

We want to be a community of believers who radically amplifies Jesus by engaging and loving the people in our lives, the city where we live, and the world Jesus came to redeem.

Monday – Prayer

Tuesday – Amplify

Wednesday – Mission

Thursday – Community

Friday – Cultivate

Saturday – Truth

Last year God collectively impressed on the body of Second Mile that we are to continue to be a people strengthened, encouraged, and rooted in his Word. This is a lifelong endeavor. At times it can feel overwhelming, yet, it is a journey worth taking, one that can reap daily progress and eternal significance.

This week you will have the opportunity to pray through passages of Scripture. Each day is built on a different core value of Second Mile. For each core value a specific passage has been selected for you to be strengthened and encouraged. The intention is that you will pray the very Word of God. Allow God's Word to transform you. Allow each phrase, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to connect your heart with the heart of God. Use each verse to shape your intercession. Conform your thoughts, meditations, declarations, requests, lament, and motivation into the hands of the Good Shepherd.

As a people set apart to be transformed by the renewing of our minds we must hold fast to the revelation of God's Word. Fully submerge yourself into the process of training, equipping, and reproducing. May God's Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit, give you great and lasting comfort.

This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. Psalm 18:30

Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Proverbs 4:5

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' John 7:38

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

God has designed and gifted you to be a bearer of the light of Jesus Christ. This week will not be easy. We live in a world very comfortable with darkness and filled with deceit. Be reminded that your spiritual family is engaging with you. We are in this battle together. We are confident in the victory that has already been won through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Monday — Prayer

We are thankful that God lets us live in conversation with him. We embrace this gift of communication by voicing our hopes, fears, successes, failures, questions, thanks, and praise. By speaking these to God, we learn to trust him above our own abilities. We are thankful that God hears us, and that we see the power of a God who moves in response to people who look to him before looking to ourselves or our culture.

At Second Mile it is our firm belief that God is asking us to strive in prayer. For some it will seem like a full-time job; we will struggle, wrestle, and persist in prayer. You are invited to embrace this prayer struggle throughout this week. God desires to do great things through our church and in our lives!

Why is prayer such a struggle?

- We must move past our sin.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; Psalm 66:18

- We must move past our unbelief.

I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief! Mark 9:24

- We must act despite the many distractions.

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 1 Peter 4:7

- We must be aware of the spiritual battle.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

Matthew 6:5-15 *“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you,*

they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Verse 5: *When you pray*

Jesus simply assumes we will have a regular time of prayer. Communication is a key component of relationship with those we love. We must make time to communicate with God.

- Ask God to awaken your heart toward prayer.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to etch it upon your mind that prayer is serious enough to make room for it in your schedule.

Verse 6: *Go into your room and shut the door and pray*

- Pray that Jesus would help you limit the distractions that will come this week.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find a place that will become a resting place for your time with him.

How can this week help you develop a "pattern of place" where you can expect to meet and hear from God? Trust God to help you establish an environment of prayer, a place you look forward to spending time.

Verse 7: *Do not heap on empty phrases*

Mean what you say when you pray. Pray sincerely. Be careful of clichés and do not fall into the habit of meaningless repetition.

- Pray that your engagement this week would be a sweet interaction with your Heavenly Father. Approach God authentically, reverently, personally, and earnestly.
- Spend time thanking God for the gift of prayer.

Jesus says to pray like this:

Verse 9: *Our Father*

Never forget that you are God's child through Jesus Christ. You are praying to a Father who couldn't love you more than he already does.

- Meditate on his love for you.

Verse 9: *In heaven, hallowed be your name*

God is sovereign, majestic and omnipotent.

- Worship God and praise him when you come to him in prayer.

Verse 10: *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

- Put his will first in your life. Submit to him.

Verse 11: *Give us this day our daily bread.*

- Lay out all your concerns, whether big or small. If you need a miracle, ask for it without shrinking back.

In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

Verse 12: *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

- Confess your sins, receive forgiveness and begin to grow.

Verse 13: *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

- Pray for protection from evil and victory over temptation.

Tuesday — Amplify

Everything we do is worship. The gospel is always true, no matter our circumstances, so we want to always be thankful for Jesus. Wherever we find ourselves in the stories we live, whether celebrating or struggling, we know that we are free people who have been transformed because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. We embrace that freedom and explore how we can simply, daily, or creatively proclaim what Jesus has done in our lives to people in our community.

The focus today is Hannah's prayer. We are given the great privilege of hearing the affections of Hannah's heart toward Yahweh.

- Hannah understood disappointment, and yet she still lifted her head toward heaven.
- Hannah understood desperation and it caused her to cling even more tightly to the promises and character of God.
- Hannah understood dedication and it motivated her to not give up in seeking God's favor in her life.
- Hannah understood perspective and it enabled her to not dismiss her feelings and pour them out before a great and compassionate God.

1 Samuel 2:1-10 *And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.*

2 *"There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.*

3 *Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*

4 *The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.*

5 *Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.*

6 *The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

7 *The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.*

8 *He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.*

9 *"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.*

10 *The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”*

Allow each phrase of Hannah’s prayer to ruminate in your heart. Let her words be a catalyst for your thoughts and emotions concerning Yahweh.

Verse 1: *My heart exults in the Lord.*

Exult means to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly.

Is this how you feel towards God?

- Through prayer, spend time rejoicing in the God of your salvation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you perspective concerning the antagonists in your life. They may say or treat you in a certain way, but how can their actions and attitudes stand up against the joy that comes from your relationship with Jesus?
- Rejoice in your identity as a child of God.

Verse 2: *There is no rock like our God.*

We often seek to build our lives on our careers, our families, money, and entertainment, but Yahweh alone is the Rock, our sure foundation.

He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure. Isaiah 33:6

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. Matthew 7:24-25

- Thank God for being your sure foundation. Tell him the ways you have experienced his steadfastness in your life.

Verse 3: *Let not arrogance come from your mouth.*

Our Lord is a God of knowledge. He weighs and measures our motives and actions.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with humility.
- Ask the Lord to show you ways you let arrogance come from your mouth and times you speak with self-glorifying pride. Confess to him and turn your repentance into amplifying his name above your own.

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2*

Verses 4-5: *The feeble bind on strength. Those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.*

*This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'
Zechariah 7:9-10*

- Pray that God would move mightily in your community, in your city, and among the nations.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to move through the body of Christ to bring protection to the least of these. (Matthew 25:31-46)
- Pray for tangible ways to be a person of gospel-centered justice. Ask God to continue to raise up leaders of light in order to push back the darkness of oppression and inequality.
- Ask Jesus to destroy your barriers and prejudices against others.

Verses 6-8: *The Lord brings low and he exalts.*

Hannah's prayer portrays God's economy:

The strong become weak; the weak become strong.
The wealthy are not satisfied; the poor are satisfied.
The exalted are humbled; the lowly are exalted.

As you consider these biblical truths, we must remember and believe that Jesus is enough. Is this true in your life?

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. 1 Peter 5:7

- Ask God to help you trust his mighty hand, to humble you under it, to give you peace and contentment in being brought low.

Verse 9: *He will guard the feet of his faithful ones.*

He will not let your foot slip. Psalm 121:3

He makes me as surefooted as a deer, enabling me to stand on mountain heights. Psalm 18:33

In what ways has God kept you from slipping? Be specific.

- Worship and thank him for guarding your feet. Wonder in amazement at being called one of his faithful ones.

Verse 10: *He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his salvation.*

With Jesus there is victory over sin. Jesus is the ultimate anointed King. He is the horn of salvation!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. Luke 1:68-69

- If you are in Christ, you are redeemed. Your sins are forgiven. Express your gratitude for your salvation. Exalt the One who saved you.

Take time to reread Hannah's prayer throughout today. Focus your thoughts and emotions to make this a personal prayer. To expand your experience in praying scripture, turn to Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46-55 and pray through her words. She used Hannah's prayer as a template. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you to use the prayers in scripture as templates for your own personal prayers.

Think deeply about what you amplify with your life. Is it you? A team? An activity? Your family? Or do you amplify Jesus as being better than anything life has to offer?

Wednesday — Mission

It is our aim to outwardly live the authentic reality of redemption. We have been entrusted with a message of hope compelling us to take a step into the second mile. Each step toward cultivating others, in the truth of the gospel, brings glory to God who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. As the church, we must influence with hearts that are filled with love, serve with hands filled with care, and engage the worldview of others with truth-filled grace.

Luke 10:2 *And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

Luke 11:33-35 *No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.*

Jesus understood mission. His life demonstrated the values of God’s kingdom and overflowed into the lives of others.

The mission of Jesus was effective because he knew and understood the gospel. In addition, he knew and understood people. The key for us as Christ followers is to lean into the Holy Spirit and depend on him to help us make the connection.

We must know the gospel.

We must know people.

We must humbly depend on the Holy Spirit as we go out into the harvest.

- Ask God to begin to change your mindset concerning mission and sharing your faith.

We often believe the lie that nobody wants to hear the good news of Jesus. This is not true! We know it isn’t true because God’s word tells us, “the harvest is plentiful”. The scarcity is not people wanting to hear the message of reconciliation that comes through Jesus. The scarcity is workers to tell the message.

- Take time to repent of your callousness toward sharing your faith. Ponder the beauty and wonder of salvation. Take time to thank Jesus for his pursuit of you and your adoption as a son or daughter of God.

Both passages in Luke are the words of Jesus. He is asking you to pray. He is asking you to not be timid and to share the light of life with those all around you.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with a zealotness to know and understand the gospel.
- Pray that as your heart overflows with the gospel it will become contagious in your community.
- Pray for others who will labor in the ripe fields of Tucson.
- Pray that Jesus will connect you with what he is doing among the nations.

How is your light being displayed for others to see?

- Pray for margin in your life. Margin will allow you to spend time nurturing relationships, serve in a variety of ministry opportunities, and mature in your faith.
- Pray that your home will become a vibrant place of hospitality.
- Pray that you will have the opportunity to see someone give their life to Jesus this year. Be specific in this prayer. Think of 2-3 people for which you can be radically praying for their salvation.

Practical Application:

- Develop genuine relationships with those who do not know Jesus.
- Be open about your faith from the beginning. Share Jesus as quickly as possible. Let your friendship be built on honesty. Don't be timid about your relationship with Jesus or that you believe your friend would be more whole with Jesus.
- Be bold and clear which requires practice to articulate the gospel message. If needed, ask a trusted leader in your life to help you learn to articulate the gospel.

- Keep your conversations focused on Jesus. Don't get side tracked with cultural chatter and controversies.
- Be willing to be thought of as a fool. Is Jesus the greater treasure, over and above what others might think of you?

Second Mile supports the following global and local mission ministries with prayer and finances. Take time to look up a few websites. Pray for the leaders in Second Mile who serve and work in the different agencies. Ask God to show you if he would like you to volunteer in any capacity with a group this year.

Global

Evan & Audrey Eusey (Gus, Elsa, Moses) Sapporo, Japan (Our recently adopted global partnership)

Requests from the Euseys:

Ministry — Team Launch: Since our return to Japan, we've been getting back up to speed with language, setting up our home, enrolling kids in school, etc. In March, we'll officially launch our new ministry as a team with JP and Nora Koch. We'll go through some house church-planting training with an OMF house church advisor and develop team vision and strategies. Pray that we can start well and for the Lord's guidance during training and strategizing. And pray especially for the Spirit's leading to people of peace, people who have spiritual interest, people who will be receptive to hearing Bible stories, people who will take these stories and pass them on to others they know.

Pray the Lord will lead us to good places to make friends. Community center? School PTA? Local music/sports scenes? Pray for continued progress in ability to communicate about spiritual things in Japanese.

Home — As you may remember from our newsletter, we discovered when we moved into our new house that half our belongings (including a lot of large furniture) were ruined in storage due to mold. Sorting, discarding, scrubbing, and replacing so much stuff has made setting up our home really difficult. Please pray for the energy and focus to finish cleaning what can be cleaned and throw away what needs to be thrown away. Pray that our home could become a place of rest and hospitality. Pray for protection of our health.

Family — Gus: Now attending the nearby elementary school. He's in first grade; will start second grade in April. Loves school. Making friends and improving in speaking/understanding Japanese every day. Pray for progress in reading Japanese. Pray that we (as parents) can understand the newsletters and paperwork that come home from school!

Elsa: A lively and social 4-year-old. We'd like to start her in Japanese preschool when the new school year begins in April. Pray for us to find the right preschool for her. Pray that she will continue to love Jesus and grow in understanding of God's Word.

Moses: Our sweet little guy! He'll be 2 years old in March. Praise the Lord for his good health and that he has finally started talking. Pray that we can find some nearby friends so he gets more exposure to Japanese.

Intrepid - Church Planting and Community Development — www.intrepidmissions.com (Sean Benesh is a long time friend and ministry partner to Second Mile. Intrepid partners with local churches to plant new churches across North America particularly in communities experiencing economic decline and are working to revitalize.)

Requests from Sean:

- Get our first two cohorts off the ground: one focused on community development and the other on social entrepreneurship.
- My wife, Katie, is scheduled for surgery in a few weeks. Prayer for a speedy recovery.
- Favor and momentum to get our Portland start-up incubator and training center off the ground.
- Juggling: my work with Intrepid is currently part-time. Either pray for more funding to see it become full-time or for continued opportunities to teach at local colleges and universities.

Local

Seeds Community Center — Christe LePeau

Seeds has been dormant for two years. Recently Christe felt moved by God to lead out in this ministry opportunity.

- Ask God to give her courage as she navigates this transition.
- Pray for her as she takes classes and attends conferences about non-profit organizations.
- Ask God to put together a new board of directors.

Cord of Hope — Tia Edwards, www.cordofhope.org

Arizona Baptist Children Services — James Wiederstein,
www.abcs.org

Hands of Hope — Sarah Cameron, www.handsofhope.com

Tucson Refugee Ministry — Fargol Dyrud,
www.tucsonrefugeeministry.com

Campus Student Ministries — Ivanna Harrison, Brandon Hodge, Ryan
& Ariel Mullarkey
InterVarsity, Navigators, Cru, Christian Challenge

Likeminded Local Churches — Think of other churches you know in our city. Ask God to strengthen their leaders and members. Pray that God will allow them to see many people come to know Christ this year. Pray that each unique expression of Christ's body can make a tangible difference in the people of our city.

Thursday — Community

We follow Jesus together. We're not in this alone. We hope and work for unity with the believers around us, which means we commit to do life together, encourage each other, forgive each other, and share with each other.

We also want good things for the community we live in. We work together to love and serve Tucson, and we pray that God will bless our city and that the gospel will transform lives here.

We often use the phrase “linking arms and tightening grips” to describe the posture in which we desire to live in community. These words are not sweet pleasantries, but a reminder that we are in this battle of life together, we are helping one another through the winding roads, and pulling one another up the treacherous mountains. Linking arms is our battle stance. We need each other.

Take time today to ponder and pray through how you personally engage in the community of Second Mile. Use Philippians 2:1-11 to truthfully evaluate your participation and posture.

Philippians 2:1-11 *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Verses 1-2:

The Message paraphrase says, “If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in

a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.”

What do these words mean to you as you follow Christ? In what ways does it motivate you? Is Christ your ultimate motivation in community?

- Ask Jesus to continually remind you of his great love for you and for his Church.
- Pray that God will continue to change your life to enable you to genuinely love him and others.

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

- Ask God to remove any stoney parts of your heart that keep you from engaging in community. Pray that he will help you truly care for our “community of the Spirit.”
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will make you a person of agreement with people in your life. Pray against being cynical, antagonistic, or argumentative.

Do you have deep-spirited friends? Why or why not?

- Ask God to give you this type of friendship, to strengthen your current relationships, and to open your circles to new deep-spirited friends.

Verses 3-4:

- Pray: “God, help me do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit.” Ask him to reveal anything you may currently be doing that is self-motivated and self-promoting. Confess to him; ask him to change your heart, mind, and actions.
- Plead with God to make Second Mile a church that exalts him only, that lives in the reality that we exist to bring glory to Jesus and to make his name great.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:11-12

- Ask God to help you look to the interests of others and not only your own interests. Think of one practical way to serve someone in your community group. Ask God for the humility, self-control, and discipline to serve this person's interests above your own.

Verse 5-11:

Read verses 5-11 eight to ten times, over and over. Let them sink into your heart. In the above passage or in your own Bible, underline or circle words that stand out to you about Jesus' character. Turn this passage into a prayer. Here are some examples to help you in this challenge:

Jesus, you emptied yourself in humility when you came to earth. Help me empty myself.

Jesus, you were obedient to the point of death on a cross. Help me be obedient to what you ask me to do each day, month, and year until I see you face to face.

Jesus, you are highly exalted by God. Every knee should bow before you. Help me be on my knees in submission before you physically and spiritually.

Jesus, you are Lord. You bring glory to the Father. Help me live with you as Lord of my life and bring glory to the Father.

Please allow the Holy Spirit to teach you to pray through this passage.

Community Groups

“Second Mile meets on Sunday mornings as a large group, but that is not the extent of community as we see it. We also meet during the week in smaller numbers in homes throughout Tucson. We call those community groups. They are usually made up of a dozen or so people who choose to spend time together, eat meals together, and talk through questions or thoughts on Chad’s messages from Sunday.

Community groups don’t only exist on that one weeknight, either. Community groups are how we support each other, weave our lives together, and stir each other up to join in God’s agenda together throughout the week.” — from the Second Mile website

Are you involved in a group? If not, ask God for the courage to join a group.

- Think and pray through your community group. Write down the names of everyone in your group and pray for each person by name. Ask God to bind your hearts together in unity through his love.
- Pray for your group leaders. Ask God to give them refreshment, vision, and excitement for your group. Ask the Spirit to show you ways you can support and serve their leadership.
- Ask God to make you more and more excited about your community group. Pray that God will give you the fortitude to serve and participate in your group and not just attend.
- Pray that as God continues to grow our church in numbers, people will be able to find connection and relational and spiritual depth through the intentionality of community groups.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers. Acts 2:42

Tucson

In what ways are you engaging in our city as a community group and also as an individual? Where do you work and serve? What do you love about our city? Do the people in your life know you love Jesus? How do

they benefit from you being in their life? Do you put their interests above your own?

*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.
Matthew 5:41*

- Pray that God will help you live in the “second mile” in our city. Ask him to give you eyes to see needs around you, the wisdom to know what needs he would have you meet, and the discipline to meet them.
- Ask God to help our church continue to see and meet needs in our city. Pray that we will extend community and hospitality to people in our spheres of influence.
- Pray that our community groups and our Sunday gatherings will be places of challenge, hospitality, and community for people who do not yet know Jesus.

Make a list of the people with whom you engage who do not yet know Christ as their Savior.

- Ask God to give you boldness to invite them first into your home or to a dinner/lunch out. Then ask him to give you courage to invite them to a community group party, maybe even your Super Bowl party. Finally, ask him to humble you to the point of inviting them to experience a gathering with you. Ask for humility to believe that Jesus cares more about his own reputation than he cares about yours.

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.** Acts 2:46-47*

Friday — Cultivate

We believe that God wants us not only to know each other, but to pour our lives into the people around us. We make time to sharpen each other, to stir each other up to do good things, to process ideas and turn them into actions. We learn God's word and use it to humbly teach, respectfully rebuke and correct, and help each other learn what it is to live in a way that pleases God.

As you pray through these words today, keep in mind your role as someone who invests in others, as well as someone who receives investment. God uses cultivation in community through mentoring and discipleship to sharpen, challenge, grow, and sanctify us.

Colossians 3:12-16 *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Verse 12:

- Thank God for his unfailing love. Pray that you will enter every relationship grounded in the truth that you are God's chosen, holy, and beloved child.

*The unfailing love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23*

- Pray through each of the following traits. Ask God to increase these traits in you as you invest in others. Notice the tone of emotion and gentleness in this list.

Compassion

Kindness

Humility

community

Meekness

Patience

—> Gentle traits that ease life in close and intense

Verse 13:

As we cultivate one another in order to be more like Christ, it will involve bearing with and forgiving each other. Every single one of us will offend and be offended.

- Thank God for his radical grace through the forgiveness of your sin. Confess and repent of any sin he may bring to light as you express your gratitude.
- Ask the Spirit of God to show you any situation in which you harbor unforgiveness. Pray that he will increase your faith by giving you the ability to forgive.
- Pray for the person/people who invest in you. Thank God for granting them the ability to bear with your quirks, personality, offenses, and burdens. Write down their names as a tangible reminder of their investment in your life.

Verse 14:

Put on the bonding agent of love directed toward God.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to cover you with his love, to enable you to experientially know his love in your heart, mind, and soul. Ask him to direct your love to him first, above all other relationships.

God-directed, agape love holds individuals and our community together. We often misdirect our first love to human relationships. Love God first, and in turn, love your neighbor as you love yourself (Matthew 26:36-40).

- Ask God to greatly increase your love for him today, through this week, and through 2018. Pray that he will overwhelm you with his love for you, and then in turn, overwhelm you with your love for him.

- Pray that out of the overflow of the God-directed love in your life, you will be more equipped and able to love people around you. Request of him to grant you the ability to love your neighbor as you love yourself. Write down the names and descriptions of “neighbors” in your life you need help loving. (Tip: We need God’s help to love anyone.)
- Ask God to bind our body together in the perfect harmony of God-directed love. Pause and ponder the concept of harmony. We are bound in the perfect harmony of the Holy Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ask them to make our love for one another a pleasing sound to our city.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:4-5

- Ask Jesus to cultivate love, harmony, and unity in our church body.

Verse 15:

The peace of Christ represents wholeness in him, not having a divided mind or intentions. The peace of Christ first rules our hearts, then rules our relationships. Peace is an essential part of our relationships.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

Cast all your anxieties [divided mind] on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

- Plead with God to give you the peace of Christ and to make our body a place of peace and unity.

Peace does not primarily come through meditation, quiet walks, or self-care. True peace comes through Jesus Christ alone.

- Take time to pause and reflect on the type of peace Jesus Christ provides. Ask him to give you peace despite life’s circumstances. Implore him to cultivate peace in your heart, mind, and soul.

Verse 16:

Throughout this week we have practiced letting God's Word dwell in us richly. Take time now to jot down one or two ways you can already see yourself individually and our community being impacted by praying his Word.

What verse or passage do you turn to in times of great need? Thank God for this passage and write it below:

- Pray that our church will continue to greatly value the Word of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate our hearts to be ready to hear from him through teaching and admonishing.

teaching — instruction, imparting knowledge
admonishing — urging to choose God's best

There are three areas of Second Mile where you can tangibly engage in relationship for cultivation: Community Groups, Crash Groups (men), Moxie Mentors (women).

- Pray that your community group will be a place that the Word of God is spoken to each other, that songs, hymns, and spiritual songs are sung in your hearts to God, that profound depth in Jesus enriches every person's life. Ask God to cultivate authentic relationships rooted in him and his Word.

If you are not yet in a community group, go to the website, send a few emails about visiting groups, and take the courageous step to get involved. (<http://secondmile520.org/community-groups/>)

Once you are connected in a community group, take the next step of joining a Crash Group (men) or Moxie Mentors (women). Talk to your community group leader about further investment and discipleship through these opportunities.

- Pray that God will continue to provide opportunities for growth, challenge, and cultivation through investment in groups and individuals in our church body.
- Ask God to raise up more mentors for the women of our church. Pray for cultivating relationships among the women. Pray that every woman wanting to be mentored will have the opportunity.
- Pray for more Crash Groups among the men of Second Mile. Pray for depth, vulnerability, accountability, and true friendship among the men.

Humbly pray and journal through these questions:

Are you open to teaching and admonishing through community? Do the people in your life allow the Word of God to dwell in them richly? Do you? In what ways? When you seek to teach or admonish someone do you use your own thoughts and ideas or do you use the Bible? When someone uses scripture to point out areas of weakness in your life do you deflect, rebel, or submit?

Saturday — Truth

We believe that the best way to live is to submit our lives to God's truth instead of personal agendas, religious rituals, or cultural trends. We look to the Bible to know the truth of God's redemptive relationship with humanity. We study scripture and listen to the Holy Spirit to live wisely, and we look to Jesus' example of love and sacrifice to live transformed lives and take God's truth out into the city we live in.

Psalm 119:105-112 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word!

108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules.

109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Each day we have been praying for God to move mightily in our personal lives, in our community, in the hearts of others and among the nations. We engage in the practice of praying and fasting because we believe it matters. We serve a true and living God.

The truth of God has been revealed in his Word. The Old and New Testaments have a unique ability to keep our feet firmly planted in the soil of faith.

The Bible is about Jesus. Truth is defined by the reality of God. The place that this reality and its representation in truth become most profoundly one is Jesus himself.

In the beginning was the Word John 1:1

Truth became public through the revelation of Jesus. Then, what Jesus did on earth became the heart of truth and his actual words became the plumb line of truth.

For this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. John 18:37

My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going. John 8:14

The one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. John 7:18

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

If we are going to submit to the authority of Jesus in our lives, if he has the power to bring wholeness to our brokenness, then we must believe the things that Jesus believes.

While Jesus walked this earth he had a high and powerful view of Scripture. The Old Testament was endorsed by Jesus and the New Testament he inspired because of the reality of who he is.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13

Have you settled the issue of God’s word being authoritative and inerrant?

- Pray that God would give you the tenacity and the humility to trust in his revelation that has been given to us through his Word. If you need help studying about the inerrancy of Scripture, ask God to give you someone to help this process. Seek out good resources and guides for your study.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of your skepticism and repent of your pride.
- Ask Jesus to help you be a person of discipline concerning Scripture.
- Take comfort in the process of listening, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God’s Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an appetite for a steady intake of Scripture.

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. Psalm 119:160

Now pray specifically through each verse in Psalm 119:105-112.

Verse 105:

- Take time to thank God for the light that has been given to you through his Word.

In what ways has the Bible brought you clarity, peace, direction, and warning? Be specific and ponder the grace of God in each of these circumstances.

Verse 106:

- Ask God to give you insight and assistance regarding obedience. Engage with Jesus and either begin or continue the process of trusting that his Word is good, refining, and worth understanding.

Verse 107:

The Psalmist says that God's Word is a source of life. How is this true of your experience? In what ways has God's Word been an antiseptic to your soul? Make a list of how God's Word is life giving to you.

- Pray that during difficulties or seasons of doubt the Holy Spirit will remind you of these truths.

Verse 108:

Take time throughout the day to freely worship the Most High God. Declare the glory of God through passages that are familiar to you. If unsure where to start, look back over Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, or use 1 Chronicles 16:23-31, Revelation 4:8-11, Psalm 19, and/or Psalm 100.

Verses 109-110:

- Ask Jesus to help you lean into the truths of his Word even in the midst of difficulty.

Who are the challenging people in your life? How can you be praying for them? How can you practically display the joy of Christ when you interact with them?

What difficult situations are you anticipating for 2018? Begin today to make it a habit to lay these situations before God. Trust him to work in and through you despite the pain, sorrow, anger, and anxiety caused by each situation.

- Ask Jesus to be your great comforter. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you not turn to other things in dealing with stress. Cling to your Heavenly Father and audibly declare “Jesus is better.” When tempted to cut corners, bend the truth, think about impure things, or disconnect from community speak the truth that “Jesus is better” right in the middle of each thought. Pray that the Holy Spirit will allow the precepts of the Most High God to saturate your soul.

Verse 111:

Take time to celebrate and thank God for the victories you know people have experienced because of the power of the gospel and the goodness of God.

How have you seen God work in real life situations? Whose stories do you know? Have you considered that their testimonies are building blocks for your joy?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a love for hearing people’s stories. Ask him to grow you in gratefulness and appreciation.

Trust that Jesus has given you a story. How are you leaning into him and trusting that he has people around you that need to hear your story? You can be part of their joy.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you two to three people with whom you can share your story.

Verse 112:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the endurance to persevere in your faith.
- Ask Jesus to mold your heart into his likeness.
- Pray for your attitudes, dreams, hope, pursuits, tendencies, etc. to be overflowing with Jesus centeredness. Seek God in understanding how

to live your life in the “everyday” saturated with truth and overflowing with grace.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

Answered Prayer

This section reflects much of what God did in our community on a large scale over the last year. We also want to acknowledge that God answered many prayers in each of our community groups. Spend time this week in your community group writing down the answered prayers you experienced throughout the year. Reflect on these together this week in your meeting time or when you break your fast together.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer, for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us. 1 Samuel 7:12

Just as Samuel offered thanksgiving to God for his power and protection, we use this section to offer praise and thanks to God for how He has moved among us this year. Read the list below with an attitude of thankfulness.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:3

Prayer

- Our annual week of prayer and fasting pushes our church to rely more fully on God. Last year more people than ever participated. God moved in our midst during the Saturday night worship and prayer time by challenging us to be people of the Word. This challenge from the Holy Spirit was abundantly true throughout the year. May it continue to be so.
- God answered our prayer from last year's week of prayer and fasting by allowing us to buy El Centro. The purchase price and interest rate display God's grace-filled provision. We are now praying he will help us pay off the mortgage in 5 years.
- We financially support International Justice Mission through Second Mile's annual budget. In March we prayed corporately for IJM. In September we prayed for IJM throughout the month and hosted our first IJM Freedom Sunday. We signed nearly 200 postcards asking our state Senators to take action against global slavery.

Truth

- God pruned us throughout the 1st and 2nd Corinthians message series. He continues to answer our prayer for Christ-centered maturity.
- For seven years Chad attended seminary. He diligently sowed into learning truth and how to lead our church. He graduated in May and we all celebrated this milestone.
- Be the Bridge met regularly, including 26 people. Be the Bridge provides opportunities to discuss racial unity and reconciliation through the power of the gospel.

Community

- One new community group started and three couples stepped up to co-lead already-existing groups.
- Fifteen people felt led by the Holy Spirit to sign our membership covenant and fully partner with the Second Mile church body.
- Our annual Thanksgiving dinner was a beautiful night of conviviality and *koinonia* (Christ-centered communion with one another). Record numbers of people attended and we were busting at the seams!

Cultivate

- Moxie Mentors and Iron & Iron Crash Groups continue to thrive. God continues to answer our prayer to raise up the next generation to know God and to make him known.
- The Iron & Iron retreat theme, Fathered by God, had a deep impact on all who attended. Men engaged their hearts and mind in each session and developed deeper friendships with one another. It was reported by several men that it was one of the most meaningful retreats to date.
- We held our third annual leadership development course, Persevering in the Second Mile. Fifty-five seasoned and new leaders gathered in June to pray together, challenge each other, and grow in their understanding of leadership.
- Second Mile values families.
 - We dedicated 19 children this year.

- Three children were adopted.
- Nine babies were born.
- Seven families served children in our city through foster care.

Amplify

- For many months we asked God to make it clear when we should move to two gatherings. In November we made the change and it has proven to be rich and beautiful.
- Significant growth took place in our hospitality, kids ministry, prayer, and worship teams. We are thankful for people who use their spiritual gifts to make our gatherings function well.
- Studying Colossians 3 inspired the women to put on their new selves and amplify the name of Jesus. The worship times at Retreat de Moxie were some of the loudest, most meaningful times of worship the women have experienced together.
- Three people chose to make a public declaration of their faith by being baptized this year!
- For the first time in the life of our church, we not only met our budget, but giving exceeded our budget by 8.3%.

Mission

- Second Mile kids and families served at the Arizona Baptist Children's Services Community Resource Center to help those in need. They packed food boxes, over 8,000 diapers, and put together over 300 hygiene bags!
- As a body we collected over 700 clothing items for local children in need. We also collected three large boxes of food for ABCS Resource Center.
- God continues to lead us toward a deeper partnership with the Eusey family in Japan. We praise God for allowing Chad Haynes, John Weatherford, and Morgan Haynes to visit their city, pray, and strategize together. As a church we asked God to give the Euseys the right home. God answered that prayer this fall.

- We hosted our 3rd annual Fall Family Fun. Hundreds of people came to enjoy fun games, good food, and time with their family and friends. The crowd represented the great diversity of our city. Many people expressed their gratitude to us for hosting the event each year.
- We continue to ask God year after year not only “What would you have us do next?” but, “Should we continue with what we have done in the past?” We continue to feel led to give gifts to women in men’s clubs. Between Easter and Christmas we gave around 225 bags, as well as candy on Valentine’s Day and Halloween.