

GROUPS



sermon guide

FRESH FAITH - 01/18/2026 Mike Wilson

MAIN IDEA

FOSTER A FULLER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

TALK ABOUT IT

- How does the goal of friendship with Jesus change the way we view spiritual disciplines?
- Read Psalm 1:1–3 together. What words or images stand out to you from this passage?
- Psalm 1 doesn't promise fewer storms—it promises deeper roots. Why is that distinction important?
- Have you ever experienced a time when Scripture changed your thinking, attitude, or direction? What happened?
- Why do you think devotion to Scripture is often the hardest discipline to stay consistent with?
- The sermon talked about the difference between soul (feelings) & spirit (truth). Can you think of a time when your feelings and God's truth were in tension?
- Why is it dangerous to let feelings lead without the correction of God's Word?
- How is the Bible like a mirror for the soul rather than a self-help manual?
- What's the danger of looking into the mirror of Scripture but walking away unchanged?
- Psalm 1 contrasts duty and delight. Why do you think delight not discipline alone is key to spiritual growth?
- How does reading the Bible with the goal of knowing Jesus differ from reading it out of duty or habit?
- Jesus said we can study Scripture and still miss Him. How does that happen?
- Jesus revealed Himself through the Scriptures. What does that tell us about where and how we meet Jesus today?
- You don't drift into closeness. You decide it." How does that statement challenge or encourage you?
- How does Scripture help center you when life feels busy, uncertain, or overwhelming?
- What voices (media, culture, emotions, others) compete with God's Word for influence in your life?
- Psalm 119:105 says God's Word gives light for the next step, not the whole journey. Where do you need clarity for just the next faithful step?
- What obstacles keep you from consistently engaging the Bible?
- Which of the three ideas—power, closeness, or centering—do you most need right now?

KEY SCRIPTURES

PSALM 1:1-3

NEXT STEPS

- **ENCOUNTER:**
 - Join us during one of Sunday Worship Services: 8:30am, 10am (Spanish translation available) & 11:30am
- **EXPERIENCE:**
 - **Seasonal Groups Registration: Jan 18th - Jan 26th**
 - Check out our [website](#) or stop by our groups table next Sunday
- **EXPAND**
 - Burundi Mission Trip Meeting - January 25, 2026 at 10:00am in the Lookout Room
 - Ready to take the next step? Allow us to help you plug into a DREAM TEAM. Reach out to Jill Thayer at jillt@sagehillschurch.com for information on serve opportunities.

GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** When you think about your current relationship with the Bible, would you describe it as distant, familiar, or life-giving—and what has shaped that reality for you?
- **Journal:** As you read Psalm 1:1–3 this week, write about what kind of "roots" you are developing through your current rhythms with Scripture. Where do you see signs of dryness, growth, or fruit?
- **Application:** Choose a specific time, place, and plan for reading Scripture this week, and commit to showing up even if you don't feel inspired—trusting that consistency creates space for friendship with Jesus.

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NOTES

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