



WHATEVER IT TAKES.

*Prayer and
Small Group Guide*



WHATEVER IT TAKES

Whatever It Takes is more than our sermon series kicking off 2024, it's a reminder to continue our focus on helping people find their way home. Let this wristband be a daily prompt, encouraging you to not only pray for NorthStar but also for our families, friends, coworkers, community, and other individuals around the world who need to hear the message of hope found only in Jesus Christ.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

JOHN 3:16-17 (NLT)

Hello NorthStar Family!

I'm thrilled to share something special with you:
The Whatever It Takes Prayer and Small Group Study
Guide!

At NorthStar, our mission is to help people in our
community and around the world find their way home
through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

This guide will be your go-to-resource as we dive together
into a church-wide study that is tied to our sermon series
in January and February of 2024. It will be an invaluable
tool for our church family as we pray and study God's
word together seeking His guidance for our personal lives
and our mission here at NorthStar. Inside, you'll find a
weekly Prayer Guide that will prompt you to pray through
Scripture during the week, links to our daily devotion tool
called Digging Deeper, and our Small Group Study Guide.

Did you know that we have over 1,000 people involved in
Small Groups here at NorthStar? Small Groups are where
discipleship happens as we grow in our daily walk to be
more Christ-like. If you are not in a Group, we have a
place for you, and now is a perfect time to take the
opportunity to join and connect with others.

Thank you for making NorthStar your home. I'm so
excited about the journey of learning and growing
together!



Mike

Mike Linch, Senior Pastor



WEEK ONE

"When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.'

But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, 'What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!'

Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, 'Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.' Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!'

And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, 'We've never seen anything like this before!'"

MARK 2:1-12 (NLT)

WEEK ONE

MONDAY

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) *“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”*

Pray for the Lord to give you the bold faith He gave the friends who brought their friend to see Jesus.

TUESDAY

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) *“Make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

Pray for the Lord to show you places in your heart where you need to forgive so that you may come before Him with a pure heart.

WEDNESDAY

Galatians 6:9 (NLT) *“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”*

Pray for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep doing the next right thing so that over time your life will be a gift back to Jesus.

THURSDAY

Hebrews 3:6 (NLT) *“But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God’s entire house. And we are God’s house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.”*

Pray for the same faith that tore off the roof to heal a friend who was paralyzed! Pray for a trust and faith that only the Lord can provide in your life.

FRIDAY

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) *“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”*

Thank the Lord for faithful friends who support you along your spiritual journey. Pray that you may be that friend to others.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Hebrews 11:1 & Luke 19:10

Pray for the lost. Pray that this week the Lord will show you how to be a light to those who don't yet know His love. Pray for the lost in our community that they will find their way home to Jesus.



**TAKE TIME WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND
SCRIPTURE READING TO SEEK HIS DIRECTION IN
YOUR DAILY WALK.**

**SCAN CODE TO CHECK OUT NORTHSTAR'S DAILY
DEVOTION DIGGING DEEPER.**

JANUARY 21, 2024

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Can you think of a time when a friend helped you when you were in need?

QUICK REVIEW The Healing of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, what part of the message had your name on it? What encouraged you? What challenged you?

LET'S GO DEEPER

- 1) Read Mark 2:1-12. If you were one of the paralytic's friends and saw the crowds, what would you likely have done?
 - Suggest we come back later
 - Politely wait in line
 - Make a hole in the roof
 - Go along, but make it clear it wasn't my idea

2) What obstacles did the crowds encounter in their efforts to hear from Jesus? What obstacles are the unreached people in our community facing regarding hearing the good news of Jesus? How are you working to remove some of these obstacles in your life?

3) What did these men believe about Jesus? What makes you think that?

4) What did Jesus think when he saw the “Whatever It Takes” attitude of the paralytic’s friends? How did He respond? Does His response surprise you?

5) In this story, Jesus addresses the paralytic’s sin problem and offers him forgiveness. Why is sin such a big deal to God? Why doesn’t God turn His head and say, “Boys will be boys”? What insight do Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 6:23 provide in answering this question?

6) Do you agree with Mike's statement, "The greatest need in our community is forgiveness"? Why or why not?

7) Read Luke 14:28-33. What did Jesus say His followers must be willing to do? What were the four friends willing to do to bring their friend to Jesus? What do you think it cost them?

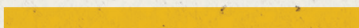
CHALLENGE

What are you willing to do this week to help bring another person to Jesus?

PRAY

Close your time together by asking God to give you a "whatever it takes" attitude to reach others for Jesus.

NOTES







WEEK TWO

“Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. ‘Zacchaeus!’ he said. ‘Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.’ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. ‘He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,’ they grumbled.

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!’ Jesus responded, ‘Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.’”

LUKE 19:1-10 (NLT)

WEEK TWO

MONDAY

Mark 10:51-52 (NLT) *“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. ‘My Rabbi,’ the blind man said, ‘I want to see!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Go, for your faith has healed you.’ Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.”*

Pray and thank the Lord for seeing the unseen. Thank Him for seeing YOU and guiding your heart back to Him.

TUESDAY

Matthew 5:16 (NLT) *“In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”*

Pray for the Lord to let others see Jesus through you!

WEDNESDAY

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT) *“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”*

Pray for Jesus to help you follow His example so that others may follow Him.

THURSDAY

Matthew 5:6 (NLT) *“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”*

Pray for the Lord to give you a hunger for His word and a desire to live in His ways.

FRIDAY

Psalm 63:1 (NLT) *“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.”*

Pray for the Lord to give you a desire to seek Him earnestly! Pray that He will make room today for you to spend time with Him and build a closer daily relationship with Him that your soul longs for.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

1 John 4:17-18 & Acts 1:8

Pray for those in our community who have yet to hear and discover their path to Jesus Christ. Spend time praying for boldness to share your faith with family and friends.



**TAKE TIME WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND
SCRIPTURE READING TO SEEK HIS DIRECTION IN
YOUR DAILY WALK.**

**SCAN CODE TO CHECK OUT NORTHSTAR'S DAILY
DEVOTION DIGGING DEEPER.**

JANUARY 28, 2024

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

When was the last time you climbed a tree? Could you still do it?

QUICK REVIEW Conversion of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, what part of the message had your name on it? What encouraged you? What challenged you?

LET'S GO DEEPER

1) Read Luke 19:1-10. Zacchaeus was a hated, dishonest, and rich tax collector for the Romans. If you had been Zacchaeus when Jesus stopped under his tree and told him to "come down immediately," how would you have felt?

- Afraid
- Honored
- Excited
- Embarrassed
- Suspicious
- Surprised He knew my name

2) Why do you think “seeing” Jesus was so important to Zacchaeus? What could Jesus offer him that he didn’t already have?

3) Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus’ house - was it that He needed a place to stay or something else? What was the public’s reaction to this event?

4) Read Leviticus 5:5-7. According to the Law, what was Zacchaeus required to do to make restitution? What did Zacchaeus end up doing?

5) In verse 9, what did Jesus see that caused Him to say, “Today, salvation has come to this house”? According to James 2:14-16, what always accompanies true saving faith?

6) Can you think of someone who has experienced a dramatic change in their life after meeting Jesus? What is different about them?

7) What could we do at NorthStar to help more unreached people in our community “see” Jesus and experience the hope and forgiveness He brings? What could your Small Group do? What could you do?

CHALLENGE

Is there someone you know who needs to “see” Jesus and experience the life change only He can bring? What are you willing to do to help them see Jesus?

PRAY

Close your time together by asking God to help you live a life that helps people “see” Jesus in you.



WEEK THREE

"One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus replied, 'What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?' The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.'" And, "Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!' The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'

Jesus replied with a story: 'A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. 'By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

'Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

'Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?' Jesus asked. The man replied, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Then Jesus said, 'Yes, now go and do the same.'"

LUKE 10:25-37 (NLT)

WEEK THREE

MONDAY

Matthew 5:7 (NLT) *“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”*

Pray that you would have mercy and compassion on your neighbors just as Jesus shows mercy to you.

TUESDAY

Mark 12:42-43 (NLT) *“Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions.’”*

Pray for the Lord to help your compassion outweigh the cost of caring about others’ needs. Pray that He enables you to give your time, talent, and resources to help others find their way to Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 25:40 (NLT) *“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”*

Pray that your neighbors will be made in the image of Jesus. Pray that He will help you love them and seek the best for them.

THURSDAY

Luke 13:10-14 (NLT) *“One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, ‘Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!’ Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God! But the leader of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day.*

'There are six days of the week for working,' he said to the crowd. 'Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.'

Pray that the Lord gives you eyes to see the needs of the people around you through the busyness of your schedule. Pray that the Lord will allow margin in your day for people needing compassion and care.

FRIDAY

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) *"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."*

Pray that the Lord, who shows you mercy, will show you how to have mercy on others.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Matthew 28:18-20 & 1 John 3:18

Pray for the Lord to increase your mercy daily. Pray that this week the Lord will show you how to be a light to those who don't yet know His love. Pray for the lost in our community that they will find their way home to Jesus.



TAKE TIME WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE READING TO SEEK HIS DIRECTION IN YOUR DAILY WALK.

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FEBRUARY 4, 2024

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? What happened?

QUICK REVIEW

Parable of the Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37)

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, what part of the message had your name on it? What encouraged you? What challenged you?

LET'S GO DEEPER

- 1) In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus told a parable in response to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Why do you think Jesus answered his question with a story?

- 2) After reading this parable, who would you say is your "neighbor"?

3) Priests and Levites had different jobs in and around the temple. Priests were authorized to perform the sacrifices. Levites were set apart to help the priests. Worship in the temple could not have taken place without the combined efforts of the priests and Levites. In this story, they are finished with their duties and are traveling away from Jerusalem. Why do you think the priest and the Levite didn't stop to help the man who had been robbed?

4) If you were on your way to an important appointment and saw someone in obvious need, what thoughts would battle in your mind about how you would respond?

5) Why did the Samaritan (hated by the Jews) stop and help the man? In view of 1 John 3:18, what quality did the Samaritan have that the priest and Levite didn't?



6) What did it cost the Samaritan to help the man? Make a list of what it cost the Samaritan. What does this tell you about the Samaritan?

7) Do your schedule and finances have enough margin to help others when needs arise? If not, what changes could you make?

CHALLENGE

Has God already placed “neighbors” in your path that you need to bless? Will you commit to being a Good Samaritan to them this week?

PRAY

As you close your time together, pray that God will give you a willing heart to help those around you in need, whoever they are.



WEEK FOUR

“So Jesus told them this story: ‘If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!’”

LUKE 15:3-7 (NLT)

WEEK FOUR

MONDAY

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NLT) *“You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.”*

Pray to thank God with UNSPEAKABLE JOY for your salvation! Thank Him that He found you and led you to trust in Jesus as your Savior.

TUESDAY

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NLT) *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.”*

Pray for courage to tell others about Jesus. Remember, the Lord is with you and will never leave you!!

WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 51:16 (NLT) *“And I have put my words in your mouth and hidden you safely in my hand. I stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth. I am the one who says to Israel, ‘You are my people!’”*

Pray for the Lord to give you His words when you speak to someone about Jesus and what He has done for you.

THURSDAY

Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT) *“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”*

Pray for the Lord, the “Mighty Savior” to give you strength and courage to show others the way to Jesus.

FRIDAY

Psalms 89:8-9 (NLT) *“O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies, where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord? You are entirely faithful. You rule the oceans. You subdue their storm-tossed waves.”*

Pray that the God of Angel Armies gives you courage and words to share with those who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

Romans 8:26-28 & John 20:21

Spend some time sitting with Jesus today. Thank Him for all He has done and let Him know what you need today. Pray for the lost or maybe for the one that God has placed on your heart. Pray that this week the Lord will show you how to be a light to that person who doesn’t yet know His love. Pray for the lost in our community that they will find their way home to Jesus.



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FEBRUARY 11, 2024

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Have you ever misplaced or lost something of great value? How did that make you feel? How did you react?

QUICK REVIEW parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)

Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, what part of the message had your name on it? What encouraged you? What challenged you?

LET'S GO DEEPER

- 1) Read Luke 15:1-7. What question was Jesus answering by telling the story of the lost sheep? What point did Jesus make by telling this story?

2) Why do you think we are compared to sheep? What does Isaiah 53:6 say that we all have in common? What does this story reveal about us?

3) In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables - the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. In each story, what is God portrayed as doing (see vv. 4, 8, 20)? What do you think this tells us about the heart of God?

4) In this parable, Jesus is portrayed as the seeking shepherd. How does John 10:11-13 describe Jesus as our Shepherd?

5) According to verse 7, what happens when a lost person comes to know Jesus? What does this say about each person's value to God?

6) Read the following passages: Colossians 4:5-6, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15-16. With these verses in mind, what practical steps can you take to be part of God's search and rescue team?

CHALLENGE

Can you think of someone who needs to be found by Jesus? Will you commit to helping them find their way home to the Lord?

PRAY

Close your time together by praying for the salvation of someone close to you who needs to be found by the Lord.



DIGGING DEEPER

Digging Deeper is another discipleship tool at NorthStar that allows you to further reflect on the sermon for the week and dig deeper into new insights and how these apply to your daily life. Sign-up today!



January 22 - 26:

Sellers Hickman serves as College Pastor at NorthStar Church and loves cheering on his Ole Miss Rebels. He and his wife, Hannah, live in Dallas, GA. with their one-year-old, Emery. He also serves as the chaplain for the KSU Men's Basketball team.



January 29 - February 2:

Bridget Turner serves as the Director of Women's Groups at NorthStar Church. She and her husband, Steve, live in Powder Springs and have two young adult children, Hannah, and Joshua. She enjoys watching football, traveling, and reading.



February 5 - 9:

Steve Roach serves as the Pastor of Spiritual Maturity at NorthStar Church. He and his wife, Amy, live in Acworth and have three girls, Olivia, Sydney, and Hayley and one son, Colton. He enjoys watching sports and spending time with his family.



February 12-16:

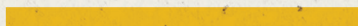
C.A. Phillips serves as Communications Pastor and Director of Men's Groups at NorthStar Church. He is a graduate of the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia, and he loves the Dawgs and the Atlanta Braves. He has two (grown) boys and lives in Kennesaw with his wife, Amy, and their German Shepherd, Abby.




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NOTES



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You are designed to do life in community with other people, and at NorthStar Church, there are many opportunities to get connected and experience the joy of being a part of a church family! Whether it's finding a small group, serving on a volunteer team, publicly declaring your faith through baptism, or becoming a member of the church, there's a Next Step awaiting you on your journey, and we'd love to help.

[NORTHSTARCHURCH.ORG/NEXT-STEPS](https://northstarchurch.org/next-steps)



FIND YOUR SMALL GROUP

[NORTHSTARCHURCH.ORG/GROUPS](https://northstarchurch.org/groups)