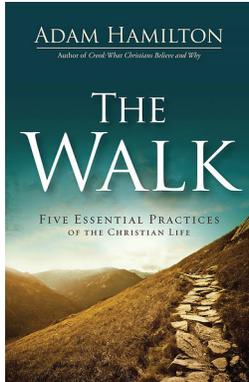


Worship Brainstorming

The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life

Based on a book by Pastor Adam Hamilton
Tues., December 14, 2021 at Booth's home
5725 Westwood Drive, Norton Shores
6:00 p.m. Potluck (lasagna)
7:00-9:30 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship
January 2-30, 2022 (5 weeks)



The worship brainstorming for one five-week series will be held at Booth's home. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

We will have a potluck with lasagna as the main dish at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Safety protocols will be the same as at church (masks are recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated).

More information is available at church and on our website. Pick up the brainstorming packet at church or find it online, read the Scripture readings and Pastor Mary's message synopses, and preview videos when they become available. Please RSVP to Karen Booth at kwbooth@comcast.net, 231-798-8431, or 231-557-1069 or by signing up at church.

Directions to the Booth's from church:

- Take Henry St south to Mount Garfield (1.2 mi)
- Turn right (west) onto Mount Garfield (0.7 mi).
- Mount Garfield dead-ends at Lake Harbor.
- Turn right (north) on Lake Harbor (0.1 mi).
- Turn left (west) on Westwood Drive (0.2 mi).
- The Booths have a 1½ story tan brick house on the left side of the street.

Note: The street numbers will change from the 1500's to the 5700's as the road curves.

Social Justice Issue - January 2022 (?)

Theme: The Spiritual Journey Continues...Picking up the pieces

- Connecting the pieces
- Transformation
- Serving others (passionately)

Metaphors:

- Puzzle/puzzle pieces – making a new picture. Related hands-on item: puzzle piece with scripture reference.
- Mosaic – creating something beautiful from broken pieces

Major spoken/unspeken needs:

- Dealing with fear, which often presents itself as anger and rage. One antidote to fear is serving.
- Peace, sense of belonging, safe communities, coming together, compassion
- Finding a new normal – less busy, better sense of priorities, greater gratitude, increased resilience

Synopsis: How do we walk with Christ – daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? Discover five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God. In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life. In each chapter, Hamilton explores ones of these practices – each of which is intended to be part of our daily walk with Christ – its New Testament foundation, and its potential effect on our personal lives and our lives together as the church.
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/29224-the-walk>

2022 theme connection: Spiritual disciplines are part of our journey. Adam Hamilton is a biblically grounded and accessible author whose centrist approach can help us on our walk.

Promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEipOgGoEWs>

Related ideas:

- This series lends itself to New Year’s resolutions.
- Wear an invitation (t-shirt that acts as a conversation starter). Stewardship.
- Consider offering a small group study using Hamilton’s book as a resource.

Music: “Holy Spirit” by Jesus Culture (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktsPuZvH-rQ>)

Visuals: Keep trees up to create outside scene much like the book cover

Resources:

<https://www.adamhamilton.com/books/the-walk/> - includes free resources like worship slides

Ideas:

- A **photo card** with the five theme words (**worship, study, serve, give, share**)
- A card (or handout of some kind) to share five specific practices:
 - Pray 5 times a day (morning, at mealtimes, evening) and worship weekly.
 - Read 5 verses of Scripture a day.
 - Practice 5 acts of intentional kindness each week.
 - Extend 5 acts of extravagant generosity each month.
 - Invite 5 people to church each year.
- NOTE: This connect to the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
 - Worship - PASSIONATE WORSHIP
 - Study - INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT
 - Serve - RISK-TAKING MISSION and SERVICE
 - Give - EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY
 - Share - RADICAL HOSPITALITY
- Connect each week to a specific spiritual formation opportunity.

NOTE: Pastor Mary will be on a 4-week “leave” and Men’s Group and friends will lead worship and share for the first four weeks of the series. **We’re in the season of Epiphany when we focus on God coming for all the world - and God “showing up” in our lives in powerful ways. What’s the “a-ha moment” for you as it relates to the theme of the day?** The messages will be highly reflective, and preachers are encouraged to use personal stories (their own God moments) as they relate to the topic. :)

For 9:00 a.m. service: Familiar hymns/songs will be used and a song leader(s) is needed.

For both services: We need someone to lead Children’s Time/Time with Kids.

January 2, 2022: “Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah”

One worship service at 10:00 a.m. - EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Brad Hilleary preaching, **Larry Jorgenson** – 9:00 AM worship leader

Scripture: Psalm 95: 1-7 (Contemporary English Version) “Worship and Obey the LORD”

95 Sing joyful songs to the LORD!

Praise the mighty rock where we are safe.

² Come to worship him with thankful hearts and songs of praise.

³ The LORD is the greatest God, king over all other gods.

⁴ He holds the deepest part of the earth in his hands,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The ocean is the Lord’s because he made it,
and with his own hands he formed the dry land.

⁶ Bow down and worship
the LORD our Creator!

⁷ The LORD is our God, and we are his people,
the sheep he takes care of in his own pasture.

Listen to God’s voice today!

Scripture: Revelation 4: 8-11 (New International Version)

⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Synopsis: Worshiping regularly with gratitude and nurturing our prayer life is a vital part of walking with Jesus. Worship is our witness that God is worthy of our praise. Prayer fosters an intimate connection and relationship with God.

Felt need: To understand what worship is (our response as God’s creation to God as Creator), what worship does (connects us to God and each other), and how prayer is worship

Visuals: Patterns of prayer - praise, thanksgiving, confession, petition, yielding; 5 finger prayer

Hands-on item: Church of the Resurrection's worship "report card" (p. 30)

Activity: Holy Communion - **Rev. John Thompson will preside.** Pray 5 times a day (morning, at mealtimes, evening) and worship weekly.

Media possibilities:

- "A Psalm of Worship." Length: 1:33. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Visual liturgy. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/54350/a-psalm-of-worship>
- "A Prayer for the New Year." Length: 1:55. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Based on the Prayer of St. Francis. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/16535/a-prayer-for-the-new-year>
- "Worship Him." Length: 0:40. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. So many of us walk into a worship service completely distracted by the things that life throws our way. It's imperative that we remind our people "why" we are at church and we remove the focus from ourselves and turn our full attention toward God. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/64257/worship-him>
- "The Word on Worship." Length: 1:50. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. How churches worship may vary from one congregation to the next, but Who we worship is our great unifier. The Word declares that we worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, and this video combines those Scriptures with an inspiring music track. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/46478/the-word-on-worship>

Music: CHOIR - *What Feast of Love* (WS 3170)

Children's Time:

Prayer: *Lord, help me to see the beauty of this world you've given to us. Help me to notice the blessings all around me. Help me to remember that you are God, and I am not. Help me to trust that somehow you will see me through even the painful things in life and bring good from them. Grant me a grateful heart. Finally, help me to be a living hallelujah. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

NOTE: Wesley's Covenant Prayer could be used as a part of worship.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee.

Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

*And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.*

January 9, 2022: “Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying Attention”

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

Jim Post preaching, **Paul Powers** – 9:00 AM worship leader

Scripture: II Timothy 3: 14-17 (New International Version)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Scripture: Psalm 119: 105 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Scripture: Psalm 19: 1-4 (Common English Bible)

¹ 19 Heaven is declaring God’s glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.
² 2 One day gushes the news to the next,
and one night informs another what needs to be known.
³ 3 Of course, there’s no speech, no words—their voices can’t be heard—
⁴ 4 but their sound extends throughout the world;
their words reach the ends of the earth.
God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

Synopsis: Listening is an important skill we hone, and listening to God’s voice is no exception. God speaks to us in many ways, including general revelation (nature, art, life experiences, people, conscience, intuition, reason) and special revelation (Holy Spirit, Scripture, Jesus as God’s Word to us).

Felt need: To pay closer attention to God’s revelation and to commit to deeper study of Scripture

Visuals: BIBLE (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth)

Hands-on item:

Activity: Read 5 verses of Scripture a day and study the Bible in a small group.

Media possibilities:

- “What If.” Length: 1:47. Cost: \$15.00. Web license: Yes. This simple mini-movie is designed to stir questions in non-believers and believers alike, from those who are coming to church for the first time, to those Christians who simply do the church thing of Sundays each week with no real depth. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/60064/what-if>
- “The Good Earth.” Length: 2:05. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: No. This inspirational piece is a celebration of nature and the beauty of God’s creation. Contains audio of the Apollo 8 astronauts as they looked down on earth from their lunar orbit. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/96245/the-good-earth>
- “Are You Listening?” Length: 3:08. Cost: \$19.98. Web license: Yes. We serve an active God who does speak in this day and age. One primary way he speaks is through His Word. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/20465/are-you-listening>
- “Stop and Listen.” Length: 3:28. Cost: \$20.00. Web license: No. In our busy and distracted lives, it’s easy to think God doesn’t speak. But what if He does speak, and we’re not listening? <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/54031/stop-and-listen>

Music: *Thy Word* (UMH 601)

Children’s Time:

Prayer: *Lord, teach me to listen. Help me to pay attention to the ways you are revealed in the world around me - in my everyday life. But also, dear Lord, help me to read and study the Scriptures, finding in them the words of life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

NOTE: Highlight opportunities for Bible study, prayer group, GriefShare, etc.

January 16, 2022: “Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me”

SUNDAY closest to Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Day

Special Sunday offering for Human Relations Day

Jeff Verry preaching, **Larry Jorgenson** – 9:00 AM worship leader

Scripture: Joshua 24: 14-15 (Common English Bible)

¹⁴ “So now, revere the LORD. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if it

seems wrong in your opinion to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the LORD.”

Scripture: Matthew 20: 20-28 (CEB) “Request from James and John’s Mother”

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus along with her sons. Bowing before him, she asked a favor of him.

²¹ “What do you want?” he asked.

She responded, “Say that these two sons of mine will sit, one on your right hand and one on your left, in your kingdom.”

²² Jesus replied, “You don’t know what you’re asking! Can you drink from the cup that I’m about to drink from?”

They said to him, “We can.”

²³ He said to them, “You will drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left hand isn’t mine to give. It belongs to those for whom my Father prepared it.”

²⁴ Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them over and said, “You know that those who rule the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. ²⁶ But that’s not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. ²⁷ Whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Human One didn’t come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people.”

Scripture: Isaiah 11: 11-17 (CEB)

¹¹ On that day, the Lord will extend his hand a second time to reclaim the survivors of God’s people who are left from Assyria and from Egypt, from Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

¹² God will raise a signal for the nations and gather the outcast men of Israel. God will collect the dispersed women of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³ Ephraim’s jealousy will cease, and Judah’s harassment will be eliminated. Ephraim won’t be jealous of Judah, and Judah won’t harass Ephraim. ¹⁴ But they will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east.

Edom and Moab will be under their power, and the Ammonites will be their subjects.

¹⁵ The LORD will split the tongue of the Egyptian sea. God will wave a hand over the Euphrates with a powerful wind and break it into seven streams so that it can be crossed in sandals. ¹⁶ Then there will be a highway from Assyria for the survivors of God’s people who are left from Assyria, just as there was for Israel on the day they went up from the land of Egypt.

Scripture: Micah 6: 6-8 “What God Requires”

Scripture: Proverbs 31: 8-9 (New International Version)

⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Scripture: John 13: 1-17 “Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet”

*This is way too many options, but it’s a start.

Synopsis: The call to follow Jesus is fundamentally a call to service, which we do both individually and together in our church.

Felt need: To be open to the opportunities to serve where we are (even when it’s an unexpected interruption) and make the connection to our faith

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Practice 5 acts of intentional kindness each week and serve with others.

Media possibilities:

- “Serve. Not Just a Check.” Length: 0:42. Cost: \$6.99. Web license: No. Watch as our main character wrestles with the call to serve, rather than just write a check.
<https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/61467/serve-not-just-a-check>
- “What You Do Matters – Serve.” Length: 2:51. Cost: \$14.99. Serving is a foundation of the Christian life and models the servant heart of Jesus.
<https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/76921/what-you-do-matters--serve>
- “Perspective.” Length: 1:40. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Much of life is perspective. Two people can read the same scripture or look at the same command of Jesu, and hear two completely different thing. Great message opener for serving.
<https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/29019/perspective>

Music: *Here I Am, Lord* (UMH 593)

Children’s Time:

Prayer: *Lord, you taught us that your glory is revealed when we, human beings made in your image, extend your love and care for us to others. Make me aware of your “nudges,” and give me a heart that is open to interruption when you need me. Amen.*

NOTE: Wesley’s Covenant Prayer could be used as a part of worship.

January 23, 2022: “Give: Where Your Treasure Is”

Mike Layman preaching, **Paul Powers** – 9:00 AM worship leader

Scripture: Matthew 6: 19-24 (Common English Bible)

Earthly and heavenly treasures

¹⁹ “Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰ Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don’t eat them and where thieves don’t break in and steal them. ²¹ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Seeing and serving

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how terrible that darkness will be! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Scripture: Luke 6: 38 (Contemporary English Version)

³⁸ If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated.

Scripture: Acts 20: 32-35 (Common English Bible)

³² Now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all whom God has made holy. ³³ I haven’t craved anyone’s silver, gold, or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that I have provided for my own needs and for those of my companions with my own hands. ³⁵ In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus’ words: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Scripture: Luke 12: 13-21 “The Parable of the Rich Fool”

Scripture: I Timothy 6: 6-10, 17-19 (The Message)

⁶⁻⁸ A devout life does bring wealth, but it’s the rich simplicity of being yourself before God. Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless, if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that’s enough.

⁹⁻¹⁰ But if it’s only money these leaders are after, they’ll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Tell those rich in this world’s wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

Synopsis: The way we spend our money is a kind of “selfie” that shows us our priorities, and identifies gratitude and generosity as keys to living a good life. Jesus calls us to invest in God’s kingdom rather than possessions.

Felt need: To experience “the good life” - wanting what you already have by giving thanks for what you already possess, living purposefully and meaning-fully, being generous toward God and others (which cultivates joy)

Visuals: Tax return selfie (p. 88)

Hands-on item:

Activity: Extend 5 acts of extravagant generosity each month and give generously through the church.

Media possibilities:

- “Generosity.” Length: 1:40. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. This reminds us of how Christ calls us to bless others with what we have been given. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/101221/generosity>
- “Reimagine Generosity.” Length: 3:00. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: No. This video casts a vision for whole life generosity that extends beyond just the financial piece and shows that generosity is core to God’s character. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/60866/reimagine-generosity>
- “Today We Give.” Length: 1:25. Cost: Free with subscription. Using scripture from Matthew 6: 19-21, this is a statement from us to God expressing the heart behind why we give. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/63990/today-we-give>

Music:

Children’s Time:

Prayer: *Thank you, God, for everything I have. I recognize that all of life is a gift from you.*

Please help me to become more generous, more willing to share with others. Help me to live beneath my means so that I might have enough margin to give. Help me to be generous toward you and others, remembering your unending generosity toward me. Amen.

January 30, 2022: “Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light”

Pastor Mary Ivanov preaching, **Larry Jorgenson** – 9:00 AM worship leader

Scripture: Matthew 4: 18-25 “Jesus Calls His First Disciples and Heals the Sick” (NIV?)

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13-16 (New Living Translation) “Teaching about Salt and Light”

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Scripture: II Corinthians 5: 16-21 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁶ We are careful not to judge people by what they seem to be, though we once judged Christ in that way. ¹⁷ Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. ¹⁸ God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us, and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others.

¹⁹ What we mean is that God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace. ²⁰ We were sent to speak for Christ, and God is begging you to listen to our message. We speak for Christ

and sincerely ask you to make peace with God. ²¹ Christ never sinned! But God treated him as a sinner, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God.

Scripture: I Peter 3: 15-16 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁵ Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. ¹⁶ Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear. This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ.

Synopsis: We are called to bear witness to Christ by sharing our faith with others, which we do by letting our light shine and by using words to tell people what Jesus means to us.

Felt need: To hear the challenge and importance of our witness and testimony to carrying out the Great Commission - and to be intentional about developing our short testimony

Visuals: Facebook “like”

Hands-on item:

Activity: Let others know you are a Christian and invite 5 people to church each year - use FRAN (friends, relatives, acquaintances, neighbors).

Media possibilities:

- “Forty.” Length: 1:16. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. How many times must the gospel be shared before someone will believe? How many times should you pour another cup? <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/14888/forty>
- “Go.” Length: 1:50. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. It’s never been more possible to be of the world without really being in it. Maybe it’s time to stop standing at the water’s edge and hoping the chaos won’t reach us. Maybe it’s time to go. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/48009/go>

Music:

Children’s Time:

Prayer: *Lord, thank you for your love for us. Thank you for the people you brought into my life who brought me to you. Thank you for giving them the courage to live their faith in such a way that I saw you through them. Bless them for the blessing they have been to me. Use me, Lord, as you used them. Let me be your light that pushes away darkness. Let me be your witness every day. Let me be a fisher who draws people to you. Let me be someone who allows others to see a reflection of you. Amen.*