

Life Group Devotion

Vision Sunday 2026 - Week of January 11

Introduction:

Have you ever thought: "Oh no, I really shouldn't have done that!" ... when it comes to over-purchasing, over-eating, over-indulging ... and the regret that follows. Every choice has consequences, and the consequences naturally follow the choices we make.

On a personal note, just yesterday on the way into a routine doctor's appointment, the thought occurred to me: *Oh no, the first thing the nurse will do is weigh me ... the moment of truth. All holiday festivities are going to show up on the scales. If there is weight gain, it's no one's fault but my own ... the scales will just tell the truth.*

Discussion:

- Have you ever made choices in the moment, only to regret them later? (discuss)
- Why is it we often demand 'instant gratification' and why is it that the results of 'instant gratification' are often *not good*?

"If you focus on goals, you may hit goals but that doesn't guarantee growth. If you focus on growth, you will grow and always hit goals." ~

John Maxwell

"Every new level of growth we hope to experience as leaders calls for a new level of change. You cannot have one without the other. If you want to be a better leader, get ready to make some trades." ~ John Maxwell

Will I choose what feels good now or will I mindfully choose what matters most? In the Old Testament Esau makes a choice nearly as devastating as Eve listening to the serpent and Cain killing his brother. Esau sells his birthright to his twin brother Jacob for a bowl of stew. Later, when it is time to receive his father's blessing as the firstborn, Esau realizes his father Isaac has also been tricked by Jacob through a scheme devised by their own mother Rebekah (see Genesis 27:1-33). The narrative unfolds to reveal one of the saddest, most poignant stories in Scripture: when Esau pleads for a leftover blessing (Genesis 27:34-41).

There may be times in a weak moment we choose immediate gratification over discipline and worthier goals. But Lord help us! May this be the exception and not the norm. For we don't want to forfeit future blessings when it comes to critical points in our lives. We must choose wisely. God will give us the self-control if we ask him and opt for waiting (Psalm 46:1, 1-11; see also Isaiah 65:1-2). We must seek him while he is near and available to help us change course (Isaiah 55:6-7). True faith is holding out for the blessings God wants to shower upon us ... and not only us, but the many generations to come (Ezekiel 34:25-28).

Read Genesis 25:19-34

- Share one take-away from this passage (briefly, so each Life Group participant has an opportunity to share)
- What commentary does Hebrews 12:16-17 provide for this story regarding Esau?
- What happens when we follow our appetites—
 - ◊ We lose sight of the future.
 - ◊ We drift from God's calling.
 - ◊ We step out of alignment with God's story.
 - ◊ We trade peace for chaos.
 - ◊ We run into roadblocks we never saw coming.

What can we do when we have over-indulged in too many weak moments, and we now want to make positive changes for personal growth?

- First, confess your sin before the Lord Jesus. "... if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness ... My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of the world" (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).
- Ask the Lord to fill you – even *baptize* you – with his Holy Spirit so you will bear the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23) and live by the Spirit (Romans 8:14-17).
- Ask the Lord to enable you to be gracious (grace-filled) toward yourself and others. Accept the Lord's forgiveness. If he says, *You Are Forgiven*, believe him! Refuse to worry. Abstain from over-indulging in regret and remorse (see Philippians 4:6-9).

- Ask the Lord for wisdom and trust him to supply that wisdom (see James 1:5-8).
- Regain sight of the future by focusing on Jesus and what he has done. Think about your heroes of faith who have outrun you to Heaven (see Hebrews 12:1-2).

Read together the **Plain Truth**—

Change is inevitable but growth is not, so decide *now* to grow in Christ.

In Closing—PRAY FOR VISION 2:28

Let's pray for Christ Church; for when it comes to the church, we cannot afford to be an appetite-led church. We must be a Spirit-led church. Stop focusing so much on yourself and ask the Lord what your part is in accomplishing Vision 2:28.

Vision 2:28 is a spiritual campaign replete with goals that will affect the growth of future generations.

- (1) Growing – a 25% increase in worship attendance – INVITE SOMEONE!
- (2) Doubling Life Groups (the goal is 100!) – JOIN A LIFE GROUP.
- (3) Double Baptisms and People Joining Christ Church family – JOIN and Invite Others. Take this next step in becoming a fully devoted follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (4) Plant TEN new churches in the next three years (nine globally and one locally) – Be a Missional Volunteer as we will be Re-launching the Lincolnton Campus.
- (5) Building a New Worship Facility for Lincolnton and paying down debt to unleash more resources for future ministry – Be GENEROUS.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

January 11: Genesis 24:52-26:16, Matthew 8:18-34, Psalm 10:1-15, Proverbs 3:7-8

January 12 Genesis 26:17-27:46 Matthew 9:1-17 Psalm 10:16-18 Proverbs 3:9-10

January 13 Genesis 28:1-29:35 Matthew 9:18-38 Psalm 11:1-7 Proverbs 3:11-12

January 14 Genesis 30:1-31:16 Matthew 10:1-23 Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 3:13-15

January 15: Genesis 31:17-32:12, Matthew 10:24-11:6, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 3:16-18

January 16: Genesis 32:13-34:31, Matthew 11:7-30, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 3:19-20

January 17: Genesis 35:1-36:43, Matthew 12:1-21, Psalm 15:1-5, Proverbs 3:21-26

VISION SUNDAY

Text: Genesis 25:19-34

Plain Truth

Change is _____ but _____
is not, so decide _____ to _____ in Christ.

1. Esau _____ his _____ in how he handled his _____.
2. The _____ you make today _____ you and your _____.
3. Jesus _____ us to _____ not good _____!
 - A. CC Vision 2:28 growing by 25% in worship attendance - _____ someone.
 - B. Doubling our Life Group Attendance by 2028 - _____ a Life Group.
 - C. Double baptisms and people joining CC family by 2028 - _____ and _____ others.
 - D. Plant ten new churches: nine globally and one locally - Be a _____ volunteer.
 - E. Building New Worship Facility for Lincolnton and Paying down debt to unleash more resources for future ministry - Be _____.

January 11, 2026