
40 Days of Going Deeper With God

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH — SUNDAY 9 APRIL

 **EVERYDAY**
CHURCH
LOVING JESUS AND LIVING HIS MISSION

A hand holding a smartphone in front of a laptop keyboard. The background is a blurred laptop screen and keyboard. The text is overlaid on the image.

Join the conversation

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#40DaysDeeper

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Dear Everyday Church,

Churches have seasons. There are times when God calls churches to stretch wider and times when he calls them to go deeper with him.

Over the past four years, God has taken us on an amazing journey of going wider. In January 2013, we met in one building for two services on a Sunday. Today we meet in seven buildings across London for nine services each Sunday. We also meet online each week for ten services in five languages.

As Elders of Everyday Church, we've felt strongly that God is calling us to make 2017 a year of going deeper with him. A time will come soon for a fresh wave of going wider into new boroughs of London, but right now God is calling us to go deeper in our friendship with him. He wants this to be a year of massive growth in the way in which we love him, in the way in which we express our love for him by loving one another and those outside the church, and in the way in which we proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the world.

We expect these "40 Days of Going Deeper with God" to play a key role in this. As we spur each other on to read the Bible, to discuss it with our friends and family, to pray passionately about what we have read, and to embrace fasting as a spiritual discipline, we will find that God is eager to be known. He is the one who presents us with the amazing promise of Luke 11:9-10:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Let's enjoy these 40 days of going deeper with God together!

Phil



Phil Moore

Lead Pastor, Everyday Church

A quick word on families

Christian parents know, deep down, that they can't delegate the spiritual well-being of their children to the Everyday Kids and Youth teams. They understand that parents are primarily responsible for their children. They know that the Lord commands them in Deuteronomy 11:19 to

"Teach these words of mine to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

If you are a parent or a grandparent then we have tried to equip you to follow these daily devotions with the whole of your family. We have written them in language plain enough for a child to understand, and we have given you a "For Families" section each day to help you think of ways to make the message lodge firmly in young minds. We want to help you to lead your family in 40 days of going deeper with God after breakfast or before bed or at any other time each day that suits your schedule and the age of the children in your family. If you don't do this regularly already then we also hope that these 40 days will whet your appetite to carry on with some of the great family Bible-reading resources that are out there to help you!

A quick word on praying together

It isn't just married couples and families that get to pray together. It's frankly odd for Christian flatmates to share the same living room and kitchen but very rarely to share the Word of God together!

We would encourage you to use this "40 days" booklet with your housemates, with a work colleague or with a group of friends. Let's learn the art of deep friendship, Jonathan-style, in 1 Samuel 23:16:

"Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God."

The Elders of each Venue will also be gathering people to pray together for local [Venue Prayers](#) during these 40 days. You can find out more details at your Sunday services or by following your Venue on Facebook or on Twitter.

A quick word on fasting

Going deeper with God is free, but it isn't cheap. Jesus likened our prayer lives to asking, seeking and knocking because he wanted to convey that prayer requires persistence and a passionate desire to deny the flesh to pursue God.

Many people in the Bible found fasting to be a very helpful accompaniment to their times of fervent prayer. Daniel, Nehemiah and Esther fasted as they prayed that the Lord would grant a spiritual revival for the Jews. The leaders of the church at Antioch fasted as they sought to go deeper with God (Acts 13:2) and as they faced up to his subsequent call for them to go wider again (Acts 13:3). We are encouraged to consider this in Ezra 8:23:

“We fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.”

Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai before he received the Law. Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. We are not suggesting that you fast entirely from food for forty days as they did (!) but we are suggesting that you consider how to fast in some way during these 40 days. When Jesus teaches about fasting in Matthew 6:16-18, he says ***“when you fast”*** — not if you fast. But he also warns us against fasting for the wrong reasons. We don't fast to get anything from God. We fast in order to lay hold of what is already ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus!

Jesus says, “When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Types of fast include:

1. The Normal Fast

No food is eaten and only water is drunk, either for a day or several days. See Esther 4:16, Ezra 10:6 and Acts 9:9.

2. The Partial or Daniel Fast

A determined cutting back of food to vegetables and fruit only, or one meal a day. This is a fast for those involved in heavy work or who have medical reasons for requiring regular good intake. See Daniel 10:2-3.

3. The Juice Fast

Some prefer to have a "liquids-only" fast which allows for more physical work. If you are fasting for a long time, this may be more realistic.

4. Fasting from other things

e.g. television so that you can use the time to pray instead!

Some further fasting guidelines include:

Make sure you are fasting unto God, aiming to go deeper with him and not just to see an answer to a particular prayer that you have for him.

Fasting is meant to free up time to pray and read the Bible. Don't squander the time you save on other things instead.

Be prepared for opposition. This will come from the enemy as he doesn't want you to fast. It will also come from your own body, which is used to having three meals a day! You may also find that well-meaning friends, family, neighbours and work colleagues encourage you to stop.

Headaches, dizziness, tiredness, touchiness, etc. are all part of fasting too! One writer said he never knew the strength of the "desires of the flesh and lust of the eyes" to be so strong as when he fasted.

Do not listen to the lie that nothing is happening. Fasting is a discipline that God has instigated, He blesses the obedient.

Remember we are under Grace not Law. If at any point you feel you need to break the fast, be released to do so. Fasting is to meet with God, not to damage our bodies or create condemnation.

If you want to talk to someone about fasting, please feel free to speak to any of our Elders.

Day 01

For Families

Help your children to make a list of all the things that Jesus did throughout his ministry. Imagine what your neighbourhood, school and workplace would look like if you did those same things by the Holy Spirit. Pray together!

Wednesday 1 March

Acts 1:1-8 — After joining the family...

Acts was written by Luke as a sequel to his gospel. In our Join The Family series we are discovering “all that Jesus began to do”. In the book of Acts, however, he tells us that we find out what Jesus continues to do through the everyday people that God invites to join the family through him. Jesus ascends to heaven midway through chapter 1, but this does not mean he stops working. Instead, the ministry of Jesus continues through the life of the church. We are to continue what Jesus started — amazing but true!

This of course would be utterly impossible without the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. That’s why you need to join the family and discover what it means for it to be Father-Son-Spirit-You. Jesus promises that he will continue his ministry through his followers by drenching, soaking and filling them with the third Person of the Trinity. He promises them more than a one-off experience. He pledges that walking with God’s Spirit will become an on-going reality for us.

So is this your experience as we start our 40 days of going deeper with God? Let’s make sure that each day we ask to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit, and then let’s seek to partner with him as he gives us the power to be witnesses to Jesus. Let us expect him to use us in the continuing expansion of his kingdom.



1. Ask Jesus to fill you with his Spirit right now.
2. Pray that God will also fill your friends, your family and those in your Life Group with his Holy Spirit during these 40 days of going deeper with God.
3. Pray that Everyday Church will become increasingly Spirit-filled and that others may know Jesus is real because of what they see in us.

Follow @Everyday_London on Twitter and like @everydaychurchlondon on Facebook for further prayer posts each day. #40DaysDeeper

A person's hands are shown typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop is on a wooden desk. A smartphone is lying on the desk next to the laptop. A mug is in the foreground. The background is a blurred view of a body of water.

**Be sure to visit
Everyday Church Online**

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Many nations.**

everyday.online

Day 02

For Families

Get your children to think of the biggest “wins” of their lives. Include sports matches, spelling test scores and anything else besides. Help them to see that all of these victories are temporary. There are more matches to win and spelling tests to pass, but Jesus’ victory is eternal. Worship him together!

Thursday 2 March

Acts 1:9-11 — Looking up and looking around

It must have been an amazing moment — to see Jesus transported away from the earth and hidden by the clouds. Throughout the Old Testament God’s presence was frequently symbolised by a cloud, so the first apostles will have understood the clouds to mean that Jesus had now returned to his Father in heaven. They will have remembered that it was by a cloud that God led the Israelites through the wilderness, that when the Temple was completed a cloud filled it so even the priests couldn’t enter it, and that three of the apostles had seen a cloud descend on the Mount of Transfiguration. Each time it meant God was present.

I am not surprised for a moment that they stood looking into the sky. They were transfixed by the significance of what they had just seen. However, two angels needed to remind them that they had things to do.

At times Christians can get so caught up in their experiences of God that they forget about the urgency of telling people about him. We are not just called to wait for Jesus’ return but to prepare for it. People from every nation, tribe and tongue are to form part of the welcoming party at his return and we are called to recruit them! Let’s not just look up — let’s also look around.



1. Pray for the people you will meet today who don’t know Jesus as their Saviour and their Lord, that you will look around and notice them.
2. The ascension of Jesus expressed his victory over death and sin and the Devil. Look around and ask for his victory to be evident in your life today.
3. Pray for the people of Everyday Church to proclaim the victory of Jesus by the way they worship when we meet together and by the way they live when they are away from one another.

Day 03

For Families

Ask your children to tell you the name of their favourite book. Now ask them how different it would feel if they read it with the author and were able to ask him/her questions as they read. Help them to really imagine this, then remind them that this is true of the Bible. The Holy Spirit is with you right now.

Friday 3 March

Acts 1:12-26 — The Holy Spirit spoke

Throughout the book of Acts we are given insight into the work of the Holy Spirit. Already in the first part of this chapter we read of the promise of the Holy Spirit who will empower the disciples to be witnesses. In the next chapter we will read of the fulfilment of that promise, but in today's reading we glimpse another aspect of the Spirit's work.

The first disciples had been devastated that Judas, one of the Twelve, had betrayed Jesus. In coming to terms with this Peter realised that, like the death of Jesus itself, the betrayal was predicted in the Old Testament centuries before. This was possible because, though written by men, the Scriptures recorded the words of the Holy Spirit (v16).

The Bible is not just a human book. It is a miracle. The Holy Spirit inspired the authors to write exactly what God wanted to be said. In some churches everybody stands when the Bible is read. It is a mark of respect, a symbol that they wait as God's servants to hear God's word and then obey it.

Why not read again today's passage and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight what he wants to say to you today?



1. Let v20 inspire you to pray for many more leaders to be raised up within Everyday Church. Be specific about your own Venue and ministry areas.
2. Let the gracious way in which Barsabbas coped with being passed over for leadership inspire you to pray for Christian character like his.
3. Ask God to speak powerfully to us as a church every time we gather to listen to the preaching of Scripture.

Day 04

For Families

Skip forward a few verses to read v16-21 together. Ask your children what they think “sons and daughters” and “young and old” means in Joel’s prophecy. Help them to see that this promise is for them and not just for grown-ups. Then pray!

Saturday 4 March

Acts 2:1-13 — The Holy Spirit comes in Power

For centuries, God’s people had been waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Moses had longed for a day when every believer would receive the Holy Spirit (Numbers 11:29). Through Ezekiel God had said, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:26-27). Joel had prophesied that one day God would pour out His Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28), and John the Baptist had announced that this outpouring, this baptism, would come through Jesus.

Now the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the promised gift to be given. What a sense of expectancy, and they weren’t disappointed! On the Day of Pentecost the believers experienced an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Their lives would never be the same again.

A bit like the early disciples on the Day of Pentecost, we are ‘all together in one place’ as we spend these 40 Days going deeper with God, even if we meet in different places on a Sunday. We are one church of many venues filled with one Holy Spirit.



1. Pray for the same Holy Spirit to fall on us during this time, both individually and as a church, to propel us forward together.
2. Pray for each of the Venues of Everyday Church in turn, that each will know the Spirit’s power and presence as they gather together.
3. Pray for this Sunday at all our Venues, where we will be taking up an important special offering. Pray for generous givers to our generous God.
4. Phil and Ruth Moore are the main speakers at a women’s conference today at Church of Christ the King in Brighton. Please pray for them.

Day 05

For Families

Give each child a Malteser or a small ball and a drinking straw. Tell them that you are going to have a race to see who can blow on their Malteser hardest to make it travel the greatest distance along the floor. Help them to understand that a Christian without the Spirit won't get very far. Now pray for one another.

Sunday 5 March

Acts 2:14-21 — Anointed for Mission

Sometimes it's tempting to see being filled with the Holy Spirit primarily as a source of increased personal blessing. But Luke keeps insisting throughout his gospel and Acts that God filled the early disciples with the Spirit in order to empower them to be witnesses, just as Jesus promised in Acts 1:8.

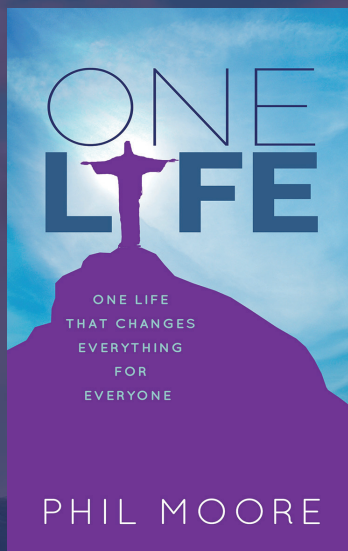
Do you have a picture in your mind when you think of being filled with the Spirit? One image which really captures the dynamic nature of being filled is that of a sailing boat. As the sails catch the wind, so the boat is propelled forwards. The sails need to be continually filled, or the boat comes to a standstill, but unless the ship get's going it will never get to feel the winds of the high seas. That's how it is with us and the Spirit – we need to keep on being filled and moving forwards.

We must not ignore the missional impact of being filled with the Spirit. It is not just something that benefits us on an individual level. It propels us forward as mighty witnesses to the transforming work of Jesus. Think about how Peter was at the end of the Gospels: we read of him denying His Lord and being challenged by Jesus about the genuineness of his love. But here, after being filled with the Spirit, he boldly stands up and seizes the opportunity to address the crowd with an explanation of what God is doing.



1. Pray for yourself, that God will fill you with power to speak for him as the first apostles did.
2. Pray for Everyday Church as a whole, that the gospel will radiate increasingly out from us.
3. Pray for our Sunday services today, for many people to be saved (v21).

Out Sunday 12 March



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Day 06

For Families

Ask your children if they can think of any moments when somebody has explained something in a very complicated way that they couldn't understand. Help them to think of how they might explain the Good News of Jesus to one of their friends in a way that they will understand. Pray for courage to do so!

Monday 6 March

Acts 2:22-36 — It's all about Him

Peter was ready and willing to get up and explain what was happening in a way that really connected with his audience. His "fellow Israelites" will have been familiar with David and the Psalms from which he quoted, as they were a key part of their Jewish heritage.

It's worth noting how much Peter focuses on Jesus — he talks about his humanity, his death and resurrection, his exaltation and his Lordship. The Gospel meets people's personal needs, but ultimately it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1; Rom 15:19; Gal 1:7). It is always Jesus-centred, not man-or-women-centred. How would you explain the gospel to someone?

Can you distil into a few sentences some Jesus-centred Gospel truths that might connect with the sort of people you meet day by day? You could try to put what Peter said into contemporary language that is easy for a non-churched person to understand.



1. Pray for opportunities to share some of these truths with someone in the coming week.
2. Pray too that you personally will go deeper in your understanding and appreciation of Jesus during these 40 days.
3. Pray for those who get to preach the Gospel at our services, that they will grasp this and preach Jesus so that people can understand him.

Day 07

For Families

God doesn't need your children's money. He doesn't need money from grown-ups either, but he invites us to enjoy the adventure of giving. Ask your children why they think the early Christians gave so much money away. Help them think of what they might give some of their pocket money to, out of love for God.

Tuesday 7 March

Acts 2:37-47 — The Church is Born

It's good to take stock of how we're doing from time to time, and today is an opportunity for a personal and corporate spiritual check-up.

Peter had preached his heart out, and the Holy Spirit powerfully convicted the people who were listening of their need to respond to what Peter had said. His answer to their question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" could be summarised as "Repent... be baptised... be filled with the Holy Spirit" Then he explained how this radical new birth would lead to a radical new lifestyle quite different from that of the "corrupt generation" they lived among. Take a few moments now to reflect on your own life in light of these commands.

Verses 42-47 give us a great snapshot of the sort of church God wants. Think about the characteristics that are mentioned – teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, signs and wonders, provision for those in need, praise, enjoying the favour of those outside, seeing people being saved daily! Doesn't your heart long for London, for the UK and for Europe to be filled with churches like that?



1. First, thank God for what we already experience of these characteristics in Everyday Church. Take time over this — we shouldn't take it for granted.
2. Now pray that God will cause us to grow in those areas where we need to see increase.
3. Pray that God will release a spirit of great generosity amongst us. If you want to pray specifically, week 2 of our special offering is this coming Sunday.
4. Regarding baptism, pray for those being baptised at our services on Sunday.

Day 08

For Families

Read these verses again, getting your children to act out the story. Ask the one cast as the lame beggar to describe how he/she feels. Ask the ones cast as Peter and as John to explain how they feel. Help them to step into the story and to grasp what it means to know we have heaven's remedy to this world's misery.

Wednesday 8 March

Acts 3:1-10 — Eyes open to need

Peter looked straight at the man in need — do we look, do we notice the pain and suffering of those around us?

Peter was realistic about his own lack of resources but full of faith about the resources he had in Jesus — this was the man who had run away scared, but also the man who had seen Jesus do miracles, who had seen the risen Jesus and who now was filled with the Spirit of Jesus. He really believed that age of the Messiah had come in Jesus, as the prophet had predicted “Then will the lame leap like a deer” (Isa 35:6). He refers to healing as “what I have”!

Do we understand the authority and power that is ours in the name of Jesus? When we pray for people, we may feel weak but we can trust that Jesus is able.

Christian leadership isn't about receiving a badge or a promotion. It's simply about seeing what God wants to do in a situation and then doing something!



1. Ask God to open your eyes to the people in need around you and to give you faith to pray for them.
2. Pray that we will see more people healed at Everyday Church.
3. Tell God where you particularly want his help this week. Pray that he will help you to embrace his help as “what you have” in Jesus' name.

We have baptism services at all of our Venues this coming Sunday. Who can you invite to see what you and your church friends have in Jesus?

Day 09

For Families

Talk to your children about what makes them nervous or embarrassed to speak up as a follower of Jesus. Help them to think of a very basic way to share Jesus with their school friends. Pray for them and commission them to go in power.

Thursday 9 March

Acts 3:11-26 — Healed by the Author of Life

Peter seizes the opportunity to speak; he doesn't deny Jesus as he did before the resurrection. He challenges the people boldly about the terrible crime of the crucifixion. He makes the link to Old Testament titles for the Messiah — "the Prophet" like Moses (Deut 18:15) and the "Suffering Servant" (Isaiah 42-53), as well as names which run throughout the Old Testament: "the Holy One", "The Righteous One" and "the Author of Life". He really drives home who Jesus was and is — The Messiah, the Saviour and the true Son of God who enables us to join the family.

It's clear that Peter had been doing some serious thinking — previously he had protested when Jesus had declared he would have to suffer and die. Now he was certain about why the death and resurrection of Jesus was so essential. He has thought through the implications of his faith in Jesus. He announces that the died-and-risen Jesus is the source of all lasting physical and spiritual life in the universe.

How much do you reflect Peter's courage to share and his diligence in preparing what to say? Take some time today to write down how you might share the Good News of Jesus with nonbelievers. What does the death and resurrection of Jesus mean for them?



1. Worship Jesus for being your "Suffering Servant" and your "Author of Life". Think of other names he holds and worship him for those too.
2. Look up Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15–23 and ask God that you may know the "incomparably great power for us who believe".
3. Ask God to give you a deeper awareness of the power you have in him and that he will grant you opportunities to share courageously like Peter.

Follow @Everyday_London on Twitter and like @everydaychurchlondon on Facebook for further prayer posts each day. #40DaysDeeper

Day 10

For Families

Ask your children what they think Peter's statement in v12 means for Muslims, Hindus and nonbelievers at their school? Why does he say this? Really help your children to grapple with the inability of any religion devoid of Jesus' death and resurrection to save anybody. Don't underestimate how much they can get this.

Friday 10 March

Acts 4:1-12 — Growth despite Persecution

Peter and John were opposed by the Priests and the Sadducees (known for their disbelief in the resurrection) and rounded up by the Captain of the Temple Guard, who reported to the High Priest. Peter and John declared before the judges of the day, the Sanhedrin, the key truths of the gospel. Jesus has been crucified, raised and is now alive to heal and save. Salvation is only found in him.

The imagery of the cornerstone from the Old Testament speaks of Jesus' rejection; He is a stumbling block to many, but he is also the ultimate capstone that completes the building. "A precious cornerstone for a sure foundation, the one who trusts in him will never be dismayed" (Ps 118:22, Is 8:14, 28:16) These well-known verses turn the tables on the judges. Suddenly they find themselves in the dock. Their own judge is the eternal Word of God.

Despite the imprisonment of Peter and John, phenomenal growth happened — God was on the move! The growth that happened in this period was sparked by the bold preaching of Peter. Peter knew that what he was saying might get him killed but he went for it anyway! How do these themes of persecution, courage and unwillingness to tone down the Gospel play out in your own life?



1. Pray for those who preach at Everyday Church each week, that their words will have boldness and clarity.
2. Pray for Everyday Church Online, proclaiming the Gospel freely in places where there is persecution and relatively little other Gospel preaching.
3. Pray for 'divine appointments' this week where the Holy Spirit leads you into significant spiritual conversations with people.

What does the name Everyday Church mean?

We changed our name as a church in January 2013 to express who we are in a very practical way.

Everyday Church means that we revel in our ordinariness.

We believe that our weaknesses make us strong in God's hands. He does extraordinary things through ordinary people who say yes obeying his Word and to partnering with his Spirit every day. (Acts 4:13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

Everyday Church means that we are honest towards each other.

Because it's OK to be ordinary, we feel no need to wear masks with each other. We celebrate honesty far more than pretend perfection. (Ephesians 4:25)

Everyday Church means that we are honest towards God.

We refuse to be 'Sunday Christians'. We live out who we are on Sunday every day of the week. (Acts 2:42-47)

Day 11

For Families

Help your children to think of ways in which they and their friends try to prove that they are important, even when it means putting other people down. Help them to understand why it's important to be Everyday People together.

Saturday 11 March

Acts 4:13-22 — Everyday People, Extraordinary God

The disciples were “uneducated” but they took a stand against the best educated, most powerful men in their nation. The Sanhedrin were astonished at their courage and their use of Scripture. Filled with the Spirit they spoke with authority just as Jesus had.

It's interesting that the Sanhedrin despise them in v13 as ordinary, everyday people, because what they use as a slur we wear as a badge of honour. Read the previous page, which explains why we renamed ourselves Everyday Church in 2013. How do today's verses encourage you that God will also work through us?

Everyday people aren't fazed by derision and opposition. They know that speaking about Jesus is essential. Friendship evangelism is great — living a good, kind life will be noticed — but eventually you must speak about Jesus. The cross has to matter more than coffee. Good deeds give you credibility — social action does that amongst our community on a church scale — but we still need to take the opportunity to challenge people and declare truth. Our culture values tolerance above all else, so we need courage to speak of who Jesus is and the exclusive claims of Christianity.

H.G. Wells said “The trouble with so many people is that the voice of their neighbours sounds louder in their ears than the voice of God.” Do you agree?



1. Pray that you will not disqualify yourself as “ordinary” or “everyday”, but rather recognise that you are God's person in your community.
2. Pray that God will give you boldness to take opportunities to speak the truth about Jesus to friends, neighbours and work colleagues.
3. Pray through the previous page, that we will truly come to be all that we hoped to be when we changed our name to Everyday Church.

Day 12

For Families

Ask your children to think of some of the most difficult times in their lives. How did God meet with them in those difficult times? What did they learn about him and how did they go deeper in their friendship with him? Help them to grasp the message of Acts 14:22. God turns around every disaster for our own good.

Sunday 12 March

Acts 4:23-31 — When a Church Prays

The believers' response to trouble was united, confident prayer that raised voices and hearts to the Sovereign Lord. The community gathered to worship the creator God, the God who was with Jesus when he suffered and raised him from the dead, the God who healed a man crippled from birth and the God who empowered the disciples to preach Jesus to a hostile crowd. They prayed Scripture back to God, which is always a good move. Compare the words of their prayer with Psalm 2. This Messianic psalm sets the opposition they were experiencing in the context of a world created and sustained by God. The very worst that the authorities could do in killing Jesus was simply what God's "power and will had decided beforehand should happen." What a sovereign God!

Knowing this gave the early believers the courage to bring their circumstances to God in prayer and to leave them with him. Interestingly, they didn't ask to be delivered from the threats, but simply to have great boldness to keep on preaching Jesus. Do we pray too often for a way of escape, rather than a way through our troubles that will glorify God?

Re-read v31. This is what happens when we commit ourselves to going deeper with God in Bible reading and in Scripture-filled prayers.



1. If you are facing a challenge of some kind in your life, pray that God will help you gain a biblical perspective on it and give you courage to glorify Jesus in it.
2. Pray that, as we meet today for baptism services across our Venues, God will fill us powerfully with the Holy Spirit and enable us to perform miracles.
3. Pray for the special offering that is being taken up in all Venues today.

Day 13

For Families

Help your children to make a list of some of the things that Jesus has given them. Now make a second list of the things that their friends need from Jesus. Inspire your children to see how they could become the hands and feet of Jesus to help their friends. If it helps, read 2 Corinthians 8:8-12.

Monday 13 March

Acts 4:32-37 — When a Church Shares

The believers' community life was practical as well as spiritual. The life of the Spirit had been demonstrated by power, preaching, miracles, prayer and now by sharing. Rich and poor were one in heart and mind, giving and sharing their stuff as a powerful testimony that Jesus was alive. There are few things more striking to the unbelieving world than a diverse group of people who are reconciled in Jesus and who help one another.

This challenges our independence, our pride in not admitting that we need help, and our idolatrous desire to find security in our money. We desire this type of community but also find it a scary. It's far easier to sing about Jesus laying down his life for us than it is to lay down our lives for one another.

Everyday Church is a generous church. Thank you so much for your sacrificial giving to our special offering earlier this month! Let's also be aware of the individual needs around us, rather than expecting that "the church will do something about that". This passage reminds each of us that WE are the church — in sharing what we have we will know God's grace powerfully at work within us. "All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:35)



1. Pray that you will have an opportunity to be generous to those you know have needs at Everyday – opening your heart, your home and your wallet.
2. Pray that we will be one in heart and mind – a diverse community of dozens of nations and of all ages, yet united in one Holy Spirit as God's Family.
3. Pray for those who have been given the gift of leadership to lead us forward in these areas, like Barnabas in the verses you have read today.
4. Pray for our finances as a church. Our income hasn't matched our vision for a little while. We definitely need to get healthier in our income!

Day 14

For Families

With your children, go back over the page "What Does Everyday Church Mean?" Help them to see that it's far better to be honest about your sin than to pretend to be perfect. Lead the way for them by confessing one of your own shortcomings to them then listen to their confession. Pray for each other.

Tuesday 14 March

Acts 5:1-16 — Integrity in all things

Ananias and Sapphira's story is one of the most dramatic and unsettling in the New Testament. FF Bruce comments that: "The story of Ananias is to the book of Acts what the story of Achan is to the book of Joshua. In both narratives an act of deceit interrupts the victorious progress of the people of God."

When we look back nostalgically to the days of the Early Church, we sometimes forget what they were like. God was not to be trifled with! On the surface, it looked as though this couple were acting generously - in a similar manner to Barnabas at the end of the previous chapter. However, Ananias 'kept back' some of the proceeds. The Greek verb used in v2 means to 'embezzle'. Luke tells us that we steal from God when we pretend to give generously but are secretly stingy. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to take the credit for being generous without any of the associated costs. They paid for it with their lives.

Like a cheat who buys his degree online or falsifies his CV in order to get a better job, Luke insists that there is no room for such behaviour in the Kingdom of God. We need to resist the temptation to appear better than we are in order to impress others. Re-read "What Does Everyday Church Mean?" on page 17.

What role do you think the purity of v1-11 played in the fruitfulness of v12-16?



1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any times when you have given a false impression of yourself or sinned in other ways. Ask for forgiveness.
2. Pray that you would be a person of integrity in your workplace.
3. Pray for the Elders to be given wisdom and insight into people's hearts as they help recruit and oversee different serving teams in their Venues.

Day 15

For Families

Ask your children when somebody last pointed out a way in which they needed to change. It might well have been you! Ask them to describe the worst thing about how it felt at the time, and the best thing about how the change affects them now. Try to help them to learn the wisdom of Hebrews 12:10-11.

Wednesday 15 March

Acts 5:1-16 — Speaking the Truth in Love

We are going to stay for an extra day in the same passage that we looked at yesterday. Peter's response to Ananias and Sapphira's sin is so startling that we don't want to move on until we've let it sink in properly.

We live in a generation where anything is tolerated except for the audacity to name sin as sin. As a result, it's very easy for us to tiptoe around each other in the church, too afraid to challenge one another's lifestyle. That's very dangerous, because 1 Samuel 2:29 warns us how the Lord views such flattery: "You honour your friends more than you honour me." Serious stuff!

The truth is, we all need other people to challenge our behaviour if we are to grow in godliness. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:15-17 that giving gracious yet straight-talking feedback to somebody is one of the greatest ways in which we can show our love for them. James 5:19-20 echoes this too.

Think for a moment: Are you more likely to shy away from challenging somebody over their sin than you are to challenge them brashly? We need to learn as a church how to "speak the truth to one another in love" (Ephesians 4:15).



1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the same passion for God's holiness that caused Peter to speak the truth to Ananias and Sapphira.
2. Ask him to give you love for people, to speak in order to build them up and not tear them down.
3. Pray for our church culture as a whole, that we will be good for one another, living as Jesus expects churches to live in Matthew 18:15-17.

Follow @Everyday_London on Twitter and like @everydaychurchlondon on Facebook for further prayer posts each day. #40DaysDeeper

Day 16

For Families

Ask your children to describe a time when someone was mean to them for being from a Christian home. If it has never happened, you might want to ask some follow-up questions about why not. If it has happened, listen carefully and offer to pray together. Contrast Peter's courage here with his denials in Luke 22:54-62.

Thursday 16 March

Acts 5:12-16 — Bouncing back despite opposition

In the 1970s TV adverts appeared for a new toy called Weebles. They were round bottomed figures and the advertisements featured the catchy phrase "Weebles wobble but they don't fall down!" The apostles are like Weebles in this passage — they keep on bouncing back from persecution! The Lord opens the prison doors and instructs them to go straight back to the temple courtyards. Despite the inevitable persecution that will follow, they obey God's word but in doing so, have to disobey the Sanhedrin. Peter had already faced this dilemma in Acts 4:19 when he declared: "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

For the apostles, the priority of sharing the Good News of Jesus trumped the authorities' desire to silence them. Generally we are able to speak freely about our faith but times are changing. If you state clearly what God says in the Bible about relationships, sexuality, money, hell and salvation, you'll soon find out how much they have changed! We need to be ready for more opposition to the Gospel. We need God-given courage to keep on "speaking about what we have seen and heard."



1. Pray for boldness in sharing your faith even when you think you might face ridicule or anger.
2. Pray for those attending Everyday Church Online who live in countries where persecution is far heavier than in Western Europe.
3. Pray for God to help you to share the "palace of Christianity" (i.e. "new life" in v20) and not just the "hallway of Christianity" (i.e. forgiveness).

Day 17

For Families

Ask your children to think of a decision that they need to make where they need God to guide them. Now divide a piece of paper into four boxes entitled Common Sense, Open and Closed Doors, The Spirit of God and Friends Who Know God. Help them to consider the decision from those four perspectives, as we learned to do together in the message “Ears” in The Naked Christian sermon series.

Friday 17 March

Acts 5:33-42 — The ‘Gamaliel Principle’

If it hadn’t been for the intervention of Gamaliel, the apostles would have been put to death. Gamaliel was the grandson of the famous Rabbi Hillel and the teacher of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22:3). He was a scholarly man and evidently highly respected. His advice was to wait and see what happened – if the disciples’ mission had a human origin then it would ultimately fail, but if it was from God they would find themselves fighting against God. As a result, the apostles were released with just a flogging, instead of being killed.

The ‘Gamaliel Principle’ (i.e. wait and see what happens) might look sensible but it isn’t necessarily a reliable guide to what is from God and what is not from God. John Stott wrote that “To be sure, in the long run what is from God will triumph and what is merely human will not. Nevertheless, in the shorter run evil plans sometimes succeed, while good ones sometimes fail.”

If you have never done one of our “Foundations” courses then you have missed out on a great talk and discussion about “How does God guide us?”. Ask your Life Group Leader when the next course is taking place, if you want to know more.



1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the ability to discern what God is saying to you.
2. Read James 1:5 and pray that God would give you wisdom for daily living.
3. Pray the flipside of the challenge of a few days ago, that God would help you to know when not to challenge somebody and when just to leave it to him.

Day 18

For Families

Ask your children to think of areas in which their friends are more gifted than they are. Help them to appreciate the importance of working in a team, with everyone playing to their gift. The board game "Forbidden Island" is really good for teaching children this. Definitely recommended if teamwork is a challenge!

Saturday 18 March

Acts 6:1-7 — Exercise your gifting

"It's not fair!" is a cry that is heard in every part of the world, and the church in Acts was no exception. The Greek-speaking widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The apostles' response was not to run around sorting everything out, but to delegate this important ministry to quality new leaders. Our church has almost quadrupled in size over the past few years. This is definitely a year for lots of new leaders to be trained up and released to serve.

A good question to ask yourself is this: "What is my unique contribution? What can I do that most other people cannot?" There are about 26 specific spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament (although the list is not exhaustive). They include administration, leadership, hospitality, mercy and financial generosity. Not everyone is called to be a preacher or a worship leader, but we all have our own different roles to play. Some of the greatest ministers at Everyday Church never set foot on a platform.

As we find our own gifting and run with it, we release others to do what they are called to do as well. The apostles emphasised the need to give time to preaching and to prayer. As a result, the Word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly (v7). If we want to see London reached for Jesus, and online services that reach many nations, we all need play our unique part in the team.



1. Pray that the Lord would help you to identify your unique contribution to his work at Everyday Church.
2. If you feel you have a leadership gift of some kind, ask God to open up an opportunity to use it.
3. Pray for our social action projects, known as Everyday Difference. Pray that God will use us to help many, like the church in Jerusalem.

Day 19

For Families

Your children are more intelligent and switched-on than most people think they are. Go over “the Three Greats” with them in language that they can understand. The pray together, that they will go deeper with God in all three of these ways.

Sunday 19 March

Acts 6:1-7 — Don’t Get Distracted

We are going to spend one more day in the verses that we looked at yesterday. Before we move on, it is important that we register that one of the Devil’s greatest and most effective weapons against us is the weapon of distraction.

Even the apostles were tempted to get distracted by the demands of a growing church and the burden of other people’s expectations. They gather together and decide to resist the distraction. They reaffirm what they are called to: “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God.”

Read the next page, which outlines what, as Elders, we believe God has called us to do as a church. Which of “the Three Greats” are you most likely to neglect? These are the three key areas that lie at the heart of what it means for us to be “Loving Jesus and Living His Mission” together. They are the three biggest ways in which we need to go deeper with God this year.

We’re a pretty active church. We’ve planted seven new Venues and five online Sites in just four years. However, this puts us in particular danger of missing the big picture in the busyness and neglecting what really matters. Have a think about your own life, about your Life Group and about the ministries where you are involved. Putting these first things first is essential if we want to see the everyday conversions that are described in v7.



1. Pray that the Lord would make us a church that truly embraces the Great Commandment to love him with all our being.
2. Pray that the Lord would make us a church that truly embraces the Great Consequence of that, loving our communities in many practical ways.
3. Pray that the Lord would make us a church that truly embraces the Great Commission, taking his Word beyond the walls of our meetings to the world.

What has the Lord called us to do as a church?

God has called us on a very simple journey together. We have spoken about this consistently since March 2010 and we don't see this vision changing any time soon. It is only six words long:

"Loving Jesus and Living His Mission"

On one level, we would like to leave it there and simply say: for further details see the Bible! However, we recognise that as we grow in size and scope we need to bring some further clarity to what this actually means in practice. We therefore define **"Loving Jesus and Living His Mission"** as the pursuit of **"The Three Greats"**.

The Great Commandment

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22:36-38)

The Great Consequence

"The second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'." (Matthew 22:39-40)

The Great Commission

"Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:18-20)

God has spoken to us clearly and told us that we are to aim to plant a venue in all 32 boroughs of London. We believe this wholeheartedly, but we don't make those numbers our focus. By concentrating on the **"Three Greats"** of **"Loving Jesus and Living His Mission"** we know we will achieve all this and more. We see this how as the key to our what, not the other way around!



Day 20

For Families

One of the hardest trials for any child or grown-up to bear is that of other people telling lies about you. Ask your children if they have experienced this. Why didn't Stephen fight back with lies of his own? Take time to listen, train and pray.

Monday 20 March

Acts 6:8-15 — Encouragement and Warning

Stephen is a shooting star of the early church. For a brief moment his witness burnt so brightly that no one could ignore it, but then dramatically it was extinguished. He was one of the men chosen to help the apostles by ensuring the Greek-speaking widows were well cared for (v1-7). Today we see that he was more than a manager of pastoral care. Sometimes we can limit ourselves to the role we perform in church — “I am a Life Group Leader” or “I help with Youth” — forgetting that God never pigeon-holes us. The story of Stephen encourages not to think like that but to be open to being used by God in a whole variety of ways.

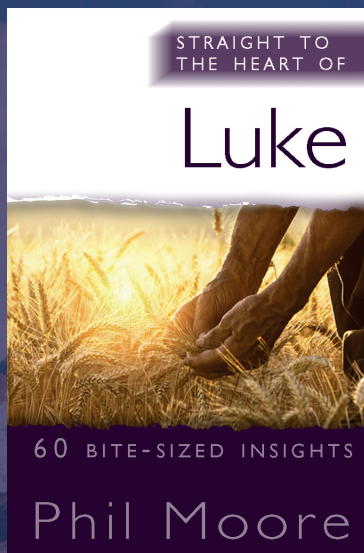
Stephen's story is also a warning. God used him to heal the sick and to establish some fantastic social action ministry. Many Christians assume that this is the way to win over their communities to Christ. After all, if people see us doing good deeds then they'll get saved, right? Well, yes and no.

People are converted by the Holy Spirit's power, not by our good deeds. Some of the people who saw what Stephen was doing hated him for it. They tried to discredit him in argument and when that didn't work they stirred up others to cause trouble. Being a caring, Spirit-filled Christian doesn't guarantee a quiet life. If we are going to be effective as a church then we have to be prepared for people to hate us, speak badly of us and try to hurt us.



1. Consider how Stephen is described in this passage. In what way would you like to be like him? Ask God to work that in you today.
2. Pray that when you experience opposition because of your faith that you will be a witness in the way that you respond (v15).
3. Pray for Everyday Church to be known as a place of spiritual life and practical care — whether we are loved or hated for it.

Out this coming Sunday



The book that accompanies our “Join The Family” sermon series and completes the whole of the New Testament in this series of devotional commentaries.

**£8.99 in bookshops.
Only £6 in your venue.**

Day 21

For Families

Note how Stephen knows the Old Testament so well that he is able to summarise its story in just a handful of verses. For fun, ask you children to explain the story of the Bible from start to finish in 3-5 minutes. Commend their best efforts!

Tuesday 21 March

Acts 7:1-43 — The sad reality of dead religion

It is surprising that the longest speech in the book of Acts is not by Peter or Paul, but by Stephen. Stephen had been accused of attacking the Temple and perverting the Mosaic Law. These charges were untrue but they meant he was in big trouble. In this chapter we read his defence.

It is easy to misunderstand Stephen's motives here. He is not just giving an angry rant. He is risking everything by speaking in a forceful way in order to pierce the armour of the dead religion of the Jewish leaders. He is trying to win them over by confronting them with their sin, so that he can rescue them as Israel was rescued through Moses. This speech is less a defence and more an attempt to show his judges that they are in even more trouble than he is!

Sadly, they hang onto their dead religion. They are unwilling to exchange their misguided ideas for the message of God's salvation. All too often in the Bible and throughout Church history, religious people have become so entrenched in their way of doing things that they ended up resisting the new thing God was doing.



1. Pray for Everyday Church, that God will keep us in step with what he is doing.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you flexible and responsive to where he is leading us as a church and you as an individual.
3. Ask for eyes to see the need in the hearts of those who oppose us and cause us problems.

Tonight we are gathering for ASK prayer meetings in all of our Venues. Make every effort to be there in order to Ask, Seek and Knock with your brothers and sisters at Everyday Church.

Day 22

For Families

Help your children to think of occasions in their lives when something has looked like a disaster but God has used it for good. There will be lots of them, but they'll definitely need your help. Firm belief in Romans 8:28 doesn't come easily to us!

Wednesday 22 March

Acts 7:44-8:1a — In God's Hands, It's Never a Disaster

Stephen never gets to finish his message to the Sanhedrin. As he uses the Word of God to point out they are the ones who have dishonoured the Law and the Temple — not him! — they turn on him and let him be lynched before their eyes.

The death of Stephen looks like a disaster. Maybe he made a mistake when he attempted to reveal the hidden depths of their religious idolatry? Maybe he ought not to have confronted them for worshipping the gifts God gives instead of the Giver himself? Well, in a word: No. Stephen is stoned to death but he is not silenced. A young man named Saul of Tarsus watches him die and is so impressed by what he sees that the Lord is later able to challenge him at his conversion that "It is hard to kick against the goads" (Acts 26:14). Stephen's obedient martyrdom leads directly to the conversion of the most influential person in Church history!

Whenever people step down from the team we lead or even leave the church entirely, it is very easy to treat it as a terrible disaster. We need to take courage. In God's hands, nothing is ever a disaster. Success is never measured for the Christian in the short-term, but in the long-term. God knows what he is doing and he never let's the faithfulness of his servants go to waste.



1. What do you currently see as a disaster? Turn it over to God, trusting that the Creator of the world has power to turn it round for good.
2. Unless Jesus returns first, we will have to pass through the gates of death one day. Ask him to help you to die well, full of faith and love for him.
3. Pray for politicians, media personalities and anybody else in your life who is hostile towards Jesus. Pray for God to save them as he did Saul of Tarsus.

Follow @Everyday_London on Twitter and like @everydaychurchlondon on Facebook for further prayer posts each day. #40DaysDeeper

Day 23

For Families

Take it in turns to tickle one another's toes or ribs. The person being tickled is not allowed to laugh or even smile. If they do then their go ends and it's another person's turn. When you have finished, point to the joy of the church in Samaria in v8. If we truly know Jesus, we can't keep our joy in. The whole city will see it.

Thursday 23 March

Acts 8:1-8 — Develop a robust faith

If the book of Acts were a fairy tale, it would have ended in chapter 3. At that point Luke could have simply closed with "and they all lived happily ever after."

Except they didn't. Their early successes soon brought bitter persecution. By chapter 8, it had escalated into a full-blown campaign that scattered their disciples. It looked like another disaster — except that Jesus had promised them that they would be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth"(Acts 1:8). As they scattered, it started to happen.

We have spent the past four years scattering across South London. At times it has felt very costly, but it's been better than waiting for persecution to force us to move! God hasn't saved us to turn Everyday Church into a cosy, spiritual club. There are crowds and crowds of people across London and beyond that we still need to reach with the Gospel. Luke tells us in v4 that those who had been scattered preached the Word of God wherever they went. It wasn't just Philip and the apostles — it was every believer. That's what joining God's Family means. His plans to reach large numbers of Londoners and huge crowds of people around the world through online services are now: Father, Son, Spirit and You.



1. Pray that God will give you a robust faith that doesn't waver under pressure.
2. Ask God to make you increasingly willing to proclaim Jesus in every circumstance.
3. Pray for this year of going deeper with God, that we will succeed in putting down deep roots without becoming "stuck" in terms of God's mission for us.

Day 24

For Families

These five concepts are accessible for even very young children. Don't assume that all of this will fly over your children's heads. We talk a lot to our children about what we're doing, so don't neglect to use this as a moment to explain what we are being – not just the destination, but who we're becoming as we journey there together as a church family.

Friday 24 March

Acts 8:9-25 — Be Who You Are!

This is one of the clearest Bible passages which teaches us that it is possible to believe in Jesus but not yet have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Philip has preached the Gospel successfully in Samaria, but his converts need Peter and John to fill in the blanks for them so that they can be who they now are.

The same is true of the Spirit-filled lifestyle that we read about in the churches in the book of Acts. We want to behave like the people we now are — sons and daughters of God — but we need some help to know how to do so.

As Elders, we have identified five key strands to the culture that we believe God is calling us to have as a church. They spell out what it means to live as an outpost of heaven on the earth, or what it means for us to now live together as the Family of God instead of as a collection of individuals who are more influenced by the standards of the world than the standards of God's Word.

Take a few moments to read pages 36 & 37. These five strands are simple enough for a child to understand, but also challenging enough to stay with us for the entire journey God has mapped out for us in the years ahead!



1. Pray for God to fill you with his Holy Spirit as he did the Christians in Samaria.
2. Re-read the double-page on our church culture carefully and prayerfully. Ask the Lord to make us a church that is truly yours, ours, theirs, his and heaven's.

Day 25

For Families

We don't have a minimum age for someone to be baptised at Everyday Church. They simply need to be a believer and old enough to be making their own decision rather than doing it to please their parents or their peers. If you think your child might be ready, take this chance to explore the possibility with them.

Saturday 25 March

Acts 8:26-40 — Obey the Spirit's prompting

The story of Philip and the Ethiopian is a great story about the leading of the Spirit. Due to Philip's openness to the prompting of the Spirit, he ended up sharing the Gospel with a key official in the Ethiopian government. This story challenges all of us to live in tune with the Spirit. When we do there is the potential for all kinds of extraordinary things to happen. The Spirit speaks to us in a variety of ways — through dreams, God-given thoughts, mental pictures, physical feelings. It seems that Philip instinctively knew what the Spirit inside him wanted him to do and. Julian Adams says that "Recognition of God's voice comes through obedience. The more you step out to obey God's voice, the clearer it becomes." All of us can surely improve in this area of hearing and obeying God.

But Philip wasn't the only one who was obedient to God's word. As soon as the Ethiopian official had seen the truth about water baptism he didn't hesitate to get baptised. He asked, "Why shouldn't I be baptised?" Have you obeyed this basic first-step commandment of Jesus? If not, contact your Venue Pastor to explore how you could be baptised at our next baptism service.



1. Pray that you will become more sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit and more willing to obey him.
2. Pray for lots of baptisms at Everyday Church across the rest of this year.
3. Today we have Easter Fundays taking place at some of our Venues. Pray for many, many divine appointments with parents like that one that Philip had with the Ethiopian on the desert road.

Everyday Church Culture

Our church vision describes where we're going. Our church culture describes who we're becoming as we journey there together. While we believe that the destination is important, we also recognise that God is as interested in the process as he is in the product, and as interested in who we become as we go as he is in how quickly we arrive. This distinction really matters to us.

We have found it helpful to state our church culture in five simple phrases which are easy enough for a child to understand but challenging enough to fuel a lifetime of walking with Jesus together. The five statements are:

Everyday Church is YOURS.

We believe that Christian leaders are called by God to set people free so that they can serve him. They do this by setting clear boundaries for ministry, but they don't seek to control the work of God in people's lives. God calls them to create a safe place in which people can discover who they are and what he wants them to do. The task of leaders is to cooperate with the work of God's Spirit in people's lives, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is always freedom. We want everybody at Everyday Church to feel empowered and released to serve. Everyday Church belongs to people like you.

Everyday Church is OURS.

We believe that when Jesus calls people to follow him, he invites them to share their lives with one another. We believe that we have all been called to follow Jesus together as a single loving, united team. We therefore hate gossip, complaining, backbiting, negativity and the lazy attitude that dismisses opportunities to serve the Lord because "that's someone else's job" Instead, we behave with a high level of ownership and responsibility towards one another, recognising that it's impossible to make excuses and disciples at the same time. Everyday Church belongs to all of us.

Everyday Church is THEIRS.

We believe that the church exists for the sake of those who are not yet part of it. We refuse to allow it to become a cosy club for members. Jesus laid down his life for us and now he calls us to lay down our lives for the world, knowing that in this we will find our greatest happiness. We therefore go the extra mile to serve the lost, the least and the lonely, acting as the hands and feet and face of God to the communities we live in. Everyday Church belongs to those outside it.

Everyday Church is HIS.

We believe that the church is the family of God, the bride of Jesus and the temple of the Holy Spirit. We therefore see everything that we do together as an act of worship. We aim for excellence in all we do, refusing to believe that an attitude of "it's good enough" is ever good enough for God. We don't let down our brothers and sisters, teammates, newcomers and unbelievers. We keep our promises by doing things when we say we will and by praying for people when we say we will, believing strongly that our diligence is an act of worship. Everyday Church belongs to the Lord.

Everyday Church is HEAVEN'S.

We believe that the church is called to be a foretaste of heaven. We therefore always honour and respect our leaders, staff, servers, members, newcomers and nonbelievers. We seek to see things from their point of view and to surprise and delight them through their interactions with us. We believe that when people taste the culture of heaven among us then the Kingdom of Heaven naturally spills over into their lives too. Everyday Church belongs to heaven.

These five summary statements are very simple, but they are also revolutionary. A church that is yours and ours and theirs and his and heaven's becomes a mighty force which the very gates of hell are unable to withstand.

Day 26

For Families

Get your children to list five school friends who aren't believers in Jesus. Get them to explain all the reasons why they will never believe in him. Now compare them with Saul's life. How does he show them that God can save their friends?

Sunday 26 March

Acts 9:1-9 — God's sovereign grace

The Gospel can transform a person's life in an instant. Just take a look at what happened to Saul of Tarsus. At the same time, his "sudden" conversion was a long time in coming. The journey from Jerusalem to Damascus was about 150 miles, so he had time to ponder Stephen's martyrdom. S. H. Mallone observes that "The moment of conversion may seem quite sudden and unexpected; but experience shows that such a fundamental and abrupt occurrence always has a long period of unconscious incubation."

This encourages us to celebrate every little step that our friends make closer to faith in Jesus, but let's not miss the fact that Saul had a spectacular encounter with Jesus which turned his whole world upside down. That's what we want to see more and more, don't we? - an experience that is perfectly tailored for our friends! Saul was convinced that Jesus was a dead impostor and that his disciples had manufactured the resurrection story. He was wondering how Stephen had seemed so certain about seeing Jesus as he died (Acts 7:55-56). Suddenly Saul gets an answer to the question that he is mulling over on the Damascus Road. He discovers that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead and ascended to heaven!

The man destined to take the Gospel to non-Jews was converted in a flash in a non-Jewish area. Don't ever underestimate God's sovereign power and his willingness to save unlikely people and to use them to extend his Kingdom.



1. Pray for God to sovereignly meet with many people through us as a church.
2. Let Saul's testimony encourage you to pray for those who would appear to be very unlikely converts to Christ.
3. Pray for conversions at Everyday Kids today.
4. Today is Mothers' Day across the UK. Pray for the mums of Everyday Church!

Day 27

For Families

Ask your children to describe what scares them most and why. Then ask them what they think Luke means by “the fear of the Lord”. CS Lewis describes it this way in “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” when Lucy asks Mr and Mrs Beaver if Aslan is safe: “‘Safe?’ said Mr. Beaver. ‘Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the king, I tell you!’”

Monday 27 March

Acts 9:10-31 — Two types of fear

Forget white-water rafting, bungee jumping, skydiving, quad biking and jet skiing. The most exciting extreme sport is definitely following Jesus. Many of us languish in the shallows of never truly stepping out in faith, but when we do so life becomes a riot!

When Ananias visited Saul, he was taking an enormous risk. Saul had been responsible for some serious persecution, but Ananias obeyed the Spirit’s prompting and took a risk. When he arrived, Ananias had to exercise his faith again when he prayed for Saul to be healed. The result of Ananias’ obedience was the salvation of the most effective apostle to the non-Jewish world.

Faith doesn’t mean a lack of fear. Luke tells us in v31 that it comes when our “fear of the Lord” outweighs our fear of man. So, does yours? Is it time for you to become more adventurous in your faith? Let’s do some extreme sport together!



1. Pray for God to stretch you further in your faith.
2. Ask God to help you to step out more in the prophetic.
3. Pray for a greater understanding of what it means to live in the fear of the Lord.

Day 28

For Families

Ask your children if they need healing in their bodies. Ask them which people they know who need healing (it may even be you?). Don't just talk about healing in theory. Lead your children in praying for healing right now.

Tuesday 28 March

Acts 9:32-43 — Jesus, Peter and You

It's interesting to note that in both of these two accounts of healing, Peter acted and spoke in ways which were very similar to how Jesus dealt with the paralysed man in Mark 2:8-11 and with Jairus' daughter in Mark 5:40-43. Have a look back at these two stories and compare them with today's reading. And the results were the same too!

While we should not look for 'techniques' from Jesus' ministry as to how to pray for healing, it's good for us to be aware, as Peter was, that Jesus calls us to continue the work he began while on earth. He actually said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will even do greater things than these, because I am going to my Father". (John 14:12).

We need to remember that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is just as able to intervene in healing power now as he was in the 1st century. If we are honest, although we have seen some remarkable healings at Everyday Church, we still have a long way to go in seeing God work through us in London as he did in Lydda and Joppa. Let's pray for that to be part of our going deeper!



1. Pray to the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever for an increase of healing at Everyday Church.
2. Pray also that testimonies of healing will lead to people believing in the Lord, as was the case with Dorcas.
3. We run an Academy for training leaders, which has over 450 students on it — 150 in London and 300 in other parts of Europe and Africa. This coming Saturday, Adrian Holloway is training them to pray for healing. Please pray!

Day 29

Wednesday 29 March

For Families

Ask your children to think of people that they meet at school but they tend not to meet at church. It might be a religious group (eg Hindus) or a racial group (eg Pakistanis) or a social group (eg Goths or Emos). Build their faith that God wants to save all types of people through Everyday Church.

Acts 10:1-8 — Outsiders to Insiders

The Gospel continues to expand and break out of the narrow confines of Peter's thinking. That's what happens when we go deeper with God. It's worth noting that the two main characters in yesterday's and today's readings, Dorcas and Cornelius, both come from groups of people you would not expect to be well-regarded among the Jews — unmarried women and Gentiles. It's also interesting that they are both commended for their work and prayers for the poor.

Another interesting fact is that Peter was staying with 'Simon the Tanner'. The Jewish rabbis considered tanning to be an unclean trade, as it involved working with dead animals to convert their skins into leather. Maybe God was beginning to break down some of Peter's prejudices (though he still had a long way to go!).

God still delights in choosing 'outsiders', the least expected, those different from us, to be part of his wonderful, multifaceted church. Think of the people you would least expect to see added to Everyday Church. You've just put your finger on the very people that God wants to take us to next!



1. Pray that all of us at Everyday Church will be increasingly open to welcoming people from all sorts of backgrounds.
2. Pray specifically for whichever marginalised groups God particularly places on your heart.
3. Agree with God that next Sunday you will make a point of speaking to someone you have not spoken to before — ideally from a different nation, a different age group or a different background.

Follow @Everyday_London on Twitter and like @everydaychurchlondon on Facebook for further prayer posts each day. #40DaysDeeper

Day 30

For Families

Some of the most multicultural spaces in modern Britain are its primary and secondary schools. Ask your children to list the different nationalities of their school friends. Help them to see that they are key to God answering our prayers.

Thursday 30 March

Acts 10:9-23a — Cleansed

This vision which Peter saw was a major turning point. It was hugely significant, not just for Peter, but for the future growth of the Early Church. The time had come for the Gospel to cross the barrier that separated Jews and Gentiles, and this vision of both clean and unclean animals together was the way God chose to speak to Peter to help him break out of his strict Jewish mindset. You can see how important Luke thought this was by the amount of space he dedicates to it and its outworking in the following chapters. After all, Luke was a Gentile!

Peter himself seems to have been rather slow to embrace God's plans. Earlier on, he couldn't grasp it when Jesus told his disciples that he was going to die, Here Peter needed God to show him the same vision three times, and even then he was still left wondering what it meant! Our inbuilt prejudices are hard to shake. Think about your attitude towards different races, different age groups, different sexualities, different social backgrounds etc. God wants all of this to change.

To give Peter his due, he responded well to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. He welcomed the Gentile visitors into the house, which was something off-limits for any strict Jew. God was about to be glorified by the first multicultural church!



1. Pray for an opportunity to show hospitality to someone from a different background. Is there someone from church you can invite round? Or a neighbour you can befriend?
2. Ask God for boldness to step out of your comfort zone!
3. Pray that as we enter the last ten of these 40 Days that God will continue to deepen our walk with him as we pray and fast together.

Day 31

For Families

Encourage your children to attempt to explain the significance of Jesus to a classmate. Give them some coaching and train them to share their faith simply and effectively. There is something about coaching children that helps parents too!

Friday 31 March

Acts 10:23b-43 — Crossing the divide

This was an incredibly significant meeting for Church history. God had clearly been preparing Cornelius, and he gathered his family and friends in a real spirit of humility and willingness to learn. When Peter arrived at the house, he basically said, "I shouldn't really be here, but God's told me in a vision that his assessment of people is more important than mine. My religious upbringing tells me I shouldn't be mixing with you, but I've now joined God's Family so I'm here to help you". This was a remarkable thing for a first-century Jew to say, and it shows how much Peter was beginning to grasp the significance of the Gospel.

Peter then presented Jesus to his Gentile audience as the bringer of peace (v36), as the Lord of all (v36), as the man anointed with the Holy Spirit and power for us to follow (v38) and as the one who is stronger than the Devil (v38). He was put to death by sinful men (v39), but raised to life by God (v40) and is the source of God's forgiveness for sins (v43). What a great Gospel presentation!

Note how entirely focused Peter is on describing the life and ministry of Jesus, not just talking about his own experiences of him. How prepared are you to present Jesus to your friends when they are interested? It's time to get ready now to know how to proclaim Jesus to anyone who'll listen!



1. Pray for clarity to be able to do this, and at the same time, jot down a brief summary of the Gospel for when the opportunity arises!
2. Pray also for the Everyday Church preachers, that as they preach Jesus across all our Venues, people will be drawn to him.
3. Pray for Everyday Church Youth, and that our youth teams will be particularly effective at reaching teenagers with the Good News of Jesus.

Day 32

For Families

Encourage your children to see Everyday Kids and Everyday Youth as far more than something to consume (“does it help me?”). Help them to see it as a missional tool (“would it help my friends if I invited them along?”).

Saturday 1 April

Acts 10:44-48 — Saved and added

Don't be an April Fool. Don't try to convince yourself that anyone can survive and thrive as a Christian without being added to a church. As soon as Cornelius and his friends show signs of having been converted, Peter immediately wants to get them baptised and added into the church family. In the Early Church, this was always the way.

It's interesting to imagine how Peter may have spent his time over the next few days, as he stayed with the new believers. What sort of things do you think he would have wanted to communicate with them, in order to lay a good foundation in their new life in Christ? What is your strategy to impart such foundations to new believers at Everyday? If we don't plan how to make disciples, God won't entrust us with converts. It's as simple as that.

Our strategy as a church is to build brilliant, Spirit-filled Life Groups. The 120 believers on the Day of Pentecost couldn't mentor their 3,000 new converts one-on-one any more than Peter could mentor Cornelius and all of his friends. Instead, they used the small-group system that we read about in Acts 2:46.

Which Life Group are you a part of? Who could you invite to join you? There are a number of Christians in the church who have not yet been added into any Life Group. Our groups are also open to interested unbelievers, like Cornelius.



1. Pray for our Life Groups and our Life Group Leaders.
2. Pray for all those involved in pastoral care at Everyday Church — for discernment, insight and patience.
3. Pray for Everyday Church Online, which seeks to draw those who either cannot or will not come to church into Online Life Groups that will disciple them into deeper involvement in church.

Day 33

For Families

Your children may think that you are repeating yourself a bit from yesterday. That's because Luke does – it's that important to him and to us. Get a map and show your children how the Gospel spread from Jerusalem all across the world. Show them some of the nations that are in London today. Help them to see that they live at an unprecedented moment in history to see Acts 11 multiplied!

Sunday 2 April

Acts 11:1-18 — It really is for everyone

The news that the Gospel had reached the Gentiles spread rapidly. Peter needs to go to Jerusalem to do some explaining! By the time he arrives, he is fully convinced that Jesus is Good News for people of all backgrounds, but the circumcised believers are still firmly entrenched in their Jewish traditions. They challenge Peter about his mixing with Gentiles. The fact that God inspired Luke to include this complete re-telling of the story suggests just how important it is. God is here underlining the fact that the Gospel is for absolutely everyone.

The specific application at the time was that this included non-Jews. For us today, this probably seems a bit of a non-issue. But in chapter Acts 10:28, Peter says, "God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean". In other words, there is a general lesson here. God wants to convince us that there is no one on earth we should think of as beyond the pale. Our hearts should go out to every person, whatever their ethnic background, whatever their financial situation, whatever their social status, whatever their abilities or disabilities, whatever their intellectual capacity, whatever their physical appearance. Pause for a moment to reflect on what that means for you.



1. Pray for someone who may tend to suffer discrimination because of who or what they are.
2. Pray that as a church we will genuinely welcome all people, as Jesus does.
3. Pray for our worship services today, that we will be drawn closer to God and to each other.

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Day 34

For Families

Have your children ever given money away, like the Christians at Antioch. Why not give them a pound each and ask them to do some research on where to give it. Tell them that you want them to tell you by Easter where they gave it. In doing so, you are coaching them towards becoming generous givers as they get older.

Monday 3 April

Acts 11:19-24 — Deeper and wider

The first seven chapters of Acts are amazing. The first believers go deep with God — deep in the Word, deep in the Spirit, deep in prayer, deep in worship and deep in miracles. It's an amazing story. But things get even more exciting from chapter 8 onwards. Sooner or later in God's Kingdom, deeper always leads to wider.

In today's verses, Luke introduces us to his own home church — the one at Antioch in Syria, at that time the third largest city in the world. Those who were scattered by Saul's persecution share the Gospel with Luke, who would go on to be one of Saul/Paul's teammates. God has an amazing sense of humour!

The church at Antioch was not planted by one of the big names in the Early Church. It wasn't through Peter or Paul or Philip, but through ordinary, everyday believers from Cyprus and Cyrene. You never know what God has planned for you. You may be part of the team that launches one of our new venues in 2018. God uses everyday Christians to do the extraordinary!

When the church in Jerusalem hears that a church has been planted at Antioch, they send Barnabas to check out that all is well. Intriguingly Luke simply tells us that Barnabas "saw evidence of the grace of God" (v23). What exactly was it that he saw? It's worth pondering. We want to see it more and more ourselves.



1. Reflect on the evidence of the grace of God that you see at Everyday Church. Thank God for what you see and ask for much, much more.
2. Pray for our existing Venues across London and our existing online Sites. Pray for God to bless them as richly as he blessed the church plant at Antioch.
3. Finally, ask God to lay new locations on people's hearts for 2018 and beyond. Ask the God who has taken us deeper this year to lead us out wider again.

Day 35

For Families

Talk to your children about the lives of Christians who live in places where there is famine, persecution or suffering. Pray for them, then, like the Christians at Antioch, discuss ways in which you might do more than pray. We are looking to sponsor 70 of the poorest children in Kenya through the charity Compassion. Might this be a good way for you and your children to live out Acts 11:28-30?

Tuesday 4 April

Acts 11:25-30 — Beyond Our Own Walls

We are all part of something bigger than Everyday Church. We are part of a worldwide movement named Newfrontiers and we play apart in this through our involvement in one of its "spheres", named New Ground and led by Dave Holden. We are also called to be a "resource church", which means that Phil and other members of our senior leadership team work across London and Europe to train and support Newfrontiers leaders so that other churches can grow too.

Growth comes when the right people are serving in the right places. Barnabas saw the need for Biblical teaching in Antioch. Teaching the truth is important for not just gathering a crowd but for moving people on to discipleship.

Often churches can either emphasise the Word or the Spirit. In Antioch we see both, as Barnabas and Paul teach and then allow prophets to bring their Holy Spirit gifts to challenge and strengthen the church. As in Acts 4, this results in generous giving. We don't want to be a church that hordes its treasures. We want to see ourselves as part of something bigger to which we generously give our time and money.

Do you recognise gifting in others and encourage people? If you are on any of the serving teams at Everyday, take time to encourage other staffers and servers.



1. Pray for Phil as he oversees a number of New Ground churches for Dave Holden, and as he leads the New Ground Academy, which gathers 450 students for two days each month in six bases for training (London, Edinburgh, The Hague, Paris, Guernsey and Harare). It's a huge opportunity but also a huge challenge.
2. Pray for our links with our wider New Ground and Newfrontiers friends. Pray for us to be generous and to keep our gaze beyond our own walls.

Day 36

For Families

Get one of your children to go to a room at the opposite end of your house and shut the door. Shut your own door and try to have a conversation together by shouting. Now call the child back and chat together as you sit on the same sofa. Teach them that prayers to God are never like shouting at heaven. God hears perfectly every word we utter. We can be sure that he has heard our prayers.

Wednesday 5 April

Acts 12:1-11 – God answers prayer!

Herod Agrippa was a smooth political operator trying to maintain the status quo and his own power in a restless part of the Roman Empire. He ruthlessly beheaded James and planned to imprison and kill Peter to maintain his advantage with the Jews. He obviously expected trouble, since he doubled the normal guard around Peter. This was a critical moment in the Church's history,

Luke tells us that "the church prayed earnestly for Peter". This combines the idea of perseverance (praying without letting up) and intensity (praying urgently with fervour). Perhaps they were fasting like many of us are. They certainly gathered together as many of us have done in these 40 days of going deeper with God.

Here's the encouraging thing: God really answers prayer! At first, Peter can hardly believe it. He thinks that he must be dreaming when an angel appears and opens the doors for him. At the end of today's verses, he finally grasps it. It's hugely exciting when you realise that your prayers are truly heard by God!

What have you learned in these 40 Days of going deeper with God? Have you grasped what Peter grasped in Acts 12?



1. If you feel "imprisoned" by a situation in your own life, pray for God to release you. What he did for Peter, he would love to do for you.
2. Let's keep praying earnestly for those imprisoned by addictions, oppression and sin that the supernatural work of God will set them free.
3. Pray for the various Everyday Difference activities that either exist or we have planned to bring God's power to help the lost, the least and the lonely.

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Day 37

For Families

Talk this over with your children openly. They can identify with the problem of unanswered prayer. The solution isn't to ignore it, but to grasp it head-on.

Thursday 6 April

Acts 12:1-11 — When God is Silent

We are going to spend an extra day in the same verses that we read yesterday. It's right for us to focus on Peter's miracle and on the fact that God answers our prayers — but what about James? What about the disciple who was not rescued from prison by an angel and who was brutally beheaded instead?

Our thoughts are less with James, whose questions were presumably answered in a moment, as he entered glory, but with his brother John, who survived him. Why had God decided to save Peter but not James?! The Martin Scorsese movie "Silence" explores how the early Western missionaries felt when God didn't rescue them from persecution in Japan, but they must have had nothing on John.

Perhaps you can identify with him. Perhaps you have been praying for something during these 40 Days and you don't feel you've yet had any answer. I went through a similar period in my early days as a Christian. The disappointment and confusion was so severe that I didn't feel that I could carry on. However, one day I was involved in a severe car accident and the medics told me it was a miracle that I was still alive. I remember coming home from the hospital and finally hearing God break his silence. He said to me, "You nearly died. Let's treat it as a line in the sand. Let's leave the past in the past and move forward."

That moment marked a turning point in my life. I believe that God must have said something very similar to John. Yes, there are times when God seems not to answer our prayers, but don't let it spoil you. If he is big enough to ask for help, then he is also big enough to trust to know best when he has heard our prayers.



1. Pray for people in the church who are struggling right now with unanswered prayers, with a sense that God is silent and with confusion.
2. Pray for us to have the same robust faith as a church as John.
3. Pray for all of the nonbelieving spouses, parents and children that we have as a church family. Pray for breakthrough against all evidence very soon.

Day 38

For Families

Tell John Mark's story to your children, using the verse references provided. Help them to imagine themselves in his shoes in the midst of the story. How did he feel? Did he feel it was all over for him? Help them to see that God gives people second chance when we pray (and third, fourth and fifth chances too!).

Friday 7 April

Acts 12:11-19a — Prayer Meetings Matter

I have been to a lot of great prayer meetings in my time, but I really wish I could have been at this one! Luke gives us a fly-on-the-wall insight into life in the Early Church. They prayed and were answered, yet they were still amazed when the answer finally came. Even Peter took a while to understand he wasn't dreaming. The work of the Spirit sometimes dawns on us slowly but that's OK. Let's not try to be 'super-spiritual', saying we believe more than we actually do. Let's be open and authentic in what we pray, and let God do the rest. I'm sure they laughed about this story for many years to come as well as rejoicing at God's dramatic intervention.

Peter knew exactly where to go when in danger — a home that was open for prayer. Is yours a praying household? Is it a faith-filled household? Be encouraged. The Christians in Jerusalem found it easier to believe that Peter had been killed ("it's his angel") than that he had been rescued!

It was just as well that John Mark had a praying mother. Check out his life story — from falling out with Paul to being asked to record Peter's memoirs in Mark's gospel (Acts 13:5&13, Acts 15:37-39, Col 4:10, Philemon 14, 1Peter 5:13). Prayer that trusts in God's supernatural power will always take us on an adventure.



1. Pray for the prayer life in your own household. May the habits you have formed during these 40 Day be a new way of living, not a blip in time.
2. Pray for our prayer life as Everyday Church. Pray for ASK to be more than a prayer meeting, but a prayer movement.
3. Take seriously the effect that the prayers of John Mark's mother had on her wayward son. Pray big prayers for your children, if you have any of your own. Pray for the children of your friends and for Everyday Kids as a whole.

Day 39

For Families

Get one of your children to show off their biceps. If you have more than one child, make it the oldest one and give them a chance to arm-wrestle with their younger sibling and to beat them easily. Then, when your oldest child is feeling pretty macho, arm-wrestle him yourself. Explain that all the posturing of this world's rulers is instantly silenced the moment God rolls up his sleeve.

Saturday 8 April

Acts 12:19b-25 — Who is really in charge?

In a book so full of healing and forgiveness, a passage such as this one seems rather out of place. What do we care about Herod? Well, quite a lot if we want all that we have learned during these 40 Days to stay with us from now on.

Andrew Murray wrote that “The power of prayer lies in the power of the person to whom we pray.” For Peter and his friends, Herod represented the totalitarian power of Rome. He had, after all, been able to execute James without so much as a fair trial. Herod sits on a throne, robed in his royal finery, being praised by men, as a representative of all the power that this world sways before our eyes. But what's this? In a moment, he is overtaken by a horrible illness and dies. God is showing us that this world's authority and power and wealth and prestige are worth nothing at all. The Lord alone does whatever he wishes. That's the God to whom we pray. There isn't a man on earth or a demon in hell that can resist him.

The Church looked as though it might be wiped out at the start of chapter 12, as James is brutally beheaded. By the end of the very same chapter, however, the perpetrator is dead and “the word of God continued to spread and flourish.” That's our God! Nothing can stop him from fulfilling his purposes through the Church. Kings and princes, prime ministers and presidents do not ultimately control events. It is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is in control. That's the same God who has invited us to join his family. Hallelujah!



1. Praise God that He is the One who is in control of your life - and of this world.
2. Pray that none of us will be intimidated by the fear of powerful people but live knowing that in Jesus nothing can separate us from the love of God.
3. Thank God for all He has done amongst us through the 40 day programme.

Day 40

For Families

Since this is the final day of our 40 Days of going deeper with God, lead your children in an open discussion of what they have learned and appreciated over these 40 Days. How might you ensure that some of the habits you have formed during these 40 Days turn into habits that will last you and them a lifetime?

Sunday 9 April

Acts 13:1-4 — Time to Advance

I don't know about you, but I am loving our year of going deeper with God together in 2017. I hope that you are too, but here's a helpful reminder that God always takes us deeper in order to send us out wider. We don't know where God will take us as a church in 2018 and beyond, but we do know that he has many new communities for us to reach together. Just look at what happens here.

Barnabas and Saul/Paul are elders of the church at Antioch. We can tell that they have got a pretty established team working with them, because Luke easily rattles off the names of each of them. These guys are here and here to stay. They decided to have a time of going deeper with God and to their surprise God ambushes them towards the end. "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

Understand that this was not good news for Saul and Barnabas. It meant waving goodbye to their friends for a while and a willingness to suffer to reach new communities with the Gospel. Nor was it good news for the three elders they left behind. I mean, who wouldn't miss Paul on the Sunday preaching team? Going wider is always costly. That's why it's right for us to have a period of going deeper so that we can continue to go wider in a sustainable fashion. But make no mistake about it, go wider we must. This is God's agenda. We can't go deeper with God without finding that we are stirred in fresh ways to go wider.

The eldership team at Antioch obey. "After they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off." Thank you so much for all of your prayers during these 40 Days. I hope you have enjoyed going deeper with God and have caught afresh God's constant call on us to go wider for the glory of his Son and for the nations of the world.

1. Pray for God to take us wider again as a church at the right time. Pray that he will give you a burden for a new location and even call you to go this time.
2. Pray for the Everyday Church Elders to have as much clarity and unanimity as those at Antioch about where and when God wants to call us next.





2017

Many thanks to Mick Taylor for his help in writing these 40 devotionals

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