflection questions we would like you to complete. In the second part of this achievable, we would encourage you to record a video of yourselves sharing about a woman that makes you proud OR share a picture with us of a woman you love with one sentence telling us why.



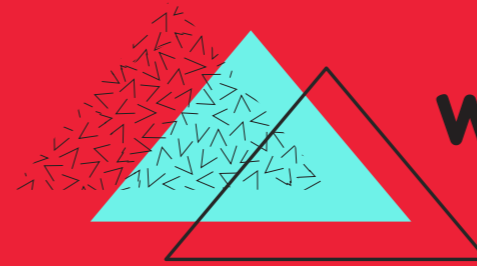
Memorize This! | John 3:16



For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.



Week 1 - Monday



Week 1 - Monday



COMPLETED

Read This Passage | Esther 2: 7-9 and 17-18 (adapted from NIRV)

“Esther was a beautiful woman there was no doubt about When Esther’s mother and father had passed away, Mordecai, her older cousin, took her in as his own daughter. One day, word spread that the king was in search for a new bride, and many young women were brought down to Susa to find a wife for the king. The king was attracted to Esther more than any of the other women, and she won his favour and approval. He set a royal crown on her head and made her queen. The king gave a great banquet for Esther for all his nobles and officials to see. He made a holiday and gave out many gifts in her honour.”

Think About This!

Esther had a hard life growing up. Her parents had died and she was sent to live with her cousin. Thankfully her cousin was a very nice man and loved her a lot. Some of us have had hard times and setbacks too, but want to know what’s cool? Esther never let her hard times change her love for God.

What Do You Think?

1) What difficult things are going on in your life right now?

2) If you met Esther on the street what are some things you would say to her to encourage her while she was going through these hard times?

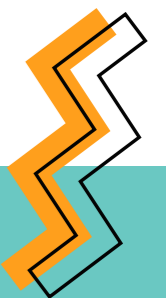
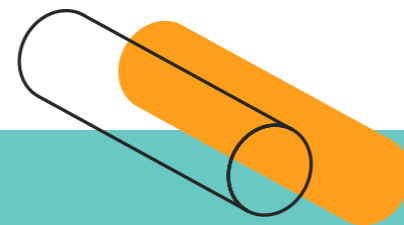
Next Step:

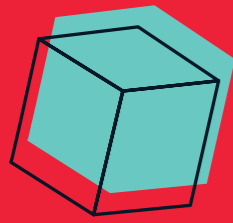
Think about a person or friend in your life that might be going through a hard time. How can you encourage them today?

Prayer:

Before praying, think about a struggle you need to overcome or one that can encourage someone else through

“Dear Lord, sometimes there are things in our lives that are difficult. Please give me the strength I need to get through (insert what your struggle is or was) and the ability to remind myself you are with me. Amen”





Read This: Esther Ch. 3-4 [adapted from NIRV]

“In the land was an evil man named Haman. He was jealous of Mordecai (who was a Jew) and wanted to kill all Jewish people. Haman tricked the king into creating a law that forced all people to worship the king, instead of God. Haman knew that the Jewish people would not bow to down to anyone, but God. This made all the Jews upset because if they didn’t bow, the law said they would be killed. Mordecai went to his niece, who was now queen, and asked her to go and beg the king for mercy. Esther knew that this would be dangerous but she told Mordecai, ‘Go. Gather together all the Jews in Susa, and fast (don’t eat or drink anything) for three days. I will do the same. Then I’ll go to the king. I’ll do it even though it’s dangerous and if I die, I’ll die.’ So Mordecai went away. He carried out all Esther’s directions.”

Think About This!

Although the king loved Esther, he was very powerful and dangerous man. At that time, the king was allowed to execute anyone who made him even a little mad. Esther had made the decision to go to the king. She knew there was a high chance that she might make him mad by asking him to show kindness to the Jewish people (her people). Can you imagine how scary that might’ve been for Esther?

What Do You Think?

1) Write about a time you were REALLY scared to do the right thing but you did it anyway. How did you feel before and after you did it?

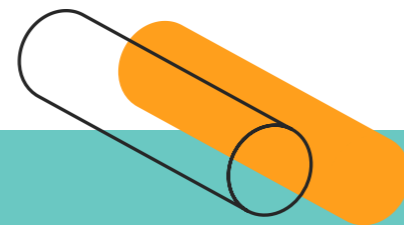
2) How would you encourage a friend or sibling to do the right thing even if they are scared?

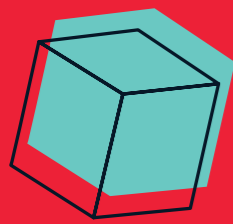
Next Step:

Doing the right thing sometimes takes a lot of courage and sometimes we need people to help us with our courage. Who are some people in your life that you can ask to help you be more courageous when you need to do the right thing?

Prayer:

“God, thank you for giving us all courage when we need it. Today, I’m asking you to help me to get out of my comfort zone and help the people around me. Remind me that I am doing it for you and your kingdom. Amen”





Read This: Esther Ch. 6-7 [adapted from NIRV]

“On the third day, the king and Haman went to a meal that Queen Esther planned to change the king’s mind. The king asked, “What do you want, Queen Esther? I’ll give it to you. What do you want me to do for you? I’ll even give you up to half of my kingdom.”

Then Queen Esther answered, “Your Majesty, please spare my people. That’s all I ask! For my people will be destroyed because of the new law you were tricked into creating. The King asked Queen Esther, “Who is the man who has dared to trick me to pass such a law? And where is he?” Esther said, “The man hates us! He’s our enemy! He’s this evil Haman!”

Haman was terrified in front of the king and queen. The king’s guards arrested Haman and the King changed the evil law so that the Jewish people would be saved!”

Think About This!

Esther did not accept the injustice that was happening to her people because of their ethnicity. She knew this was wrong. Esther decided to speak up even though it could cost her her life. Standing up for justice can sometimes cost us too. It can cost us, friends, our time, and comfort.

What Do You Think?

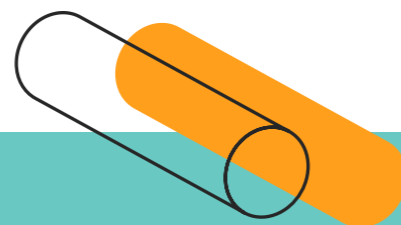
1) Can you think of any things that are unfair in our world? Are there any injustices that you can think of that we should speak up for?

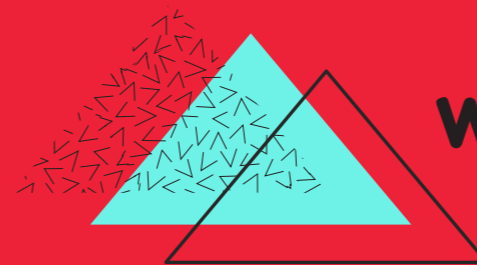
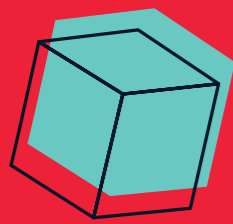
2) What can you do to help stand up against these injustices? Can you think of three ways you can help?

Next Step:

Prayer:

“Lord, help me today and every day to be brave and stand up against injustice just like Esther. I pray that you allow your will to be done. Use me to make a difference and let others know about your love.”





Read This: Ruth Chapter 1 (adapted from NIRV)

Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law. Both Ruth and Naomi lost their husbands. It was common in those days for a young woman such as Ruth to move away from her husband's family and start a new family, but Ruth wanted to care for her mother-in-law and would not leave Naomi alone.

She said to her mother-in-law, "where you go, I'll go. Where you stay, I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." The two women travelled together until they reached Bethlehem, just in time for the beginning of harvesting barley.

Think About This!

Both Ruth and Naomi were in a dark place. They both had lost their husbands and didn't have anywhere to go. Ruth could've gone back to her own family and live with her mom and dad but she didn't want to leave Naomi alone.

What Do You Think?

1) Write about a time you felt alone. How did that feel? Did someone include you along the way? How did that feel?

2) Even though we can sometimes feel alone, Jesus promises to never leave us. When you feel alone, what are some ways you remember that Jesus is always there with you?

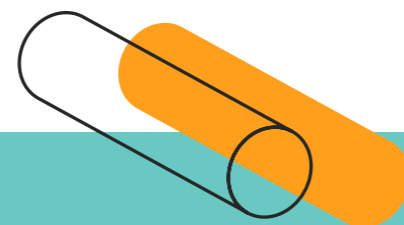
Next Step:

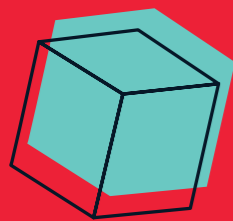
We need to remember that there are times when we all feel a little lonely. If you notice that someone might be feeling lonely how can you be there for them just like Ruth was there for Naomi?

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about a person who you have been wanting to talk to and help.

"Dear God, thank you for sending us your son Jesus who is always with us. I pray that you continue to remind me that you are with me. I pray that you use me to find those who also feel alone and give me the courage to talk to (Person's Name). Amen"





Read This: Ruth Chapter 2 (adapted from NIRV)

“It was hard to find work in those days for women but Ruth said to Naomi, “I will go out to the fields and pick up the grain that has been left.” She worked behind those cutting and gathering the grain. As it turned out, she was working in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz. Later that day Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and asked one of his workers, “Who is that woman?” The man replied, “ her name is Ruth, she is Naomi’s daughter-in-law.” Boaz was kind to Ruth and told her she could stay and continue gathering grain as long as she wanted. When Ruth heard that, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why are you being so kind to me? Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about you. I’ve heard about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died. I know that you left your father and mother. I know that you left your country. You came to live with people you didn’t know. May the Lord reward you for what you have done.”

Think About This!

A farmer like Boaz would normally have hundreds of workers on their farm so how did he notice Ruth??? A woman working in his field who wasn’t being paid. Boaz had heard from town about Ruth and all her the sacrifices she had made for her mother-in-law. He wanted to find ways to honour her. He went above and beyond what was required to make sure Ruth and Naomi had the food they needed.

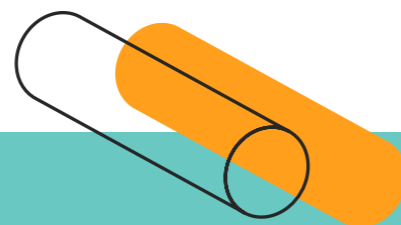
What Do You Think?

1) Boaz didn’t only feel bad for Ruth, instead he did something about it. Write about a time you felt bad about someone’s situation and did something about it.

2) Write about a time you went above and beyond for a person that needed help

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about a friend you would like to pray for. “Dear God, thank you for making me a person that can take action. Today, I ask You to help me see the people in and around my life that might need my help. I also ask that You help me to do something to help (Your Friends Name) with whatever struggle they’re dealing with. Amen





Read This: Ruth Ch. 4 (adapted from NIRV)

So every day Ruth went to Boaz's farm and gathered the grain that was left behind so she and Naomi could eat. Boaz continued to show tremendous kindness to Ruth. He would leave extra grain and barley for her and make sure she was always cared for. Boaz ended up marrying Ruth and they had a son. Naomi took the child in her arms and took care of him. The woman living nearby said, "Naomi has a grandson!" They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse and Jesse was the father of King David.

What Do You Think?

1) Ruth went through a really tough time but God helped her get through it! Have you been in a hard spot? Tell us how God got you through it!

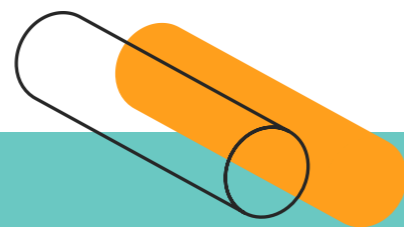
2) Naomi was a good friend to Ruth. What are some ways you can be a good friend to someone in need?

Next Step:

Boaz married Ruth because of her kindness and the way she loved Naomi. Ruth wasn't Jewish and it wasn't normal for a man like Boaz who was Jewish to marry someone who was not. Boaz did it anyways and because he trusted God with who he was married, God blessed their family.

Prayer:

Before you pray, think about a time God has helped you through a tough time.
"Lord God, thank you for helping get through (Tough Time). I pray you continue to remind me of your love. Right now, I lift up (your current struggle) and pray you give me patience and remind me that your timing is perfect. Amen"





Read This: Luke 1:26-56 (adapted from NIRV)

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph and was excited to be his wife. One night, while Mary was sleeping an angel came to her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you." Mary was very scared because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. Mary was still scared but she said to the angel, "I will serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would."

Think About This!

I can imagine how scared Mary felt. She thought she knew the plan for her life. She had a wonderful fiance and was so excited to get married. That all changed when the angel told Mary that she was going to be a mother to a very special son! I know if I was Mary I would be scared too. Mary does something very brave. She says to the angel: "I will do what Lord has asked me to do." Have you ever felt like you should do something even though it's scary? Just like Mary we always have a chance to say: "even though I'm scared I will trust in you, God."

What Do You Think?

1) Have you ever had a time when you were scared and tried to handle it by yourself? How did you feel?

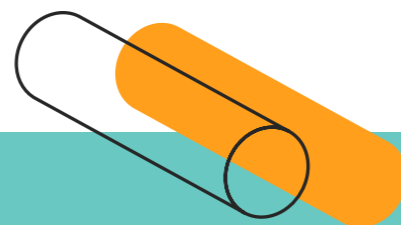
2) How do you usually handle situations where things don't go as planned?

Next Step:

Life can be hard, full of surprises, or even not going as you planned it to go. But we want you to know that God is still with you. In those moments where you are afraid or things aren't going your way, say to yourself "even though I'm scared, I will trust in you."

Prayer:

Before prayer, think about what you're anxious about, what's scaring you, or what is making you nervous.
"Lord Heavenly Father, thank you for this story about how Mary trusted you. Right now I'm dealing with (what you're dealing with) and I'm scared. I am going to trust this to you. Remind me you are good and faithful. Amen"





Read This:

Joseph was from Bethlehem, the town of David. Because he belonged to the house and line of David, he went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born but there was nowhere proper for Mary to give birth. The only place she could stay with Joseph was a barn. She had her baby there and wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.

Think About This!

Imagine being given the news from an angel that you are going to have a baby even much so the child who is going to save the world! That's too much pressure BUT Mary trusted that God will take care of her and her new baby. After all, God told her she was going to give birth to the King of kings. Think about it: What if your parents told you you were getting an important gift for Christmas (you thought it was a brand new Switch, PS5, or a cellphone!) only to find out it was a new pair of PJs. Now because you expected the Switch and only got PJs, you would be very disappointed. But what if when your parents said the special gift: PJs were made specifically for you, personalized for you, and gave you more than you can ever imagine. Now the PJs are much more exciting! It's all about expectations...

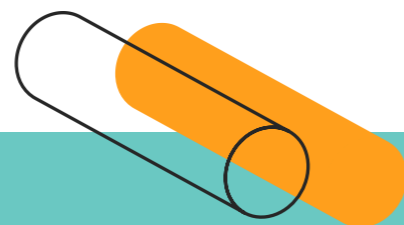
What Do You Think?

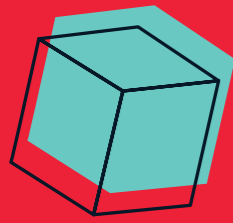
1) Write about a time when you had high expectations and they didn't go as planned. How did you feel?

2) Sometimes our parents, teachers, and even our pastors don't meet our expectations. How can you, like Mary, not get caught up on missed expectations but stay focused on Jesus?

Prayer:

Before praying, think about something that's coming up that you are having expectations about.
"Lord, it's hard when we expect something and it doesn't happen. Please help me with (what you are expecting) to trust You and believe that You ALWAYS know what's best for me."





Read This:

After Jesus was born King Herod asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? King Herod was very threatened by Jesus' birth and knew he would grow up to be the King of Kings. So the king gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem that were two years old and under hoping to get baby Jesus. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

Think About This!

Mary was so happy to have a healthy baby boy! Suddenly things changed and Mary and Joseph had to quickly move to save Jesus' life. We know change can be difficult, especially when that change forces us outside of our comfort zone.

What Do You Think?

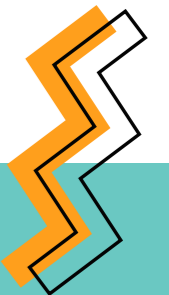
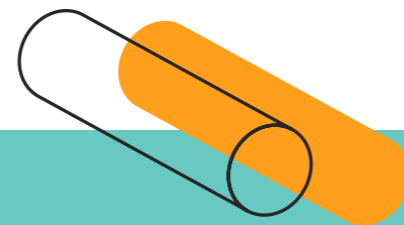
1) Write about a time when you were going through a big change. What happened and how did you feel?

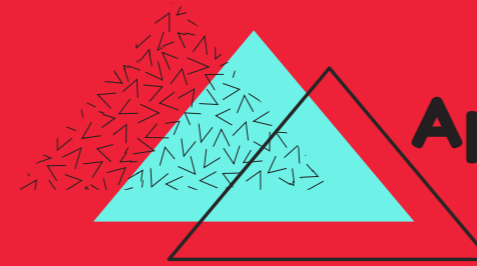
2) Would you be able to be like Mary and leave everything behind and trust God? Why or why not?

Prayer:

Before praying, think about what's changing in your life right now and what you're nervous about.

"Dear God, change is hard, and trusting You through change is sometimes really difficult. Help me to know your peace through (the change that is happening). Help me to also be kind to those who are experiencing change in their own lives."





April - Love People



COMPLETED



LOVE PEOPLE APRIL



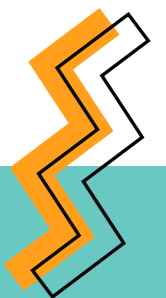
LOVE PEOPLE | Serving (Love Earth)

Here at Onechurch.to our mission is to Know God, Love People, and Impact the City. This month we're focusing on LOVE PEOPLE and one way we can love people is by loving those who will come after us by loving this earth. For this challenge, we are asking you to join us in a huge park cleanup, and we encourage you to bring a friend. Join us on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 PM as we clean the surrounding community at 2885 Kennedy Rd. If you can't make it on that day, do not worry! We are all earth lovers here! You and your family can find a park in your own community to clean up.

EVALUATION: Attendance will be taken on April 13th, but if students are not able to make it, we are asking that a picture of YOU cleaning a park in your neighbourhood be emailed to us at nextgen@onechurch.to for evaluation before the end of the month.



Memorize This! | Philippians 4:13



For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.



May - Impact the City



COMPLETED



IMPACT THE CITY MAY



IMPACT THE CITY | Giving (Love Local)

One way we can love locally is by giving back. There are things we are privileged to have and some things we have a lot of. Your challenge this month is to give away some of those extra clothes, toys, and items you may not want anymore. Create a pile and donate it to a local donation spot.

If you need a suggestion on where you can drop off your donations, here are some ideas:

The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church
3080 Birchmount Rd

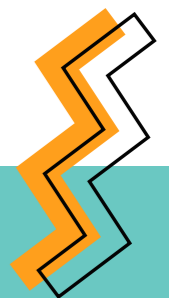
Value Village
North York, ON

The Salvation Army Thrift Store
1225 Kennedy Rd Unit D1

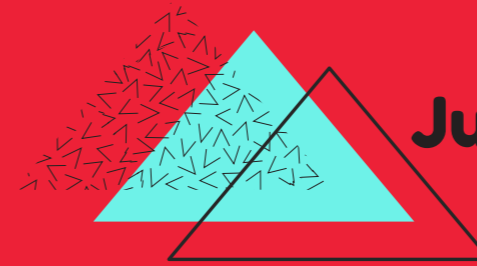
EVALUATION: Take a photo of yourself donating your clothes and send it to nextgen@onechurch.to.



Memorize This! | Ephesians 3:20



God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us.



June - Know God



COMPLETED



KNOW
GOD
JUNE



KNOW GOD | Attend (Love First Nations)

As we end our year, we want to partner with Love Army to raise money for First Nation moms. Our goal is to raise funds to help moms buy the supplies for their new babies! With that in mind, each of you will receive a regular-sized baby bottle to fill up with donations. Here are some ways you can go about this:

- You can ask friends and family for support
- You could raise money by hosting a yard sale
- You could sell lemonade in your neighbourhood
- You could do extra chores around the house, or mow someone's lawn

At our Onechurch.to physical location, we will have a MEGA baby bottle which we will collectively try to fill up! Our goal is to fill it up to the top and help support mothers at the First Nations Restoration Center. We will collect the donations from your baby bottles on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

On Sunday, June 18, we will have a party at the end of the year to celebrate your achievements and hold a last-chance donation drive. Be sure to invite your friends!

EVALUATION: Bring in a donation bottle



Memorize This! | Roman 8:38-39

I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

