THANK YOU

for joining us in prayer and fasting!

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21 DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

2022

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:



THE SPRINGS CHURCH

Open Air Pavilion

Where service will be held. includes large built-in stage. Will seat 1,000 people.

The Barn

Will contain Foyer, Welcome Center, Restrooms, Offices, Classrooms, Kitchen, Kid's Center, and Nursery.

Baptism Fountain

This will a beautiful entrance fountain. The fountain off and it will double as a baptismal!

Prayer Garden

A peaceful, beautiful area in which people can come and sit and enjoy God's presence. Will connect with walking path around entire property (teal lines on map).

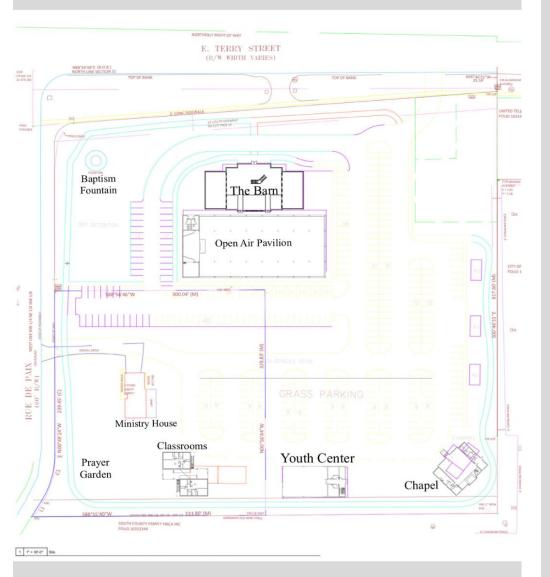
Youth Center

With worship area, gym and game spaces, the youth will have plenty of space to hang out with each other and grow with God!

Chapel

The Chapel will be a smaller sanctuary in which we will be able to host weddings, funerals, and other events. on either side of this building there will be two suits for brides and grooms to get ready in and for missionaries or speakers to stay for rest.

THE FUTURE OF



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTORS

Springs Family,

Thank you for taking the time with us each day to closely focus on the Scriptures in deep prayer. We hope these 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting will bless you, and that you feel better equipped for the year ahead. For many of us, the last few years have been one of extreme disorientation, fear and even loss and grief.

As we serve and love one another and seek the Lord together, we find strength to press on with endurance. Just as Eph. 6:18 tells us to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests," let's continue our prayer-minded launch into this new, unknown year. We must "be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (NIV). We are praying for you. That you feel the Holy Spirit inspire you daily in who you are in Christ, who we are as a church and what God has planned for our future. Together, our prayers can bring about significant change.

Blessings, Pastors Russ and Angelia Winn

JOURNAL GUIDE

Each day:

- 1. **PRAYER:** Begin with a prayer asking God to open your heart and show you what He has to say to you today.
- 2. **SCTIPTURE:** read the scriptures listed at the top of the page.
- 3. **DEVOTIONAL:** Read the devotional section.
- 4. **ACTION STEP:** Read the action step and prayerfully consider the actions God is leading you to based on today's scriptures and devotional.
- 5. **WORSHIP MOMENT:** Listen to the song provided. You can listen to this any way you choose, though we have created a YouTube playlist containing all of the worship moment songs from each day.
- 6. **REFLECTION:** Use the adjacent page to write down any reflections, revelations, action steps, or anything else that may be on your heart! This is your space to process todays devotional any way you'd like!

Scan this QR code by opening your phone's camera, hold it over the code, and click the link it provides to view the YouTube playlist and additional resources for your 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting journey!



SCAN ME

STAY IN TOUCH

We are so thankful for each and every one of you who has walked through this prayer and fasting journey with us! We would love to know what God has been speaking to you during these 21 days! If you have something you would like to share or you would like to speak to someone about advice or encouragement in regard to your journey, please feel free to email us at thespringsofbonita@yahoo.com or call the church office at 239-319-5749. We are a church family, and we would love the opportunity to celebrate, contemplate, or cheer you on in any way possible!

FINAL REFLECTIONS

INTRO TO PRAYER & FASTING

The Vision

The purpose of a designated prayer and fast is to gain clarity, receive revelation, and to hear God's voice.

We have been praying about what this prayer and fast should be centered around and, the theme became clear.

We believe it is essential for every believer to understand who we are as believers and knowing who we are as a body of Christ. Once we know our identities as individuals and as a body, we can then begin to discover what our purpose is within our community!

This prayer journal is broken up into 3 weeks. Each week will be focused on one of the 3 areas:

Who am I? Who are we? What's my role? We pray that as you participate on this prayer and fasting journey, God will reveal things you've never known, purpose you've never realized, and passion like you've never experienced.

Who am I?

We want to have more of God. The Bible says that the more we seek Him, the more we will find Him.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

CONCLUSION

#5. How is life moving	s God leading me to adjust my prayer y forward?
#6. How onext year?	loes God want to use me during this
	could encourage someone else to next years prayer and fasting, what tell them?

Jeremiah 29:12-14

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive."

God's Love For Me

Ephesians 3:18-19 | 1 John 4:10

Understanding God's love for us is the key to understanding who we are as children of God. Living in a performance-based world can really skew our perception of God's love. On the days when I'm doing all the right things, I feel loved and valuable. On the days I don't do all the things I think that I should, I feel unloved and unworthy.

Here's the thing- God's love for us is a gift. It's not based on anything I can earn or lose based on our performance. Imagine if you got a birthday gift for your child, but your child insisted that they work for their gift by, spending the whole day with you, doing extra chores, and making dinner for the family before they accept their birthday gift. While it might be nice to spend the whole day with your child and for them to help you around the house, I would imagine it would make you a bit sad that your child thinks they have to earn something that you want to give them just because they're your child. You wouldn't make them do all of those things to earn that gift. You would likely want them to know that they don't have to earn their birthday gifts- they're just something they get for being born!

Well, God's love is a "birthday" gift of sorts to us, a gift we did nothing to earn or deserve, but a gift given to us just because we're his child. His love comes at no cost to us, and certainly not because we deserve it, but because He is our Father and His love for us is THAT great!

ACTION STEP: Prayerfully evaluate your relationship with God's love for you. Journal your thoughts and questions and ask God to show you deeper levels of His love for you.

WORSHIP MOMENT: "How Deep the Father's Love forUs" By Selah

	been the most challenging part sof prayer and fasting?
#4. In what ways have you heard God's voice more clearly since starting this prayer and fast?	

Look and See What the Lord Has Done

Psalm 46:8-10

This is the last day of our 21 days of prayer and fasting! We pray that this last 21 days has been insightful, revealing, and challenging to you. We would like to take this last day and reflect on the things that God has spoken to us and shown us over the past 21 days!

ACTION STEP: Spend time reflecting and prayerfully answer the reflection questions below! We encourage you to share your victories, questions, and revelations with someone! We gain encouragement when we hear how God moves in the lives of others, so be an encouragement to those around you and allow someone access to your 21 days of prayer journey!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "I Believe" By Bethel Music

#1. What has been the mattaken away from these pa	_ , ,

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Who We Are as Children of God

1 John 3:1-3 | 2 Corinthians 5:17 | 1 Peter 1:3

We are ALL created to be children of God. Today we are going to explore more of what that means. When we are making the decision to follow Christ and make Him Lord of our lives we are born again. He, internally, makes us a new creation.

When we make the choice to accept our position as Christ's child, we take on "the family resemblance". We begin to look like Jesus, act like Jesus. Have you ever known a family whose genetics are so strong that there is NO doubt whatsoever that they all family because of their looks or mannerisms?

That's how we should be with God. We should look, talk, and act like Him, that no one would have any confusion as to whom we belong. That's what happens when someone looks at your peace in the midst of chaos and says, "There's just something different about you." They see God in you. They recognize whose family you belong to.

Does God expect us to be perfect? Of course not. He loves us exactly as we are, but He also loves us too much to let us stay the way we are. He is constantly inviting us to more, more fulfillment, more peace, more joy, more love. How do we accept His invitation? Live as Children of God. Let our walk match that of Christ's. Therein lies true satisfaction of being a child of God.

ACTION STEP: Take a look at your actions, thoughts, and words, can anyone you come in contact with know that you are a child of God? What is one step you can take to becoming more like God?

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Known" By Tauren Wells, "Champion" by Dante Bowe

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Prayers for the Future - The Ministries

Exodus 18:25

The purpose of any church is to be a facility for a body of believers in which ministry takes place. We are thrilled by the ministries we currently have and we are praying with expectation that God will continue to bless these and future ministries. We would like to spend this day focusing on each of the areas of ministry this church has now and what they will be in the future.

- Men's Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- College Age Ministry
- Life Group Ministry
- Benevolence Ministry
- Future Ministries

Ways in which you can pray for these ministries: **1.** That God will bring fresh revelations to the leaders as to how He wants to serve its members. **2.** For those who are currently being ministered to in these groups. **3.** For new people to join these ministries and that they might be touched by God through them.

ACTION STEP: Pray intentionally and specifically for all of the Ministries of The Springs! God is on the move, and we want to steward every moment He gives us well! Your prayers are and will continue to make a difference in people's lives!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Too Good to Not Believe" Bethel Music

VVhat is G	God Speaking to YOU?

HEARING GOD'S VOICE MORE CLEARLY

John 10:27 | Isaiah 30:21

Hearing God's voice can seem like a daunting task. His voice is not always audible, but He is always speaking. Sometimes we hear his voice through a song, through the encouragement of a loved one, through the sound of the ocean. The way in which He speaks to us may be different, but He does speak to each of us! John 10:27 says "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

We want to follow God and hear His voice but to hear His voice we have to slow down and stop talking and listen. We also need to invest time into getting know God more so that we know which voice is His. Imagine that you're blindfolded in a sea of people, and you are trying for listen for the direction of ONE voice. Whose voice will you recognize better? That of your closest friend or that of a stranger? The more time we spend with God listening to His voice, the easier it will be to recognize! The more you practice, the easier it will be!

ACTION STEP: Spend more time intentionally listening for God's voice today. If you're not sure where to start, try writing out the scriptures above as prayers!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Not in a Hurry" By Will Reagan

REFLECTION

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vvnat is God Speaking to YOU?

Prayers for the Future - The Finances

Luke 14:28 (NLT) | Malachi 3:10 | Luke 6:38

A huge part of any building process is the financial aspect. We have been very blessed to have purchased our land and done all the renovations to the Ministry House DEBT FREE! Glory to God for that!

We know that God has specific plans as to how to meet the financial needs of the next steps of this project. God has always moved in mysterious ways, and we are actively choosing to trust God to do what He has always done- be faithful to provide!

Though some may see a dollar amount as an improbability, we encourage you to reflect on the story of David & Goliath. Does it seem probable to human logic that someone as small as David could take down a 9-foot giant? No, it's seemingly impossible. Still, it happened, and David conquered that giant. Was there victory because of how big and strong David was? No. Was there victory because of the weapons in which he used? No. There was victory because God gave direction to David, David obeyed, and GOD SHOWED UP! God defeated Goliath, not David alone!

So, we stand here with direction from God, obeying the steps He has laid out to us, and believing that we will see a miracle in the finances! We know that God has always provided, and He will continue to do so. Please join us in praying in every penny that will buy every nail, screw, board, and inch of cement that will become our new church! We serve a great, BIG God- Amen? AMEN!

ACTION STEP: Join us in praying big, bold prayers for the finances of our church! We know that God will provide as we continue to obey His directions!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "See a Victory" By Elevation
Worship

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Living with Purpose

Psalm 138:8 | Jeremiah 29:11

Each of us have purpose. We can mistake life's purpose with a specific task or goal. Your role at this time may to be Mother, Father, Grandparent, Wife, Husband, Daughter, Son, friend, business owner, worker, server, etc. but that's not the whole purpose of your life. You may be the owner of a business, but that's not your complete purpose for living. All of the roles we have in life all play into our purpose, but to tie our purpose to our roles assumes that our purpose ends in coordination with the end of that role. Our purpose may be seemingly small, yet it is actually great! God has purpose for every moment. With every breath you take, He has a specific purpose for it. If I only view my purpose as my job title, what is my purpose in my off hours and weekends? God's purpose for us shifts and grows as we grow, but it NEVER fades away! Whether you're 10 years old or 100 years old, as long as there is breath in your lungs, God has purpose for your life!

ACTION STEP: Ask God to reveal His purpose for you at THIS moment. Maybe you need help discovering your purpose for today. Reach out to someone you trust to help pray and call out purpose in your life! We will be diving deeper into discovering our purpose more in the days to come.

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Refiner" By Maverick City Music

REFLECTION

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V	What is God Speaking to 100?	

Prayers for the Future- Community Acceptance

Psalm 33:4 | 1 John 5:14

As we move forward with the God-ordained plans for the church property, there is the possibility for us to run into some opposition. One potential area of opposition we want to cover in prayer is being accepted by our community and surrounding neighborhoods.

We know this property is something that God has led us to move forward with, there is no doubt about that. We know that He will go before us and pave the way!

We ask that you join us in praying for that each step of the way to go smoothy! We know that the noise level during services and events may be a potential spot of contention with the surrounding neighborhoods and we are doing the very best we can to be sure our sound is funneled away from the homes.

We pray that God will intervein and help the surrounding neighbors to see the blessing we are bringing to the community regardless of their personal belief or lack thereof. Please partner with us in prayer that there is nothing that will come against us moving forward with God's plans and that we will have wisdom and a Godly love towards anyone who may have a less than pleasant response to us.

ACTION STEP: Cover our church properties in prayer today! We pray they will embrace our church property with open arms, and we pray blessings on their individual lives. We also invite you to come out to the prayer walk around the property during any daylight hours.

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" By Casting
Crowns

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Created To Serve

Mark 10:35-45 | 1 Peter 5:6-7

As humans we crave to be great. To various degrees we crave for people to notice us for the things we desire to be great at doing. It's in our nature.

Even the disciples were asking Jesus what they could do to be seated in the place of honor. In their search for greatness, Jesus redefined their perception of greatness. He told them that if they wanted to be great, they must become a servant. If they wanted to be first, they must put themselves last.

This is extremely counter-intuitive to what the world says. The world says if you want greatness, you must do more, be more, and push your way to the top.

God calls us to put others above ourselves. Just as it says in 1 Peter 5:7, we must humble ourselves so that He can exalt us in the proper time. This is the way in which we were created to live- to SERVE!

When we live a life of selfishly looking out for ourselves, we can get stressed and anxious because we are operating outside the way in which God designed us to operate. The best way to satisfy our souls and be great in the eyes of God is to serve!

ACTION STEP: How often do you serve and with what attitude to you serve? how you can be an even better servant today then you were yesterday? If you are unsure how to bump up your service, we are happy to walk you through some options!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "I Don't Have Much" By Revere

REFLECTION

\Albert in Cool Coordinate to VOLIO

vvnat is God Speaking to YOU?

Prayers for the Future - The Building Process

Matthew 18:20 | 1 Corinthians 15:58

As we look at the future of The Springs, building on the Ministry House/church property is an evident step in its growth. We are SO excited for all the potential growth that is available to us through this land! As you can see on the blueprints located on page 57 and 58 that there is lots that is going to be done! All these facilities and details will take lots of work and preparation.

If you have ever been a part of any building and construction project, you know that there are usually things that do not go as planned. It's just the nature of the process!

Will you join us in covering this whole "project" and each of its phases in prayer? Here are a few specifics we ask you pray for: **1.** Favor with any city officials and a smooth, issue free, process in obtaining proper permits etc. **2.** Safety for each construction worker that will be hired throughout the property. **3.** For all materials necessary to be obtained in the projected timeline. That any delays will be nil or at very least kept to a minimum. **4.** That God will continue to provide wisdom to our visionary team about each and every detail of every facility!

Our goal is to create intentional, purposeful spaces for ministry to take place! We appreciate your prayers and may God reward you and this church with blessings because of your intercessions!

ACTION STEP: Add the church property building process to your daily prayer list. Your prayers matter and are an essential part of this process and our growth as a church!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "My hope is Built/The Solid Rock" 43 By Norton Hall Band

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Called to Community

Colossians 3:12-17 | John 15:16

We were created for community. Let's take a look at the very first people. God created Adam. Adam had community with God. God was pleased with Adam and the connection that they shared but He decided that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Adam needed the community of another human. God created Eve so they could share in community together.

Just like it was all the way in the very beginning, community for us today can be broken down into two areas: connection with God and connection with people. Living in the fallen world that we do, there are times in which it can be hard for us to completely immerse ourselves in the pure, intimate connection with God. It can also be hard to desire to connect with the people that God created us to live in community with.

People can, and likely have, failed us, hurt us, abandoned us, misused our trust, and overlooked us. When we've been let down by people it makes us not want to try to connect deeply again for fear of being let down again.

Sometimes this fear of hurt from people can translate into fear of being hurt by God. We must push past the lies and hold tight to the fact that God will NEVER let us down. He is infallible and incapable of such.

As far as people, God desires us to use wisdom and forgive others. He knows that our souls are most satisfied when we can learn to trust the people He leads into our lives. He doesn't desire for us to allow people to continue hurting us over and over again, but He does desire us to find Godly, healthy, community! We serve this need in our church with Life Groups. It is SO important to find a community of people to DO LIFE WITH!

ACTION STEP: Evaluate, pray, and look for opportunities of growth in the aspect of community in your life! Step outside your comfort zone! God has amazing, life-giving relationships in store for you!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" By Hallal Singers

What is God Speaking to YOU'?

Prayers for Our Staff Personally

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 | James 1:5 | Ephesians 1:17-23

Prayers for our staff in a professional capacity are absolutely coveted but we also want to encourage you to pray for their personal lives as well.

The larger your range of influence is, the harder the enemy will attack because he knows the effect you will have for God's Kingdom. Our staff are leading people into the Kingdom and the enemy hates that. He will try to stop them in any way he can.

If you would join us in praying Job 1:10 for each of our staff and their families, here are some ways in which to pray:

- 1. Pray for their health. (Physically, mentally, spiritually)
- **2.** Pray for their marriages. We want to pray hedges of protections over these marriages in Jesus' name! **3.** Pray for their families. (Children, extended families) **4.** Pray for rest, refreshment, and rebuilding. Ministry is extremely rewardingthere is no doubt about that!

Our staff:

Pastors Russ & Angelia Winn- Lead Pastors Pastors Travis & Stephanie Seidel - Student Pastors, Life Groups

Wendy Renee (Mickey Gauthier) - Worship Leader Tammy Bennett (David Bennett) - Office Administrator Courtney Ardoin (Josh Ardoin) - Office Administrator

ACTION STEP: Take time to intentionally pray for our church staff in the ways listed above and any other ways that you feel lead to do so!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "The Blessing" By Kari Jobe

V	Vhat is God Speaking to YOU?

Called to Pray

Matthew 6:9-13 | 1 John 5:14 | 2 Corinthians 1:11

Prayer, in its simplest form, is just talking with God. Like with anyone, communication is how we build relationships. Imagine if you had never begun and continued conversation with your closest friend. Do you think that you'd be close friends right now if you didn't start talking to them and continue to go through life being in some form of communication with them? Not likely.

As we talk with God (pray) there are a few different ways that God asks us to pray. **1.** Matthew 6:9-13. The Lord's Prayer outlines a lot of what we can pray and the attitude in which to pray. **2.** Romans 8:26-27. Pray for others. We are called intercede for others in prayer the way the Spirit intercedes on our behalf to God. **3.** Philippians 4:4-7. We can pray with a thankful heart because we know that even though we may not see tangible evidence of God moving, He is!

We can receive His peace when we pray with this mindset! Like it states in 1 John 5:14, we can pray confident because we KNOW that when we ask things in accordance with HIS will (not our own will?) He WILL hear us!

Don't we serve such an amazing, wonderful, loving God that he WANTS to hear from us and that He always willing to be in communication with us? Listening to us & talking with us. All we have to do is be available to Him!

ACTION STEP: In what ways can you spend more intentional time with God? Is he asking you listen more? Be more vulnerable with Him? Talk to Him more through your days? Take a step, even one baby step at a time, to draw closer to God today then you were yesterday!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "The Prayer" By Thunderstorm Artis

VVhat is God Speaking to YOU?

God's Wisdom for Our Staff

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-12 | Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11 | Isaiah 54:17 (NLT)

We are so thankful for the staff that God has assembled here at The Springs! Each member brings unique personality, perspective, skills, and abilities to the team. As we head into this next season of growth as a church with our new land, they need God's wisdom to continue to guide them and show them His plan for this church in this new season!

We are also asking for prayers for unity of the staff, the board, and the congregation as we all follow God's leading into the next season of this church.

The enemy knows when God has big plans and he will do anything to derail, distract, and cause division! We are actively praying against those attacks of the enemy, and we ask that you partner with us.

We know that God has some BIG plans for The Springs in regard to facilities, in connecting people to God and to each other, and more! Unity, peace, and direction are going to be crucial in carrying out what God has for this wonderful church that we so love!

ACTION STEP: Please add the unity and direction of our staff to your daily prayer list! We want to combat the attacks of the enemy even before it begins as we continue to build a legacy in which the future generations will worship!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "His Eye is on the Sparrow" By Selah

vvnat is God Speaking to YOU?

WHO ARE WE?

As the body of Christ, God gives us each specific parts to complete our Church. We encourage you to seek God for your purpose at The Springs.

Matthew 18:19-20

"Again, I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Our Future Together

<u>Intercessory Prayer:</u> to pray on the behalf of others.

An important part of our prayer life should be intercessory prayers! What better way to grow as a church family than to join together and lift up our church?

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Who We are as the Body of Christ

John 15:5 | Ephesians 4:15-16

Each person in the body of Christ was created with an intentional, unique purpose and Christ is the leader of that body- the head if you will. The body of Christ is often compared to the human body. Each part of our bodies function is important and critical to a healthy, fully functioning body. Imagine this. A body is functioning as it should - the feet are moving the body from pace to place as feet should, the hands are building, touching, and working as hands should, the head giving direction to the body as sit should, and so on. All of a sudden, the hands and feet decide they are tired of the head always telling them what to do. They have become disconnected with the head's motives, and they no longer wish to follow the heads direction. The hands and feet remove the head from the body, and by default, the rest of the body is disconnected from the head too. While this may be a rather crazy mental picture, it is a very powerful illustration as to what can happen if the church is disconnected from God being "the head"- the very CENTERof all it does. While church leadership has a lot to do with keeping Christ at the center of a church, if its members do not allow God to be the navigator of their lives, the leaderships efforts will be in vain. allowing God to be the head of our church requires EACH MEMBER to make Christ the center of their lives. If we allow Him. God as our leader can bring us places, we've never dreamed of and love us like we never knew was possible.

ACTION STEP: Have you made Christ the Lord of your life? This requires a daily choice to follow His direction instead of our own. No matter how long you've known Him, let's look for ways in which we can allow Christ to be the head of our lives.

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Jesus at the Center of it All"

By Elevation Worship

vvnat is God Speaking to YUU?

God's Direction for Our Church

Psalm 127:1

In the 12 years since our church's inception, we have been proudly located at Riverside Park! As we have continued to grow, we have seen a need to have a space that is our own. Over the last few years, we have been praying for God to show us where and what He intends for our church to look like. When the Lord led us to, what is now the Ministry House property, we knew this was where God wanted us to build our own facilities! We now have our beautiful Ministry House in which we are able to host numerous life groups. This is also a home for some of our pastoral staff.

Our vision for this this land is to have facilities on the 9 acres of this property! We, of course, still want to remain an outdoor church, but we do realize there is a need for different buildings and facilities for various groups and activities.

See pages 57 and 58 of this journal to view the plans. You are also welcome to visit the Ministry House during daylight hours to walk the prayer path. This path goes around the whole 9 acres and has signs where the new facilities will be built!

Ministry House Adress: 27061 Rue De Paix, Bonita Springs

ACTION STEP: We ask you to lift us our church property as it is being prepared! Please join us in praying for all those who have a role in the planning and building phases of this process. Take a moment to reflect on your role in the new property!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Holy Holy Holy" By Jimmy Needham 35

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Who I Am in the Body of Christ

Romans 12:4-8 | 1 Corinthians 12:14-18

Yesterday we talked about the body of Christ and how God is the head and giver of direction to that body. Today we will focus on our roles in that body!

Imagine this. Let's say, my feet decide they are tired of doing their job and they would rather do the job of my eyes. They want to see everything and not be subjected to the weight of the entire body. Now I have 2 sets of eyes and no feet. Can my body function properly? Not quite. While I'd be able to see EVERYTHING, I would no longer be able to walk from here to there.

Similarly, if someone decided that the role they have in our body of Christ is not important enough, they decide to take on the role intended for someone else, our church body will not be as God intended! Our church body will suffer, or at a minimum, not be functioning properly. Each member has an important role to play!

As the head of our body, God creates us all with specific giftings that are each of equal importance and are essential to the community in which God places us! What is your role in our body? Which role do you fit into: the gift of prophecy, the gift of service, the gift of teaching, the gift of exhortation (encouragement), the gift of giving generously, the gift of leading, or the gift of acts of mercy? While these gifts are things God asks of all of us- to give generously, and encourage, be merciful, etc.- God gives us each an area the is particularly natural to us all. Which one comes most naturally to you? That just may be your God-given role our body!

ACTION STEP: Ask God what your role in the body is & step into that role in our church! If you aren't sure how your gift can serve our church body, we would be happy to help you find where God intends you to be!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "I Give Myself Away" By William McDowell

W	hat is God Speaking to YOU?

Serving Our Community

Acts 20:35 | Proverbs 11:24-25

We have talked about how it is important for us to grow and participate in our church body, but another important factor is investing in our local community! We, as a church staff, are always praying and looking for ways in which we can better serve our community. Currently, our church serves our community by partnering with organizations through donations, physical work, and by being a safe place for people to worship. We pray that our church can offer more and more to our community and model the example Jesus gave. Acts 20:35 and Proverbs 11:24-25 talk about giving and giving generously. We all must be willing to give what we have to offer for God has given us those things that we might be blesses, yes, but also to bless others! Our wealth, our time, our gifts/abilities. In What ways can YOU serve your neighbors, community, church?

Visit www.thespringsofbonita.church/missions for more details or each organization we support!

ACTION STEP: Ask God for direction for both our church and you as an individual in ways that we can best serve our community and city! Evaluate your heart towards serving & ask God to reveal ways in which you can grow!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Be Thou My Vision" By 4Him

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Prayer for Furthering Connections

Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

On Day 6 we talked through the idea that we were created for community. We crave connection and thrive when we have connections. The Springs provides us opportunities to connect with likeminded, Christ followers through Life Groups! As of right now, we currently have at least 15 weekly or monthly life groups! That's amazing! Some life groups are centered around a book of the Bible and others are centered around boats or fishing but what they all have in common is that they connect people together and they get people talking about God and His word.

The whole purpose of the group, whether you meet for a bible study or for a bit of fishing, is to facilitate connects so that people can do life together!

We all need people to encourage us when we're down, to celebrate with us when things are going well, and to always point us back to Christ. These are the types of relationships we are praying will develop as a result of life groups!

As humans, no matter what our age or status, we are better when we are TOGETHER! In Ecclesiastes 4:8-12 it tells us why! The need for others does not make us weak or needy- it makes us HUMAN! God created us to need others! Today, we are asking you if you will partner with us as we intercede for our current and future life groups. We pray for authentic connections and relationships to form and for these groups.

ACTION STEP: Spend time interceding in prayer for our current and future life groups! If you are not already involved in a life group, we invite you to prayerfully consider which group you might like to connect with!

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Together" By for King and Country

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Prayer for Finding Fulfilment

Psalm 138:8

On Day 9 and 10 we talked about the body of Christ and how when each member of the body operates in their God-given abilities the body works as it should! Another aspect to this is that when each person is operating in the role God designed them for, they find true fulfilment.

If your heart is to teach, teaching will bring you life! If God has made you to be an encourager, your heart will be most full when you are speaking encouragement over people. The things you like to do, and you feel most fulfilled while doing are not by happenstance. Those are likely God-given gifts, and He has a plan and purpose in your current community for those gifts!

Let's recap on the gifts talked about in Romans 12:4-8: Prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation (encouragement), contribution (giving), leading, and acts of mercy. For a full breakdown of these gifts, visit the spiritual gifts section on the 21 days of prayer and fasting tab on The Springs website. It is crucial for us to understand our spiritual gifts in order for us to find fulfilment in serving. Remember back to day 5 when we talked about Mark 10 and how God said that to be great, we must become servants? Maybe this has to do with the fact that when we serve others with our gifts, we are fulfilling our role in the body and thus finding fulfillment in our purpose!

ACTION STEP: Prayerfully consider your God-given gifts and examine ways in which you can serve others with them! If you need guidance, please see the spiritual gift test on the 21 days of prayer and fasting page on our website! (QR code: page 3)

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Softly and Tenderly" By Greg Lafollette & Alissa Turner

What is God Speaking to YOU?

Prayer for Future Leaders

Exodus 18:25

Yesterday we prayed for life groups, both current and future. Today our prayers are going out for the leaders of these life groups! Being a life group leader has its responsibilities but is so extremely rewarding. The job of a life group leader is to facilitate a comfortable atmosphere for conversation and connection to happen.

The leader is responsible to have a "lesson" of sorts (for a bible study a curriculum or study plan, and for an activity-based life group such as our shore fishing group, a short devotional to share). Our leaders, with the help of our life group coordinator, Stephanie, should be led by God as to how to best serve the members of their group. Overall, we want to pray for wisdom for our life group leaders as they facilitate the connections that we previously established are so important!

We are also praying that God will put it on more people's hearts to want to facilitate or host a life group! If we want our groups to grow and multiply, we need the right leaders to facilitate!

ACTION STEP: Pray for our current life group facilitators that God gives them wisdom for their groups! Pray that God will continue to speak to the hearts of our future life group facilitators! If you are interested in facilitating a life group, contact Stephanie Seidel.

WORSHIP MOMENT: "Make Room" By The Church Will Sing

What is God Speaking to YOU?