
JESUS LOVES YOU AND IS CALLING YOU TO GROW

SERIES: NEXT | WEEK 3 | 1.19.2020

Church, would you just bow your heads right now? We're just gonna keep on singing that, but I want you to take a moment and spend some time with Jesus right now. We sing your presence is Heaven to me and it's so easy to just blow through a morning like this and not spend time with Him, and so I want us to spend a few moments with Him. Would you just take a moment and invite Him into this moment?

[Music] [Prayer]

Thank you, Jesus, that You love us so much that You'd never leave us, You'd never forsake us.

Lord Jesus, I pray for each person in this room right now that feels far from You. Feels like they're struggling to just get to the next moment, the next day, the next thing that's going on. I pray for those who are really trying to put stuff together and they want You to be a part of it, yet it seems like in the moment when they try to do that it all falls apart. I pray for those in this room right now that are struggling with sickness, with illness; I pray that You'd bring healing into their life. Those who are praying for a loved one or a friend that's not doing well, Jesus, we know You're the One who answers prayers.

Lord Jesus, we pray for relationships in this room right now. We know there are people in this room that have separated, broken relationships and Lord God, I pray that right now would You begin to do a work in those hearts and those lives? Lord, if there's something that we've done to bring that separation, I pray that You'll show that to us to help us go make that right. Lord, if there's something that they need to be told, Lord, I pray that someone will tell them and that they'll hear. Lord, we know these things can only be handled by prayer, so we come to You.

Lord, there are so many other things in this room right now that we're just seeking You for, wanting You to do in our lives. Lord, I pray that, I pray Lord God, that You would blow our minds with what You are about to do. Lord, that we would recognize your power and your strength and that we would come into this place to be expectant of it.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

You can have a seat.

You know, one of the things that's on my mind this morning is just how much God loves us. He loves, loves, loves, loves us so, so much. I don't care where you've been, what you've done, what's been done to you, He loves you. He died for you. He cares for you. Here's why I say that. I think it's so crazy important is that when someone loves us we have this tendency to want to get to know them more, to relate with them more, to find out more about them. When someone is mean to us, unkind to us, we have a tendency to say *I don't want to have anything to do with them*. Oh, how He loves us, and it's because He loves us so much I want more of Him. I want to know Him more. I want to have a relationship with Him in a way that I've never had a relationship with Him.

In fact, that's what I want for you is for you to have that kind of relationship. There are some of us you in this room right now that feel like God hates you, feel like God's mad at you, feel like God's had enough of you, feel like God could never love you. All that kind of stuff. And here's what I want you to hear this morning: The enemy tries to tell you that. The enemy is pushing back hard on you for that because he knows that if you can feel like He hates you, you'll never have a relationship. That's why I want to tell you the Bible is all about God coming to you. How much God loves you. How much God has reached out to you. How much God is calling your name. And that's why I just wanted to have a time after that song, "Jesus, come to me." It's just that powerful moment to have that relationship with

Him. We want to have that here in this place. And I'm just gonna tell you as your pastor, that's why—it's the thing I pray for every week. It's the thing I'm constantly praying for is that this would be more than just going through some motions. This would be more than taking some next steps. That could become so, just sort of cold and hard and you sort of move along like robotic obedient soldiers. I want what we do here to be out of a relationship with Jesus because He's moving in our life in a powerful way.



And that's why we are going through this series right now called NEXT because I think sometimes we know that He loves us and we've been told that He loves us, but [*pauses, shrugs*] that's enough, and it just sort of passes us by. I want to give you three words today, three very simple words that I think might be helpful when you're thinking through your relationship with Jesus. And before I put them up, let me just say this about them. If we're gonna grow in a relationship—or as the Scripture talks about it, growing from being a child to being mature, so it sort of pictures the stage of life—if we're gonna grow in a relationship it isn't always the same and you don't do the same four things, and the thing you did at the beginning you don't necessarily stop doing, or you don't ever not come back to it again. So while I'm gonna share with are paths because I think some of us need a pathway to just sort of figure out that relationship, otherwise we're just sort of out there not knowing where we're going. I want you to know that this pathway is not prescriptive as 1, 2, 3, but rather, all these things come together and we just keep on coming back and forth to these things in the process of our life.

So we're gonna throw up these three words on the screen, and those three words are: Come. Grow. And Serve. So let me just try to throw those out to you in a couple ways real simply and then I want to walk you through a couple passages in the book of Mark that sort of bring all of this together in a really powerful way.

So the idea of coming. So if I'm gonna grow in Jesus, I've got to come to Him. I've got to come to Him at some point in my life and have that relationship. I mean, you think about your relationship with individuals. If you had never come together somehow, you don't have a relationship. Nothing ever happened. That person is still somewhere else going in a completely different direction. You somehow come together and something begins to happen. Jesus says He came into this world to seek and to save the lost, which was our greatest need because we were separated from God, and God sends Jesus into our world so that we could know Him. So He comes to seek and to save the lost.¹ I love it that when He comes the Apostle Paul says He came to forgive sinners and the Apostle Paul says *and I'm like one of the greatest of sinners.*² There's this realization of a need that I need Jesus and I want Him in my life.

And then there's a passage that I find to be incredibly helpful to me, Matthew Chapter 11 says this:

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

~ MATTHEW 11:28-29

So there is the coming that happens the first time you ever come to Jesus where you come to the cross, where you put your trust in Jesus and the shed blood of His cross, and you find forgiveness from your sins. It's this new day, it's this freshness when you've shed all that weight and burden of sin from you

¹ LUKE 19:10: [JESUS SPEAKING] ***“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”***

² See 1 Timothy 1:12-17

when you get to know Him. When you find out the power that He has in your life, when you begin reading this Book and it starts changing the way you live. But then for many of us, many of you did that a long time ago but you need to come to Jesus afresh. That's why I love this passage, come to Me who are weary and heavy laden and I'll give you rest, I'll give you rest for your souls. I think about, this morning most of us are on a mad dash, a crazed life.

I think of it every morning I leave to come in here to the office, I don't know why, I inevitably get caught behind the school bus. My commute is about five minutes to here and if I get caught behind that school bus, it's 20 minutes to drive here. It's ridiculous. And I swear, I know exactly when that school bus comes, it's like clockwork that it comes at the exact same time. And I don't know why, I bet you more days than not I get caught behind that stupid school bus. But here is what I've observed is I observe that all these bus stops, there must be, I don't know, 5-6 stops between my house and here. Like



I said, it's only a mile and a half. I see all these parents at the bus stops standing there sending their kids off and I can tell just looking at them that they got up early and they have been on a mad dash since they woke up.

They had to get themselves ready, they had to get breakfast ready, they had to get the kids' lunch packed, they had to get the stuff in their book bag, they had to finish up some paper, they had to get the kids out of bed, they had to get the kids dressed, had to get their hair done, and all this kind of stuff and they are watching the clock for that exact minute because the bus comes at the same time every day. They dash down to the bus stop to get them onto the bus and then they had to jet out of there and they're running from the bus stop and you can see them, it's just like BAM! And they're heading out, they're going and jumping in their cars to go wherever they go so they can get back in time for that bus to get back so they can take them off to their piano lessons and their sporting things and all the things that they have going on. And they're just full up to here [*raises hand to his forehead*], and some of you totally, totally relate to that.

And that's why Jesus says come to Me. So here's what I want you to hear: When we talk about these three words, these are the pathway to growing close to God. When He says I love you and I want you to have a relationship with Me, He invites us to come to Him. He invites us in our weakness and in our tiredness and in our harried lives to come to Him and He's going to give us the strength and He's going to give us freshness for our souls.

But here's what I've recognized. There's this tipping point where we come to God to get—we get His forgiveness, we get His love, we get His grace, we get the amazing things of this Book where He teaches us all sorts of best ways to live and we begin to live in those ways and we like those. But we get to this place—and we're gonna talk about this a lot—is we get to this place where we realize this is all about me, is what I can get for me.

In the book of Hebrews it makes this fantastic statement, Hebrews Chapter 5, says by now you should be teachers³ instead, you know, you're still after the same old stuff that you've always been at, you know, give me, feed me. And in that moment of a tipping point there is this reminder that you know what, I need to grow in my faith. There is stuff that I need to be knowing because if I knew that stuff I could be helping someone else. And the Scriptures here are going to remind us that in our growth trajectory we're gonna move from this place of being focused in on and taking care of me to being focused in on someone else. And we get to this place where the Scripture tells us that we need to grow.

³ **HEBREWS 5:12:** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,*

And one of the things that I worry about when I talk about growth is, again, it can become sort of a checklist where we just sort of check off things that we have to do to grow in Jesus. I don't think most of us do that in our marriage. We don't look at our marriage and say, hey, here are the five things I need to do this week to be closer to my wife, or the 13 things I need to do to be closer to my kids. It becomes something that in the course of our lives we're trying to find a way to gain that relational closeness with God.

On the other hand, let me throw this out to you. We use the word *come* and we might actually talk about that in terms of coming to this place. And oftentimes we think of coming to this place as a way to grow. And let me think of it this way for you; that one of the reasons that God brings us all together is because when we're together we're able to challenge each other to grow. I find it when I'm working out and I'm lifting weights. I can only lift a certain amount of weight myself, and when I get to a certain amount of reps and I am just maxed out, I just stop—except when my son's there.

First of all, he's shaming me into doing more. And second of all, he's yelling at me saying, "You can do more. You can do more. Push a little bit more. Just stay on it, stay on it. Keep pushing, push, push." And BAM, you're there. And there's something about when we're gathered together, Scripture says in Hebrews⁴ that we are to gather together, that we are not to neglect being together. That's why I say thank you to those of you who are here this morning because we're here to encourage each other and to strengthen each other and that pushes us towards growth.

It's why I tell you, if there's any way for you to get involved in a group jump into a group. There's a men's conference coming up February 1, jump into that. Here's why I know that's important, because there you're gonna meet a bunch of guys and in the midst of that they're all gonna begin to link arms together and you're gonna be able to push forward, you're gonna be able to grow together. You're gonna be able to move forward to the next thing. Go out to the blue wall afterwards, sign up. Go out to the blue wall afterwards and jump in and sign up for a group. Jump onto our app and sign up for a group. I say that not so that you will come to a program. I think coming to a program is one of the worst things that churches do. Hey, come to all these things and if you were to come to all these things you'd grow in Jesus. And very rarely do we ever see that'd be the thing that happens. May I go back to say He loves you, He loves you so, so much He's calling you to grow.



Think about this for a moment, think about the disciples. Let me take you to a verse in Mark Chapter 3. I'm gonna throw that verse up on the screen because it says this:

¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him

— so He gets a group of disciples so that they might, I love these words, “be with him” —

and he might send them out to preach

~ MARK 3:14

⁴ **HEBREWS 10:24-25:** *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Now in the midst of our busyness being pushed beyond limits, being at maximum capacity, very rarely do we have that time to just stop and be with Jesus. Time to read our Bible. Time to just take some time and pray, to just even be quiet before Him, to be with Him. But He pulls these guys together, these disciples, and that word really speaks to being a follower, the thing that He calls all of us to be, followers of Jesus – disciples. He says I want you to follow Me, obey Me, and those disciples get to do day-to-day everyday life with Jesus. Now imagine for 3½ years getting to do life with Jesus. That's what these disciples got to do. For 3½ years they got to watch Jesus heal the sick. They got to watch Jesus encourage. They got to watch Jesus teach. Can you imagine watching Jesus, God Himself, show you how to pray to God? They got to watch Him cast out demons. And a few moments ago as we looked at this verse here, this verse says He appointed them so they might be with Him, so that they could go out and preach. So why would we grow? So that we could help other people.

So right after this service is over we'll conclude and here's what our hope would be is that you'll stay, that you'll encourage someone, that you'll pray with someone, that you'll reach out to someone. Nothing thrills me more than to be walking through the Café in-between services and that place is just full out there [*motions to his left*], and that Café over there [*motions to his right*] is full out there and people sitting at tables talking to each other, people standing together talking to each other. And oftentimes I'll break into a conversation and say hello but here's what I observe is that you're encouraging each other in those conversations. And that's what the value of us coming together for growth is. I think it's so incredibly important.

But here's what so oftentimes happens is that we see church as just merely a place to grow, and I don't think this was ever meant to be a college or a knowledge base completely, but this was a place where we can encourage each other to grow and sometimes we get so focused in on that that we miss the last thing that Jesus talks about. Jesus was talking to His disciples and this is found in Mark Chapter 10, and Jesus as He's talking to His disciples says things are about ready to change. I'm about ready to go to Jerusalem and when I get to Jerusalem there are men who are sinful men that are going to take Me and they are going to spit upon Me and they're gonna treat Me horribly and they are going to put Me on a cross and crucify Me and I'm gonna die.⁵ That's some heavy duty stuff.

Mark Chapter 8 says if you want to come to Me, if you want to come after Me, so we go back to that, you know, come, grow, serve, if you want to come to Me then here's what you're gonna have to do, you're gonna have to deny yourself and you have to take up your cross and follow Me.⁶ So, Jesus is beginning to switch gears. He's been teaching them for 3½ years. They've been grow-grow-growing learning about God and His ways and His thinking and His passions and His heart, and now He does something that freaks them out saying so we're gonna go in for some tough moments, some hard lessons. So if you want to come after Me, then you're gonna have to go through some tough stuff and it's gonna mean denying yourself and taking up your cross.

Here's what's just crazy. So you remember I just told you about Mark Chapter 10 and if you have your Bibles it's right around verse 32. Well, as Jesus is done saying that, in verse 35 James and John look to Jesus as if they didn't hear any of that. You know, we're going to Jerusalem, bad things are gonna

⁵ **Mark 10:32-34:** *And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."*

⁶ **MARK 8:34:** *And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

happen, it's gonna turn from bad to worse, I'm gonna die and I'm gonna eventually rise from the dead, it was as if yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, okay, are You done? Okay, good. Hey, just a quick question—James John wanted to know if when You get to your Kingdom and we get there with You, could we sit on your left and right? Could we, like, be on the thrones next to You? Do you capture that? I'm gonna go to the cross and die, and these two guys go hey, can we have like the left and right seat?

By the way, I think sometimes when we look at life we look back at some of the things we've said and we've done and we go, "What was I thinking?" I imagine these two guys they will forever wish they hadn't said this but the reality is it's not too far off the mark of what we deal with on a daily basis. Everything inside of us screams out *me first*. So when you do wake up in the morning and you begin to run down the path of your day it is so easy for everything to be about what I need and what I want and what I need, and anyone that gets in the way of that, that creates fireworks and frustration and anger and causes you to go off into the day with a sour foul look on your face because *I* was fouled on this.

The rest of the disciples they look at James and John on this and they're ticked at them. We're not sure why, it doesn't say why. It might be because they didn't think of it first or maybe they did think of it first and they were ticked that they didn't get to Jesus first to ask this, and maybe they were sort of waiting, maybe they'd all been talking and they've been planning on asking this question but now all of a sudden these two guys jump in ahead of them and the rest of the disciples are ticked. It may also have been because when we see selfishness in someone else we hate it. We notice it. It's so obvious and it's so clear to us. But when it's us, it doesn't look like selfishness, it doesn't feel like selfishness. And so that is their response and Jesus has a lot to say about this. Jesus jumps into this moment and He says hey listen, this is how everyone else in the world acts. They're out for themselves. They're trying to go after basically pride and ambition.

And I would stop and say for a moment that everything that I get in front of me that I read and whether it's on the internet, whether it's programs I see, whether it's books I get to read in business and this kind of thing, basically give an incredible outline for how I can rise above everyone else. I mean, you think about think about a lot of stuff that we're reading today, it's like how to create a platform for yourself, and to build that platform up so that you can move up and get greater and greater influence. And what Jesus is gonna say is listen, that's what everyone does, that's what everyone is saying, that is conventional wisdom, but I'm going to tell you that is not the way it works in my Kingdom. And what He says next is he says, Mark 10:43-44:

⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all."

~ MARK 10:43-44

You want to be great? Be a servant. If you want to be first, you've got to be a slave. That word "great" is the word in the Greek *megás*. And so you just take that word *mega* out of it and you sort of get it. You want to have a great life, if you want to be great in this world, all this other platform stuff that everyone's teaching you at all your conferences that you're going to and you're reading online and that you're researching and chasing down, that is not going to make you great. In fact, when you are living for yourself it will always lead you to the end to being miserable, and you and I know a lot of miserable people living for themselves. They have a lot of stuff and it looks like things are good on the outside, but on the inside you begin to talk to them and they're very miserable. And you can even see how they're projecting themselves; they're trying to cover up for that by saying how amazing they are by all

this stuff that they have and they're doing so that you can somehow buy into that so they can get more stuff so that maybe somehow this miserableness inside of them will be assuaged, and it's not.

Jesus says if you really, really, really wanna have a great life, it's going to—you talk about taking up your cross there in Chapter 8—it's going to be painful and it's going to be really counter-cultural and counterintuitive, but He says here's what you're gonna need to do, you're gonna have to serve others. Now, here's why I mention this to you. If you want to go down the path in your growth there's going to be little moments that click off along the way where you're gonna recognize, “Oops! Something's going wrong here.” Or, “Oops. I need to switch gears.” And there's this moment when you see this selfishness coming up in you, you've been growing and growing and the Word of God begins to surface that selfishness and you see little things just like James and John did in this situation where they realized, uh-oh, that was really, really selfish and Jesus just called us out on it. It causes us to stop and say hey, we need to make a change. If we're gonna grow, we're gonna have to stop thinking about me and we've learned enough now to say I need to start serving others.

Now a slave was even lower than a servant in that time. A servant was one who had a job to do and they did it. A slave was one who was owned and their whole job was 100% all about everyone else. They had nothing for themselves. And what Jesus is saying to us is that there is a place where we become servants, we become slaves, and if we want to be great there's gonna be a radical transformation of our thinking. We're gonna have to become servants, we're gonna have to become slaves, and in so doing we begin to say, “What can I do for you?” “What can I do for you?” “How can I care for you?” And I stop thinking about me.

I mean, how often do we say, you know, no one spoke to me. No one said hello to me. No one did anything for me. I don't know why the tables aren't cleaned up out there. Why the bathroom counter looks like it does, I don't know why no one ever does this. And He says here if you want to be first, if you want to be great, you just start serving everyone and you find your way to serve everyone.

**Maturity is a process,
not a destination**

I shared with you a few moments ago, I want to make this really clear: Maturity is a process, not a destination. So some of you may be thinking, *Okay, I came to Jesus and I've started growing in Him, now I need to move to being a slave or a servant.* And that would be true because if you want to be most like Jesus, you're going to have to give and serve. Listen to Mark 10:45:

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

~ MARK 10:45

You want to be like Jesus you have to serve and you have to give—BUT there's many times here where we need to back up the train a little bit and say hey, you know, actually what I need right now is I need a moment of coming to Jesus where I let Him calm my heart. Or you might say, *You know what, I haven't been in my Bible for a while. I need to be spending time reading my Bible.* I read something this week that was fascinating. A study by LifeWay Research said that those who confess their sins on a regular basis, like daily, they're more apt to share their faith and it's because they recognize that they're sinners and they realize that Jesus saved them from their sin. And so this becomes a part of our growing process where this becomes dynamic in our life. It's never just one thing. It becomes that we begin to move between these three categories—the come, grow, and serve—so maturity is a process, not a destination.

So here's what I just want to throw out to you in this message, I want you to keep on thinking, we're talking about it every week in this series called NEXT: What is your next step? Where are you headed to? What's going on in your life right now? Some of you need to back up. Maybe you never have come to Jesus. You don't even have a relationship with Jesus. I invite you to the cross today. I'd love to share with you about Jesus. And some of you are in a spot where you're like, *You know what, I've been serving full out for a lot of years and I am just up to here exhausted and I need to come to Him and have rest.* Some of you have come to that place where it's all about you. You really love learning more about parenting, you've loved learning about the forgiveness of Jesus, you've loved all these different topics that have made your life better but you realize, *You know, I need to grow deeper in Jesus.* And so, you know, open up your Bible and start reading it on an everyday basis. And I would just really encourage you to be doing that.

By the way, some of us don't read as much as others. There are audio versions of the Bible, get them out and listen to them. We are so blessed in our time that all of this is right in front of us and we can do it. I've started reading my Bible on my phone more and I never used to do that because I'm a hardcopy guy, but I realized I read my news on the phone and I seem to be able to take that in, why can't I take in the Bible on the phone? And so I've done that. But whatever it is, is you take this place where you want, because He loves you so much, where you want to get to know Him more. So what would be your next steps?



I throw out just a couple things to you. First of all, the reason why we throw out a bunch of stuff here at church is because together we can do more, we can go faster together than we can do separate, so that's why we throw out some of these things. I would encourage you to get in a group and one of the ways to get in a group is to download the app on your phone and look through all the different possibilities. We have over 500 people in groups on a weekly basis. If downloading an app is not your way of doing things, blue wall out there, they'll help show you everything that's there.



Let me throw out another thing for you, starting here in just a couple weeks on February 9th I believe through the end of March we're gonna be doing an eight-week small group. We're doing a series called **BROKEN DREAMS** on the book of Ruth. And the reason why we're doing the eight-week small group is sometimes signing up for a group is like a hard thing to do because it's like, *I don't know if I want to be in this for the rest of my life.* Anyone can do eight weeks and we believe that you can grow more together. Would love for you sign up for that. The problem is we don't have enough leaders for that yet. So if you would like to be a facilitator of one of those groups, we're gonna provide you all the materials to facilitate those groups and it'll just be for eight weeks. Would you write on the back of one of those cards in the seatback in front of you that you'd like to be a group facilitator and we'll give you a call.

Also, maybe you're fairly new here. I know some of you already today have introduced yourselves to me and you're saying, *I want to be part of this church. I'm excited but I just don't know where to get in.* You look around, a lot of people and you don't really know who to talk to and how to connect. You stood out in the lobby but you weren't sure how to connect out there, may I throw this out to you. Next week right after this service we're gonna have a thing called Connect Class. We do it once a month and it's just our way of helping getting you connected into the church. If you want to be in that Connect Class, again, pull out



one of those cards in the seatback in front of you and put your name and email on there and write “Connect Class” and we’ll call you this week and we’ll get you dialed in on that.

I just throw out some of those things but here's what I want you to do. Be thinking about those three words: Come. Grow. Serve. No matter where you're at in your personal walk, each one of us realize I think serve is the thing that I need to do more. Or maybe you're like no, I just need to come. I need to be here more often, I need to make this a priority, I need to come to Jesus. Whatever it may be, but pick one of these. That's why I would make it so simple to say I want to be growing. I want to be taking those next steps. I want to be growing in Jesus.

I'm gonna pause here and we're going to move into a time of giving our gifts and our tithes and offerings to the Lord. Let me say this to you: When people hit hard times financially they start praying, “God, help me. God, help me.” Crazy thing with this is most of the time when people hit really good times financially they don't even bring God into the conversation. Here's the bottom line: God wants to be in our finances. Psalm Chapter 24 says this:

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it;

~ PSALM 24:1 (NIV)

And God owns everything and He wants to use you to accomplish His purposes here on this earth. One of the ways we do that is through giving back of our tithes and our offerings on a Sunday morning, and a lot of us in this room have just committed saying, “God, I'm gonna give you the first part of my income.” Now that takes faith. It's sort like the counterintuitive thing of serving, considering others more important than ourselves. I'm so excited. This morning our youth are at Camp Calvary. Our elders decided to send 15 students that had never been to church to camp with them this week. We're praying that they'll get saved. Because you give that happens, so I want to just say thank you for being part of that.

I remind you again, at the end of the service go out to the blue wall, you can sign up for groups there. If you go out there you can sign up to be a facilitator; Pastor Mike will be there to talk to you about that. I mentioned the Men's Conference that's coming up in two weeks. If you haven't signed up for that, sign up for that. Let me pray for our offering and then we're gonna sing this last song.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to give back to You and, Lord God, I pray that You would use these gifts. And Lord, I pray for these kids, these 15 kids that don't know You at Camp this week, I pray that they'll come to know You this weekend. And Lord, I'm sure there's a bunch over there, they took a lot of kids, a bunch of others that have never met You. I pray that this will be the weekend they meet You.

And Lord, I know there's some that are just needing to grow in You just like we talked about this this morning, and I pray that they'll decide to do that. Lord, those same things are true in this room right now, and Lord, I just thank You for the opportunity to come before You and ask for each person in this room that's far from You right now that You'd draw them to yourself right now. That it wouldn't be about money, that it wouldn't be about programs, but they would be so drawn to You, the love of God right now.

We ask in Your Name. Amen.

JESUS LOVES YOU AND IS CALLING YOU TO GROW

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