



**CREATE *a*
RIPPLE**

Devotional Guide



THE WATER'S EDGE CHURCH

Life Group Study Guide

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Read and Reflect

Read the daily Bible reading. Reflect for a few minutes on the related questions.

Pray

Pray the guided prayer. Spend some time journaling in the space provided. Repeat this a few times and be open to what God is wanting to do in you.

Watch

Visit weomaha.com or our app to watch the accompanying videos.

Questions and Answers

Look at a question or two each day. Respond to the questions. Be honest with yourself and honest with God.

Join

Join a life group. Connect and learn with others!



Week 1: Throwing Stones

DAILY READINGS

Monday, October 15

Read Matthew 6:5-13. What lessons do you learn from Jesus' teaching on prayer that you'd like to incorporate in your own prayer life?

Tuesday, October 16

Read James 5:13-18. What circumstances usually lead you to prayer? How can you start praying in all circumstances?

Wednesday, October 17

Read Luke 11:1-13. Do you believe that God will answer your prayers? What prayers have you had answered in the past?

Thursday, October 18

Read Matthew 7:7-11. God answers prayers in His timing, not ours. Are you patient and persistent in prayer? How can you work on these two things in your prayer life?

Friday, October 19

Read Mark 11:20-25. Do you truly believe in the power of prayer? How can we remove doubts in our hearts in order to make our prayers more effective?

Saturday, October 20

Read Philippians 4:4-7. How does prayer turn worry into peace?

Sunday, October 21

Read Psalm 86:1-7. Prayer is meant to be an open conversation with God, where we can share our hearts. How can we make our prayers more honest and open to God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is somebody who has created a positive ripple in your life? What did they do? How did the ripple they created effect you?
2. Have you ever had a friend or relative that only came to you when they needed something from you? What was that relationship like for you?
3. Relationships are more fruitful when we get to spend quality time with those people. How much quality time do you spend with God compared to other important people in your life?
4. Pastor Craig shared a simple way to get started praying: "Thank you for..." What are some things you are grateful for?
5. What do you feel is the subject of most of your prayers? Upward to God, outward for others, or inward for yourself? After Pastor Craig's teaching, do you anticipate changing how you pray? If so, how?
6. What are some things that hinder your prayer life? How can you overcome these obstacles and have a more consistent prayer life?
7. Pastor Craig talked about the prayer, "Let me give to others generously, with compassion, without judging, and with no strings attached." How could this prayer form you and change your life?
8. What benefits have you experienced from prayer? How have you experienced prayer changing you personally?
9. What do you think about praying the prayer: "Lord, what do you want to do through me? Use me to create ripples of grace." What would be the possibilities if you prayed this prayer regarding your generosity toward others and to God?
10. What are some ripples you would like to create through your prayers? Do you feel you are open to follow God and create the ripples God may be leading you to create?



Live It Out

CREATING DAILY RIPPLES

Commit to making prayer a part of your daily life. Set aside 15 to 30 minutes everyday this week to pray. Find a quiet, secluded place away from distraction. Use a journal or music to help you focus. Make sure you include upward, outward, and inward aspects in your prayers.

GUIDED PRAYER

Modern-Day Lord's Prayer

God, You are the one true God.
Your name is above all names.
Today I thank You for...

May your vision for the world become a reality.
May I think, speak, and act like You.
Provide for me. Bless me with what I need.
Forgive me of my sins.
Today I ask You for vision on the ripples You are wanting me to create...

Let me share this same grace with others.
May I give You the primary place in my heart and love others like You love them.
Save me when I hurt others and hurt myself.
Today I pray to create ripples for these people in my life...

This world is Yours both now and forever.
I will honor You by...
Amen.

Week 2: Ripple Creating Words

DAILY READINGS

Monday, October 22

Read Psalm 100. What do you imagine it would look like to “enter His gates with thanksgiving” (verse 4)?

Tuesday, October 23

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28. What would be a benefit of “giving thanks in all circumstances” (verse 18)?

Wednesday, October 24

Read Luke 17:11-19. Do you think you’ve ever acted like the nine lepers, receiving a great gift and running off without giving thanks?

Thursday, October 25

Read Psalm 136. There are many reasons to give God thanks. What aspects of the character of God are you especially thankful for today?

Friday, October 26

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. Which people in your life do you need to give thanks for today? What gifts has God given them that you are thankful for?

Saturday, October 27

Read Isaiah 12:1-6. One of the greatest gifts we can thank God for is our salvation. How can you show God thanks for this specific gift?

Sunday, October 28

Read Colossians 3:12-17. Why is showing thankfulness important within community? In what specific ways can we show more gratitude to the people we work and live with?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How well do you do when it comes to sending thank you notes? Are you the person who gets them out right away, weeks later, or maybe never? Why do you suppose this is?
2. How do you feel when you express thanks to others? How do you feel when you receive gratitude from others? What kind of ripple does gratitude create?
3. Is it difficult for you to accept gratitude from others? Why or why not?
4. Expressing gratitude can bless the person expressing it and the person receiving it. Describe a time when you have felt blessed because you expressed gratitude toward someone else. How was that a ripple for you?
5. What are some of the reasons people are not as grateful as they could be? The Bible teaches us to give thanks even when our circumstances aren't ideal. How would this be helpful?
6. Before this lesson did you think of yourself as being rich? Do you think you are rich now? Do you feel you have more scarcity in your life or more abundance?
7. What are some of the biggest blessings in your life right now that you could thank God for? Is gratitude toward God something you practice regularly? What are some ways we can express gratitude toward Him?
8. Greed says if I have more then I will be happy. Gratitude says I'm blessed and content with what I have. Do you struggle with greed? What negative impact does greed have on your life?
9. Materialism says I am what I own. Generosity says I am who I help others become by gratefully creating ripples from my abundance. Does materialism create ripples? What kind of ripples does generosity create?
10. How does gratitude lead to generosity?

Live It Out

CREATING DAILY RIPPLES

This week try keeping a Gratitude Journal. Each day write down all of the things that you're thankful for. Include people, material blessings, events, and the little things. During your daily prayer time, thank God for everything on your list.

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear God,

I have so much to thank You for. You have given me every blessing in life and have even more in store for me in the future. Help me remember that every good thing is from You. Create a more grateful spirit within me. Forgive my ungratefulness. When I forget to give thanks, I become less content. I become less aware of how much You love me. Sometimes I still struggle to show You the gratitude You deserve because...

I want to give You the thanks that You deserve for all that I have. When I'm grateful I experience more satisfaction, joy, and hope. I could never list all the things that you've given me and done for me. You are responsible for giving me every great person, opportunity, and moment in my life. Often I get so focused on what I don't have and on what's going wrong, that I don't even notice what I do have and what's going right. Today, I'm especially thankful for...

Thank You for all the blessings that you have given me. Help me become a more grateful person. Help me notice the little things. Help me to show gratitude to the people in my life. Replace dissatisfaction with contentment, stress with joy, complaining with appreciation. You deserve all the thanks.

Amen.



Week 3: Ripples Becoming Waves

DAILY READINGS

Monday, October 29

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14. What plans does God have for you? What is His dream for your life?

Tuesday, October 30

Read Matthew 14:13-20. What is required in order for a miracle to occur? Have you experienced God multiplying your gifts of time, energy, and resources?

Wednesday, October 31

Read Matthew 25:14-28. Do you think the master treated the three servants fairly when he returned? What does this parable say about how God expects us to use the gifts He has given us?

Thursday, November 1

Read Mark 2:13-14. Levi immediately left his current life situation behind and followed Jesus. Reflect on why he might have done that and what the results were for him. Why do many of us have difficulty doing this today?

Friday, November 2

Read Jonah 1:1-15. Have you ever ignored God's calling? What was the result for you?

Saturday, November 3

Read Genesis 6:9-22. Have you ever done something that God asked you to do; even though, it didn't feel comfortable or make sense at the time? What was the result?

Sunday, November 4

Read Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus was not the only person who walked on water. Peter did as well, but only briefly. What allowed Peter to be able to walk on the water? What caused Peter to fall into the water as he walked on it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know what some of God's dreams for your life are? If so, share one of those dreams with the group.
2. In the video, Pastor Craig said "God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes." Have you ever been a part of a situation like this? If so, how did this change you?
3. Describe what you think your life will be like five years from now. How close is this to where you think God wants you to be five years from now?
4. Think about something you may be withholding from God. If you surrendered that something to God, what kind of ripples could be created?
5. What is something God might be leading you to do? (Think of things that keep popping up in your mind or in conversations with others.) What is your next step in making this dream a reality?
6. We sometimes want God to prove Himself to us so that we can trust Him. However, God wants us to trust Him so that He can prove Himself. What is the difference between these two scenarios? What is your personal experience in this situation?
7. Have you ever stepped out in faith, not being able to see the outcome or destination? What kind of ripples were created? What was that like for you?
8. In the video, Pastor Craig said, "The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God will not sustain us." Do you believe this? Why or why not?
9. Do you think you are experiencing and living out the dream that God has in mind for you? What fears might be holding you back? How are you going to create the next ripple and make progress?
10. Part of God's dream is that you create ripples so that others can benefit from beauty and power of the waves you helped create. What are some things you can do to be a ripple creator and wave maker for others?



Live It Out

CREATING DAILY RIPPLES

This week try stepping outside of your comfort zone. During your prayers and conversations with others, listen for an opportunity to do something new and different that fits your life dream. Set aside any fears that are holding you back and give it a try. Look for God's presence and encouragement before, during, and after. Keep a short journal of your experiences through all this.

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear God,

Throughout time You have shown repeatedly that You have big dreams for people's lives. You have big dreams for each of us. Your dreams for my life are bigger and better than I could ever imagine myself, and I can't make it come true on my own. Please show me the dreams You have for me. Lord, what do you want to do through me?

My desire for comfort and security are high. I have duties and responsibilities. I am busy with many things. It's difficult for me to imagine what my life would be like if I started to make changes and take risks. Being different can be uncomfortable. Our society scorns failure. Please help me overcome my fears and reservations about pursuing Your dreams for me. Specifically, I need to work on my fears of...

Thank You for loving me enough to have a big dream for my life. Help me to open my heart and my mind to understand Your dreams for me. Please help me overcome my fears that are preventing me from pursuing these dreams. Keep moving me in the right direction...always towards You. And, Lord, thank you for continuing to be patient with me as I grow.

Amen.

Week 4: Making the Waves Bigger

DAILY READINGS

Monday, November 5

Read Luke 21:1-4. How can we be more like the poor widow when it comes to generosity?

Tuesday, November 6

Read Matthew 6:19-24. What are examples of treasures we store on earth? What are treasures we can store up for heaven?

Wednesday, November 7

Read 1 John 3:16-20. Are there extra possessions in your home (clothes, toys, food, kitchenware, etc...) that you would you be willing to donate to someone in need?

Thursday, November 8

Read Proverbs 11:24-25. What do we gain when we give? How have you experienced this in the past?

Friday, November 9

Read Malachi 3:10-12. How do you feel about the idea of testing God? What do these verses say about the importance God places on generosity?

Saturday, November 10

Read 1 Chronicles 29:13-17. God owns everything. How does the phrase, "We have given You only what comes from Your hand" change your view on giving?

Sunday, November 11

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How do people sometimes put their hope in wealth instead of God? What would it look like to put our hope in God more than wealth?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why would people rather be known as “generous” than “stingy”? What difference does it make?
2. Describe a time when you gave a gift to someone and in return you were also blessed. What was that like for you? What ripple was created from the gift?
3. What are some of the best gifts God has given you? How have they created ripples in your life and the lives of others.
4. Jesus says: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” If you reviewed your spending habits, what would they say about where your heart is?
5. What seeds are you currently planting (money, time, energy)? What ripples and waves are being created; what are you harvesting from those seeds?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank how you feel when you give your financial resources? 1 = Reluctant – 10 = Cheerful. How can you become more cheerful?
7. Pastor Craig said: “Generosity is God’s gift to us.” How do you feel about that phrase? How has generosity—either giving or receiving—been a blessing to you in the past?
8. Do you believe God can do more with your 90% than you can do with your 100%? How have you been blessed through practicing generosity?
9. If you aren’t tithing or practicing generosity, what is holding you back from moving forward in this area of life? What effect might tithing have on your life? What kind of ripples do you think you would experience through greater generosity?
10. The three times we most look like God are when we serve, when we forgive, and when we give. What ripples are created when we do these things? What is your next step in being restored to God’s image?

Live It Out

GUIDED PRAYER

Dear God,

Money is a constant topic on my mind. I spend most of my days working to earn it while I'd rather be spending time with the people I love. Money seems to cause stress. I have to decide where and how to spend it. I let it define my success. I always desire more and am never content. There are so many issues that money brings into my life, but I specifically need help with...

I don't want money to control my life. I would much rather give control to You. I know that tithing is important. It supports the ministries of the church and helps spread the Kingdom of God. It also helps me to be wise with money and prevents me from worshipping it. Yet, it is still so hard to give sometimes. Help me trust You instead of my bank account. Help me remember that my money is a gift from You in the first place. Help me see how my giving is multiplied through the ministry of the church. I want to give cheerfully and abundantly. In order to become a more cheerful giver, help me remember that...

Thank You for all the blessings that you have given me. I want to use them to bless others. Help weaken the power that money has over me. Comfort me when money causes stress. I trust You with my finances. I choose to give cheerfully knowing that my gift will multiply. It is truly more rewarding to give than to receive.

Amen.



Week 5: Sharing Ripples

DAILY READINGS

Monday, November 12

Read Matthew 6:25-33. We are to seek the Kingdom of God first. Are you seeking something before seeking God? If so, what? How is this limiting the ripples you are creating?

Tuesday, November 13

Read John 3:27-30. Where is your focus: gaining recognition for yourself or for God? How can you make God become greater and yourself lesser?

Wednesday, November 14

Read Matthew 6:19-21. What treasures are you storing on earth? What treasures are you storing in heaven?

Thursday, November 15

Read Romans 12:1-2. What sacrifice(s) do you feel led to make to grow closer to Jesus? How will these sacrifices create ripples for the world?

Friday, November 16

Read Colossians 3:1-15. What are some parts of your old life that you have given up? What are parts of your new life in Christ that you have gained?

Saturday, November 17

Read Luke 9:23-27. What does it look like to give up your life for Christ? What do you gain in exchange?

Sunday, November 18

Read Joshua 24:14-18. We all serve something or someone. Why is God more deserving of our full commitment than anything or anyone else?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that you had to sacrifice recently in exchange for something better? Was it hard for you to make this sacrifice? Did it end up being worth it?
2. Pastor Craig said, "To sacrifice something is to make it holy by giving it away in love". Why is "love" critical to this definition?
3. Sacrifice means giving up individual good for something better. It means making decisions and choices valuing the long-term over the short-term. Are you more likely to think and act with the short-term or the long-term in mind? Are you more likely to think and act of yourself first or others first?
4. What is the hardest thing for you to sacrifice: time, comfort, money, relationships, image, plans, other? What makes it so hard for you to sacrifice this thing?
5. What sacrifices do you think are commonly made when following Jesus? What are some of the costs of following Him? How do sacrifices create ripples?
6. What are some of the rewards you experience from following Jesus? Are these worth the sacrifices?
7. Do you feel like you've ever had to sacrifice something big for Jesus? What was it? Were ripples created? What was that sacrifice like?
8. Describe a time when you decided not to make the sacrifice God was asking you to make. What was that experience like for you?
9. What do you think about Pastor Craig's statement: "When you sacrifice something, you're not really losing it. You're just passing it on to someone else, and you will get greater joy from them having it than you having it."? Do you see joy in creating ripples for others?
10. Do you feel God calling you to create some ripples by making some sacrifices right now? How willing are you to follow through and make this sacrifice?



Live It Out

CREATING DAILY RIPPLES

What is something that you feel God is calling you to sacrifice for Him that you haven't been fully giving up? Write down all the possible positive ripples and waves that would come from you making this sacrifice. Spend this week praying that God helps you make this sacrifice with joy.

GUIDED PRAYER

God,

You have made the greatest sacrifice ever for us. There is no greater love in the world than someone giving up their life for their friends. Your sacrifice has given me joy and life to the fullest. It was a ripple that has created huge waves in my life. I know that nothing great is ever achieved without sacrifice. I want to be able to do great things for You and for others, but I'm struggling to sacrifice my...

Help me give these things over to You. Help me love You more than I love the things of this world. When I sacrifice my time, money, and comfort for Your causes, You use me to accomplish things greater than I ever could on my own. Help me sacrifice more time, money, and comfort so that I can...

I love the things that I have: my money, free time, relationships, plans, and possessions. Help me remember that none of these things will be able to offer what You can. Remind me of Your ultimate sacrifice. I want You to be able to use my resources to create ripples to make the world better. I don't want my comfort and my own plans getting in the way of Your plans for me. If you lead me to make sacrifices for Your purposes, help me make these sacrifices joyfully, always remembering that You are good.

Amen.

Lord,

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO DO
THROUGH
ME?