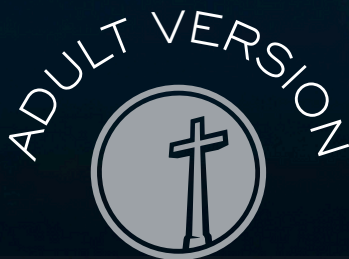


**NEW MERCIES**

**NEW MERCIES**

**NEW MERCIES**

BECAUSE YESTERDAY DOESN'T  
GET THE LAST WORD



Hey church family! We are excited to introduce our newest devotional booklet. These booklets are designed to complement our current sermon series and foster deeper engagement within our church community. Each week features five reading and devotional days, carefully crafted to align with the themes of our weekly Sunday sermons. By journeying through these devotions together, we aim to create a unified church experience that enhances our collective understanding and application of God's Word.

Each devotional includes a corresponding scripture reading and a scripture memory verse, encouraging us to immerse ourselves in God's Word daily. To guide our study, we will be using the H.E.A.R. method, which stands for Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. This method is explained in detail on the next page and provides a structured approach to help us reflect on and internalize the scriptures.

Additionally, each week's devotionals are designed to lead into the coming Sunday sermon. This allows us the opportunity to think through common themes and topics that will be explored in the sermon. By studying these themes throughout the week, we can come to Sunday services with a deeper understanding and readiness to engage with the main study of the text.

Our hope is that this devotional booklet will not only deepen our personal faith but also strengthen our collective bond as a church family. By engaging with the same scriptures and themes, we can support and encourage one another in our spiritual growth. Let's embark on this journey together, seeking to grow closer to God and to each other through His Word.

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

The H.E.A.R. Method is a great tool to study and explore God's Word. Explained below, you can use this method as a guide to your daily Bible reading each day.

**H** Highlight - As you read through each daily passage, several verses and words will stand out to you. Highlight them and consider writing them out. You can even give them a title that holds meaning for you.

**E** Explain. Explain what the text means. Why was it written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? What does the Holy Spirit intend to communicate in this text?

**A** Apply. Write 2 to 5 sentences about how the text applies to your life. This bridges the gap between the ancient text and your modern life. Ask questions such as: How can this help me? What do these verses mean to us today? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

**R** Respond. Respond to the passage you have read. Your response may take different forms and change from day to day, based on your reading. It may be a prayer, either for your life or on behalf of someone else. You may write down a specific action step you need to take. You might describe how the passage convicts you to change. Keep in mind that your response to scripture is about you and you alone, not other people or society at large.

# THE BREAK BEFORE THE BREAKTHROUGH

**Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:1–20**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:31**

Jeremiah doesn't rush past the pain. He names it. He remembers it. The opening of Lamentations 3 is raw and heavy, giving language to seasons where hope feels buried under grief, loss, and unanswered prayer. This kind of honesty reminds us that faith doesn't require pretending—we can bring God our full sorrow. Yet even here, something important is happening. This deep remembering creates space for deeper dependence. Before restoration can come, the soul must acknowledge what is broken. Sometimes the “break” is not punishment but preparation, a painful pause where God is quietly reshaping our trust.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What pain or disappointment have you been carrying quietly?
- How might naming your sorrow before God be the first step toward healing?

# WAITING IN DARKNESS

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 13:1–6**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:31**

Psalm 13 opens with four haunting questions: “How long?” David does not question God’s existence—he questions God’s silence. This psalm captures the ache of waiting when relief does not come quickly and prayers seem unanswered. The darkness here is not brief or imagined; it lingers. David feels forgotten, overwhelmed, and surrounded by the possibility of defeat. Yet he chooses to stay in conversation with God rather than withdrawing from Him. This is the quiet courage of faith in the waiting room. What makes this psalm powerful is not the speed of deliverance but the direction of David’s heart. Somewhere between lament and praise, something shifts. David remembers God’s faithful love. Breakthrough does not always begin with external change; sometimes it begins with a renewed trust in who God has always been. The break before the breakthrough teaches us endurance.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What does waiting on God stir up in you—fear, frustration, or trust?
- How can remembering God’s past faithfulness help you endure your present season?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

# PRESSED BUT NOT ABANDONED

**Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7–12**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:31**

Paul's words remind us that weakness is not a flaw—it is a feature of God's design. We are described as fragile jars of clay, carrying a powerful treasure within. The pressure Paul describes is relentless: afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down. Yet each hardship is paired with a promise—we are not crushed, not in despair, not abandoned, not destroyed. The breaking does not negate God's presence; it reveals it. This passage reframes suffering as a platform for God's power. The breaking exposes what is eternal and what is temporary. God allows the cracks so that His light can shine through us more clearly. The breakthrough Paul speaks of is not comfort but resurrection life at work in us. When we feel emptied, God is often making room for something greater. The break before the breakthrough reminds us that surrender precedes strength, and death to self precedes new life.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where do you currently feel pressed or stretched beyond your capacity?
- How might God be revealing His strength through your weakness?

# SILENCE BEFORE THE STORM

**Scripture Reading: Job 23:1–10**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:31**

Job longs for God's presence but cannot find Him. He searches in every direction, yet God feels hidden. This silence is perhaps one of the hardest trials Job faces—not suffering alone, but suffering without explanation. Still, Job clings to a bold declaration: God knows the way he takes, and when tested, he will emerge purified. Faith here is not certainty—it is trust without clarity. The break before the breakthrough often includes silence, not because God is indifferent, but because He is refining. Silence stretches our faith, stripping it of conditions and demands. Job's confidence is not rooted in understanding but in God's character. The refining fire is painful, but it is purposeful. God is at work even when He seems quiet.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How do you respond when God feels silent?
- What does it look like to trust God's character without full understanding?

# FROM DEATH TO LIFE

**Scripture Reading: John 11:32–44**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:31**

Lazarus's story reminds us that Jesus often arrives later than we expect—but never too late. Martha and Mary had prayed, hoped, and waited, only to experience loss. The tomb represents finality, disappointment, and unanswered prayers. Yet Jesus does not rush past their grief. He weeps. The breakthrough begins not with a miracle, but with compassion. Then Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave. What was broken becomes restored. What was dead is made alive. This story teaches us that God's delays are not denials. Sometimes the break is necessary so the breakthrough will clearly display God's glory. Resurrection power often comes after we've given up hope—but never after God has.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where have you felt like hope has been buried?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus even when His timing hurts?



# HOPE REMEMBERED

**Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:21–26**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:22–23**

There are moments when pain becomes so loud that it feels like it tells the whole truth about our lives.

Lamentations 3 opens with honest grief, but verses 21–26 mark a holy interruption—a turning point of remembrance. Jeremiah does not deny his suffering; instead, he chooses to remember something deeper than his despair. “Yet I call this to mind,” he says, signaling a deliberate shift of focus. Hope is not found by pretending things are better than they are, but by anchoring the heart to who God has always been. The turning point begins not when circumstances change, but when perspective does. This passage reminds us that God’s mercy is not exhausted by our hardest seasons. His faithfulness is not seasonal or situational; it is renewed every morning, even the mornings that arrive heavy and quiet.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What truth about God do you need to intentionally “call to mind” today?
- How might waiting on the Lord reshape how you view your current season?

# THE TURNING OF A SHEPHERD'S HEART

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 23:1–6**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:22–23**

Psalm 23 is familiar, but familiarity can sometimes dull its power. David writes not from comfort alone, but from lived experience—valleys, threats, and uncertainty. The turning point in this psalm is subtle yet profound: David shifts from describing his circumstances to declaring God's presence. "Even when I go through the darkest valley," he says, "you are with me." The valley does not disappear, but fear begins to lose its grip. The presence of the Shepherd becomes the defining reality. What makes this psalm a turning point is not the absence of danger but the assurance of guidance. God leads, restores, protects, and prepares—even in front of enemies. David's confidence is rooted in relationship, not outcomes. The turning point comes when the soul rests in who God is rather than what lies ahead.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where might God be inviting you to trust His presence rather than fear the path?
- How does viewing God as your Shepherd change how you face uncertainty?

# FROM FEAR TO FAITH

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:10–14, 21–22**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:22–23**

Standing at the edge of the Red Sea, Israel faced an impossible choice: move forward into the unknown or be overtaken by what pursued them. Fear dominated their words, but God spoke a turning-point promise through Moses—"The LORD will fight for you." The miracle did not begin with the sea splitting; it began when the people were called to stand still and trust. Obedience preceded deliverance. This story reminds us that turning points often come when escape seems impossible. God creates a way where none appears, not merely to rescue, but to reveal His power. The crossing of the sea redefined Israel's identity—they were no longer slaves fleeing Egypt but a people redeemed by God. Sometimes the greatest turning point is not the obstacle removed, but the faith formed in the process. God still parts seas, but He also reshapes hearts along the way.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What fear feels like it is "chasing" you right now?
- Where might God be asking you to trust Him before you see the way forward?

# A PRAYER THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

**Scripture Reading: Jonah 2:1–10**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:22–23**

Jonah's turning point did not come on dry land—it came in the depths. Inside the fish, stripped of control and options, Jonah finally prayed. His circumstances forced an honest reckoning with God. Jonah remembered the Lord not because life improved, but because desperation clarified what mattered most. This prayer marked a shift from rebellion to surrender. Jonah's story reminds us that God's mercy meets us even in consequences. The fish was not just discipline; it was deliverance. God used confinement to bring restoration. The turning point happened when Jonah acknowledged God's sovereignty and grace. Often, our deepest spiritual shifts occur when we stop running and start praying. God is never absent from the depths, and repentance can become the doorway to renewal.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What has your current struggle revealed about your need for God?
- How might surrender open the door to God's restoring work?

# THE RESURRECTION TURNING POINT

**Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1–8, 30–32**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:22–23**

The resurrection of Jesus stands as the ultimate turning point in all of history. What looked like final loss became eternal victory. The women came to the tomb expecting death, but instead encountered hope alive. Jesus' resurrection did not erase grief—it transformed it. Fear turned into joy, confusion into clarity, and despair into purpose. This turning point reshapes every other turning point we face. Because Jesus lives, no moment is beyond redemption. The resurrection assures us that God specializes in reversals—death to life, mourning to joy, endings to beginnings. When the risen Christ opens our eyes, our hearts burn with renewed faith. Every turning point in Scripture finds its meaning here: God is faithful, and His mercy truly is new every morning.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How does the resurrection reshape the way you view your own setbacks?
- Where do you need resurrection hope to reframe your story today?

# LEARNING HOW TO WAIT

**Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:27–39**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:26**

Waiting is rarely welcomed, yet Scripture tells us it is good to learn it early. In Lamentations 3, Jeremiah writes from a place of deep suffering—national loss, personal grief, unanswered prayers. And still, in the middle of pain, he teaches us something surprising: waiting is not wasted. Waiting forms us. God allows seasons where the weight feels heavy because those seasons teach humility, dependence, and endurance. Waiting strips away the illusion of control and reminds us that salvation—real rescue—comes from the Lord alone, not our effort or timing. These verses remind us that God does not afflict willingly or delight in human suffering. Waiting does not mean God is absent or uncaring. It means He is working at a depth we cannot yet see. Waiting teaches us to sit quietly before God, to examine our ways, and to trust His justice and compassion. When we rush ahead, we often miss what God wants to shape in us.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What emotions surface most quickly in you during seasons of waiting?
- How might God be shaping your character, not just your circumstances, through this season?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

# WAITING WHEN THE PROMISE FEELS DELAYED

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1–4; 15:1–6; 21:1–7**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:26**

Abraham received a promise that seemed impossible—descendants as numerous as the stars—yet years passed with no fulfillment. Waiting stretched his faith and exposed his fears. Like many of us, Abraham sometimes tried to “help” God along, discovering that impatience complicates what trust would simplify. Still, Scripture says Abraham believed the Lord, and God credited it to him as righteousness. Waiting did not disqualify Abraham; it refined him. God’s promises often unfold slowly, not because they are uncertain, but because we are being prepared to carry them. Waiting teaches us to trust God’s timing rather than manipulate outcomes. Abraham learned that God’s faithfulness is not dependent on human speed or certainty. When the promise finally came, it was unmistakably God’s doing. Waiting made the fulfillment clearer and the praise deeper.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where are you tempted to rush God’s promises instead of trusting His timing?
- How has waiting revealed areas where your faith needs strengthening?

# WAITING WITHOUT LOSING HEART

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 27:7–14**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:26**

David knew what it meant to wait—wait for rescue, wait for vindication, wait for God’s direction. Psalm 27 is a prayer from someone choosing courage while still surrounded by uncertainty. David does not deny fear; he brings it honestly before God. Waiting does not require pretending everything is fine. It requires trusting God even when it isn’t. David encourages himself—and us—to “wait for the LORD” with strength and courage. Waiting becomes an act of worship, a declaration that God is worthy of trust even before answers arrive. Waiting keeps our hearts anchored in God’s presence rather than controlled by anxiety. It reminds us that hope grows not by sight, but by trust.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What fears surface when you feel stuck in waiting?
- How can waiting become an act of worship rather than frustration?



# WAITING THAT PRODUCES STRENGTH

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:27–31**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:26**

Isaiah speaks to people who felt forgotten and weary from waiting. God responds not with condemnation, but with reassurance: He does not grow tired, and He gives strength to the weary. Waiting is not passive resignation; it is active hope. Those who wait on the Lord are renewed, not depleted. Waiting aligns our weakness with God's strength. It teaches us that endurance comes not from self-reliance but from dependence. God promises renewed strength—not instant relief, but sustained grace. Waiting lifts our eyes above circumstances and reminds us that God's power operates beyond our limitations.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- In what ways has waiting revealed your limits?
- How can leaning into God's strength change how you view this season?

# WAITING WITH EXPECTANT FAITH

**Scripture Reading: Acts 1:4–8; 2:1–4**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:26**

After the resurrection, the disciples were told to wait. They had questions, urgency, and a mission—but Jesus instructed them not to move ahead without God’s power. Waiting preceded the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Obedient waiting positioned them for transformation. Waiting prepares us to receive what God wants to give. When we wait in faith, we are not stalled—we are being aligned. God’s timing ensures that when we move, we move with His power, not our own. Waiting with expectancy teaches us that God’s plans are worth trusting, even when the timeline feels unclear.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What might God be preparing you to receive through this season of waiting?
- How can you wait with expectancy instead of frustration?

# HOPE THAT CHOOSES FAITHFULNESS

**Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:40–58**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:40–41**

Hope begins to move forward the moment we stop running from God and start turning back toward Him. In

Lamentations 3, Jeremiah is standing in the wreckage—national loss, personal grief, unanswered questions. Yet instead of remaining frozen in despair, he makes a deliberate choice: “Let us examine and probe our ways, and turn back to the Lord” (v. 40). Forward-moving hope doesn’t deny pain; it names it honestly and then invites God into it. Jeremiah lifts his heart and hands toward heaven, not because circumstances have changed, but because God’s character has not. What follows is powerful. When Jeremiah remembers God, he doesn’t find distance—he finds nearness. God sees, hears, and responds. The pit does not get the final word; the Lord does. This is hope that moves forward—not by pretending everything is fine, but by trusting that God is still attentive, still just, and still faithful. When we bring our grief, sin, or confusion into the light of God’s mercy, hope takes its first real step forward.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What is God inviting you to examine or surrender so hope can move forward?
- How does remembering God’s past faithfulness help you face today’s challenges?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

# HOPE CHOOSES FAITHFULNESS

**Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:6–18**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:40–41**

Ruth's story reminds us that hope often moves forward through quiet, costly choices. After loss, displacement, and uncertainty, Ruth stands at a crossroads. Everything logical tells her to return to what is familiar and safe. Instead, she makes a decision rooted not in convenience, but in covenant faithfulness. Her words—"Where you go, I will go"—are not fueled by optimism about the future, but by loyalty and trust. Hope, for Ruth, is not loud or dramatic; it is steady and committed, choosing faithfulness even when the outcome is unclear. What makes Ruth's hope so powerful is that it moves forward without guarantees. She steps into a foreign land, uncertain provision, and an unknown future, trusting that the God she is choosing will be faithful. This kind of hope is deeply courageous. It reminds us that hope is not always about seeing immediate change, but about trusting God enough to take the next faithful step. When we choose faithfulness over fear, hope quietly but surely moves us toward God's purposes.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What faithful choice might God be asking you to make, even without clarity?
- How does trusting God's character help your hope move forward in uncertainty?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

# HOPE THAT KEEPS BUILDING

**Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 2:11–18; 4:6**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:40–41**

Hope that moves forward does not wait for perfect conditions—it starts building in the middle of brokenness. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, the walls were still rubble, the people were discouraged, and opposition was inevitable. Yet Nehemiah didn't allow the visible damage to define the future. He first took time to assess the ruins honestly, then pointed the people to the faithfulness of God. Forward-moving hope begins when we stop denying the broken places and instead invite God into the rebuilding process. What makes this hope powerful is that it is shared. Nehemiah cast a vision rooted in God's hand, not human strength. The people responded, not because the work would be easy, but because the hope was bigger than the hardship. Nehemiah 4:6 says the wall was rebuilt "because the people had the will to keep working." Hope moves forward when faith turns into action, even when progress feels slow.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What "ruins" in your life might God be inviting you to rebuild with Him?
- How can hope move forward through faithful, everyday obedience?

# HOPE THAT ENDURES THE WAIT

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:1–5**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:40–41**

Waiting can feel like the opposite of moving forward, yet Scripture shows us that God often does His deepest work there. David writes, “I waited patiently for the Lord, and he turned to me and heard my cry.” This was not passive waiting—it was hopeful endurance. David remained attentive to God even when deliverance had not yet arrived. Forward-moving hope does not rush God’s timing; it trusts His attention. When God finally acted, He didn’t just rescue David—He reset his footing. The pit was replaced with stability, and despair was replaced with praise. Hope moves forward when we believe that waiting is not wasted. God uses the silence to deepen trust and prepare our hearts for what comes next. Waiting teaches us that hope is not anchored to outcomes, but to the One who hears, lifts, and establishes our steps. Even when the pace feels slow, God is still moving us forward—often in ways we cannot see until later.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where are you being asked to trust God in a season of waiting?
- How might God be strengthening your hope even before circumstances change?

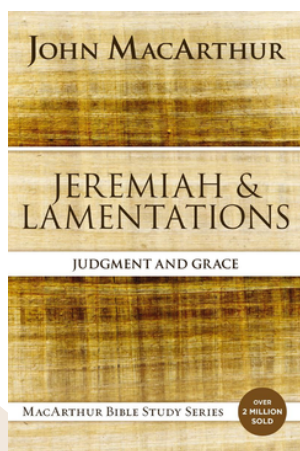
# HOPE THAT ANCHORS THE FUTURE

**Scripture Reading: Romans 8:18–28**

**Scripture Memory: Lamentations 3:40–41**

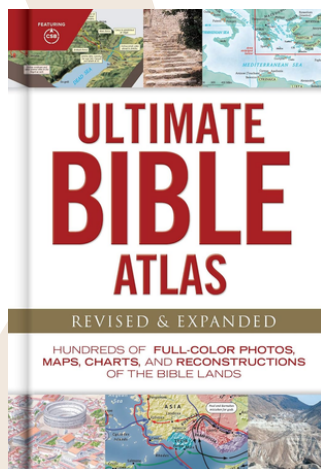
Paul reminds us that present suffering does not compare to future glory. Hope moves forward when we lift our eyes beyond today. Even creation groans with expectation, leaning toward redemption. God is not wasting pain—He is working through it. Forward-moving hope rests in the promise that God is actively shaping good from every circumstance. This hope doesn't rush the process; it trusts the outcome. Because God is faithful, our future is secure, and our hope has direction.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How does an eternal perspective change how you view today's struggles?
- Where do you need to trust God's long-term work in your life?



## Jeremiah & Lamentations

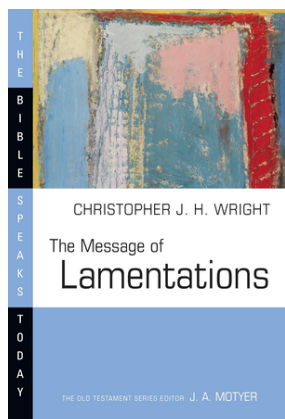
The prophet Jeremiah ministered during the waning decades of Judah. The people had rebelled against the Lord through their constant idolatry and injustice of all kinds—and they were about to experience God's wrath in the form of a conquering army. Yet even as Jeremiah described the short-term consequences of the people's rebellion against the Lord, he also spoke of God's long-term plan to provide salvation.



## Ultimate Bible Atlas

The Ultimate Bible Atlas is the perfect tool for those who are beginning to study the Bible. Featured are more than 300 maps, charts, photos, and biblical reconstructions illuminating the geographical context of key biblical places and topics. This resource packs an amazing amount of information about the physical context of biblical events. The optimal size of the Ultimate Bible Atlas makes it easy-to-carry and easy-to-use in personal study or group activities. This valuable resource will enhance your understanding of the places, objects, and events in the Bible for years to come.





## The Message of Lamentations

The destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587 BC is the likely setting for the book of Lamentations. This was the most traumatic event in the whole of Old Testament history, with its extreme human suffering, devastation of the ancient city, national humiliation, and the undermining of all that was thought to be theologically guaranteed like the Davidic monarchy, the city of Zion, and the temple of the God of Israel. It is out of that unspeakable pain that Lamentations speaks, in poetry of astonishing beauty and intricacy, though soaked in tears. We must still let it speak for itself, as a book for today.

All these books and more are available online at [www.fitbooks.com](http://www.fitbooks.com) or by visiting the Ocoee FIT Books store at 9567 W Colonial Dr. Ocoee, FL 34761

**Worship Playlists, PDF booklets, and others**







# **GATHERING TIMES**

**Traditional Service  
8:30 am**

**Life Groups  
9:45 am**

**Contemporary Service  
11 am**

**Wednesday Groups  
6:30 pm**



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