



WEEKLY STUDY

Vision Sunday

People often ask, “What is it that makes Providence Church the wonderful place it is?” The number one answer is “God did it!” But God does invite us along on this journey with Him. And the best thing we can do in response is to stay focused on what God wants for us. We call that the vision that God has given to this community. This last Sunday was one of those set-aside times that served as a reminder and reorientation towards that vision. We are about seeing those who feel disconnected from God and the church find hope, healing, and wholeness in Jesus Christ. Our *mission* is what we do to achieve the vision. It’s simple, but not easy. We hope to make more and deeper disciples of Jesus. That’s it. When we are growing as followers of Jesus and practicing the things he practiced, we believe that the vision to see disconnected people connect with Jesus will be fulfilled. God has been honoring that and we are along for the ride. As you read, study and pray this week, consider how God might be calling you to a deeper place in your walk with Jesus.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for someone you know who feels disconnected from God and the church. Lift them up to God and ask for opportunities that might lead to hope, healing and wholeness for them.
- Pray for unknown disconnected folks who God will lead to Providence Church in the coming year.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PSALM 126 (MSG)

*It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when God returned Zion's exiles.
We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.
We were the talk of the nations—
"God was wonderful to them!"
God was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.*

- God did it mindset. Sometimes God moves in such obvious and powerful ways that we can do nothing else but admit that "God did it". When Israel returned from years of exile, they saw the hand of God in their return. Their story could have ended. They could have been one more page in the history books, but God was so faithful to them that other nations even noticed! When has God seemed to especially bless you, your nationality, your Christian community?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7.9)**
- *God, your faithfulness stretches through generations. May your people in my time carry that identity with grace and boldness for those who will follow. Amen.*

TUESDAY: PSALM 126.4-6 (MSG)

⁴⁻⁶ *And now, God, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives
So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout "Yes!" at the harvest,
So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.*

- "And now God, do it again." God doesn't seem to rest on God's laurels. Even when we go through hard seasons where we might feel abandoned, God is at work and has a track record with us. It's good to celebrate God's faithfulness and anticipate that God will do amazing things again. What do you picture, and for what are you grateful when you think of "armloads of blessing"?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1.17)**
 - *Heavenly Father, you have been faithful to me in the past. Come and display your glory in my life and in the world today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 28.19-20 (NIV)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- The mission given by Jesus to the disciples in Matthew 28 is the mission given to us. Make more disciples! Don't just sign people up, but involve them in the world-changing movement that Jesus came to spark. How is your life a living testimony to the fact that Jesus is with you...alive and relevant to this world in need of a Savior?
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- **Prayer Prompt: As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1.16-18)**
- *Jesus, call me out of my head-down way of living. Show me how your mission might be lived out through me in big and small ways today. Amen.*

THURSDAY: COLOSSIANS 1.15-20 (NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

- Jesus is at the center of everything. Everything revolves around him. When we are at our best, we are in his orbit. Our lives are most aligned with our true purpose when our eyes are on him. He holds everything together! Reflect on Paul's words to the church in Colassae in the space below. What does it mean that the fullness of God dwells in Jesus—the One who offers you peace through his blood shed on the cross?

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- **Prayer Prompt: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1.20)**
 - *God, you put on flesh for my sake. You are the head of the church, come be the head of my life. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JEREMIAH 29.11-14 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity

- The future is in God’s hands. God wants us to thrive and to prosper. The promise to be brought back from captivity may seem unrelated to us today, but is there anything that seems to be holding you captive? Where does your mind wander when you are idle? Does anxiety consume you? Use the space below to ask God to bring you out of that captivity.
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- **Prayer Prompt: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners (Isaiah 61.1)**
- *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I long for the freedom that only you can provide. Shower me with the good news that you bring. Bind up my broken heart and set me free! Amen.*

SATURDAY: ACTS 10.37-38 (NIV)

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

- We believe in the healing power of Jesus Christ. Healing wasn't just something Jesus did to garner attention. He brings healing because that is who he is and it is what the Spirit has empowered him to do. Where are you in need of healing?

- **Prayer Prompt: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147.3)**
- *God, I offer up my best plans and my brokenness. Through the power of your Spirit I pray for healing in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

In the Vision Sunday message, we heard a list of core values of Providence Church. Where have you seen these values bubble up in the church or in your personal life?

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.

The church exists because of Jesus Christ. He is at the center of everything we do. His life, death, and resurrection give us hope for new life now and for eternity.

Story that points to this value in your life _____

Every Person Matters.

Our vision is focused on seeing disconnected people connect with Jesus. So, we provide a welcoming environment that goes above and beyond expectations. We want each person to feel that they belong here, even before they fully believe.

Story that points to this value in your life _____

Extravagant Generosity

We operate out of an abundance mentality. There is no scarcity with God. The generosity of individuals is reflected by the church as a whole. We regularly give away our biggest offerings. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Story that points to this value in your life _____

God Did It Mindset

Every good thing that happens in and through Providence Church is a direct result of God's faithfulness. We strive to operate with authenticity and humility, putting our trust in God to do it again! God can be trusted!

Story that points to this value in your life _____

Dependence on the Holy Spirit

We believe that Providence Church is a movement of God that is reliant on the Spirit of God poured out on believers at Pentecost.

Story that points to this value in your life _____

We Believe in the Healing Power of Jesus Christ.

We have seen God work miracles at Providence Church and in the lives of people. We pray believing that God will continue to bring healing in Jesus' name.

Story that points to this value in your life _____