

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

For each sermon, we want to provide questions you can use in small groups, family discussions, or as you are hanging out with your friends. Here are some steps for getting the most out of each series :

- Spend time prayerfully reading over the Main Scripture, Message Overview, Big Idea, and Supporting Scriptures for the week.
- Use the Opening Question from the discussion guide as more of an ice breaker to get the group discussion going.
- Utilize the framework of the other questions to facilitate engagement with the scripture and group discussion with a clear direction towards an action step for each person.
- Respond in prayer together to encourage and challenge your people to act upon what they've learned in their study of the scripture.

INVEST IN THE KINGDOM

Series Introduction:

For the follower of Jesus, Great Commission living is non-negotiable. Taking our cues from both **Matthew 28:18-20**, as well as from **Acts 1:8**, Forest Hill aims to be a church that is fully obedient to the command of the Jesus to take the Gospel here, near, and far. This series, therefore, will focus not only on the Great Commission, but on specific implications that apply to both the life of the Believer individually and the Church corporately.

Series Purpose:

The purpose of this series is twofold: First, through this series we aim to faithfully teach the Great Commission mandates and implications that add up to living out a faithful Gospel witness. Second, we will highlight the ways in which Forest Hill is pursuing obedience to Jesus' Great Commission, primarily through spotlighting Gospel partnerships here, near, and far.

Series Goal

The goal of this series is both informational and inspirational. We aim to faithfully communicate God's Word and the ways in which Forest Hill is pursuing obedient action. But we also intend to use this series as a catalytic spark that inspires and motivates the people of Forest Hill not currently living on mission to join into our effort to Invest in the Kingdom with their time, talent, and treasures.

MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

This series will specifically focus on the 4th mark of our discipleship pathway, Invest in the Kingdom.

INVEST IN THE KINGDOM
STUDY GUIDE

Week 1: November 1, 2026 – Kingdom Come
Main Scripture – Matthew 6:9–10

Message Overview: The opening sermon of this series will focus on the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, more famously known as “The Lord’s Prayer.” As followers of Jesus, we obey the instruction of the Savior to pray in this manner. And while prayer is of utmost importance, we do not stop there. We follow through with both prayer and action. The battle is won on our knees, but the kingdom of heaven comes to earth through our hands and feet.

Big Idea: Pull heaven down.

Main Scripture: Matthew 6:9–10

Supporting Scriptures: James 2:14–26; 1 John 3:16–18

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: How would you describe prayer to someone who has never prayed? How would you explain how to do it?

Read the main scripture: Matthew 6:9-10

1. You just read verses 9-10. Go back and read the verses right before (Matthew 6:5-8). What kind of prayer habits does Jesus describe? How does that set the stage for verse 9?

2. In verse 9, what is the significance of Jesus saying, "This, then, is how you should pray" verses saying, "This is what you should pray"?

3. Look carefully at the pronouns used in verses 9–10. Jesus says, "Our Father," not "My Father." What does this tell us about prayer?

4. List the first three requests Jesus makes in verses 9–10. Who or what is the focus of these three requests?

5. "Our Father in heaven..." How should the balance between God being personal as "Our Father" and that He is "in heaven" affect our posture when we pray?

6. "...Hallowed be your name." To "hallow" means to set apart as holy or sacred. Since God is already holy, what does it mean to pray that His name be kept holy?

7. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The "Kingdom" refers to God's rule and reign. What does it look like for God's will to be done in heaven and on earth? What similarities do you see and what contrasts do you see between the two?

8. How does this kind of prayer Jesus describes challenge your prayer life? If your personal prayers were spoken so that God's name, kingdom, and will came before your personal needs, how would that change your priorities?

9. If God answers the prayer for His kingdom to come tomorrow morning, what habits, thoughts, or conversations would look different in you and around your community?

Respond in Prayer

Read Matthew 6:9–10 again and pray for particular areas in your life where you want to see the kingdom of God come.

Next Step

Learn about our outreach partners and how they are bringing the Kingdom of God to earth. We have 4 main local ministries and 4 main global ministries we partner to bring heaven to earth we call Kingdom Investment. View those partners here on our website and see how you can pray and partner with them: https://foresthill.org/outreach/.

Week 2: November 8, 2026 – Send

Main Scripture – Romans 10:8–17

Message Overview: TThe Gospel came to you on its way to someone else. This is the reality of the movement of the Kingdom of God. But how did the Gospel come to you? From someone that was sent. This sermon will focus on the necessity of sending and being sent with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that the next person that God has predestined to receive it by faith will have the opportunity to do so.

Big Idea: The Gospel came to you on its way to someone else.

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: What is the best or most exciting piece of news you have ever shared with someone else? How did you share it?

Read the main scripture: Romans 10:8–17

1. In your own words, how would you define the word "confess"? Why is making a public declaration of something often harder than just thinking it?

2. Read verses 9–10. What are the two specific actions Paul connects to salvation? Why do you think both the heart and the mouth are mentioned together? Why does that matter to talk about both?

3. Look at verse 13 ("Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"). In the cultural context of the Roman Empire where there were ethnic and religious distinctions, what made the word "Everyone" so different? Are there examples today where we can make distinctions between who can be near to God and who cannot?

4. Verse 17 states that "faith comes from hearing." According to verses 14–15, what happens before someone can hear and believe?

5. Verse 15 talks about how beautiful the feet of those who bring good news are. Who is the person who first shared the gospel with you?

6. Paul makes it clear that people cannot believe in someone they have never heard of. Who in your immediate circle (family, neighborhood, workplace) needs to hear the good news of the Gospel?

7. What is the biggest barrier that keeps you from sharing your faith with others (e.g., fear of rejection, not knowing what to say, feeling unqualified)? How does this passage encourage you to overcome that obstacle?

Respond in Prayer

Pray together for the boldness to share the Gospel with people in your lives and be sure to mention those people by name. As we learned in the passage today to use our mouth and heart.

Next Step

Dream Center Christmas Together at Forest Hill Church is a church-wide initiative to provide Christmas gifts to children and families from communities in need. November will be a toy collection month, and there are multiple serve day opportunities in December to sort, deliver, and serve at a Toy Store event for kids and families. Go to https://foresthill.org/outreach/ and scroll to Upcoming Opportunities.

Week 3: November 15, 2026 – What the Lord Requires

Main Scripture – Micah 6:8

Message Overview: The explicit message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to continuously be evident on the lips and in the lives of those who've been redeemed by the Savior. But what does it actually mean to live in a Gospel-centered way? Certainly, a number of New Testament text flesh out this idea, but for this sermon, we're hitching ourselves to the Old Testament! We'll walk through how God, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, displays justice, kindness, and humility, and how our lives are to mirror those same things in order to pull heaven down. Keith Burney will be our guest preacher.

Big Idea: Follow the Leader.

Supporting Scriptures: Deuteronomy 10:12-13; John 14:15

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: When you hear the phrase 'what does the Lord require,' what is your immediate reaction —do you tend to think of rules and religious duties or a relational way of living? Why?

Read the main scripture: Micah 6:1-8

Before God gives His answer in verse 8, He brings a "lawsuit" against Israel. The people respond by asking if they can appease Him with extravagant sacrifices (thousands of rams, rivers of oil, or even their firstborn child).

1. In verses 1–5, God asks His people how He has "burdened" them and reminds them of His historical faithfulness (saving them from slavery, bringing them to the Promised Land). Why is it important to remember God's grace and faithfulness before we try to address His requirements?

2. Look closely at the intense escalation of sacrifices the people offer in verses 6–7. What were the things they were offering to God?

3. Why do you think it is often easier for us to offer God rituals, religious duties, or financial gifts rather than giving Him our actual hearts and everyday lives?

4. Read verse 8 again.

5. "To Act Justly": Justice in the Bible isn't just a legal term—it's about actively protecting the vulnerable, making things right, and living according to God's definitions of right and wrong.

6. What does "acting justly" mean to you in your everyday life (at your job, in your home, or in how you treat your neighbors)?

7. Can you think of someone or a group of people in your immediate community who are currently overlooked or vulnerable? What is one small, specific step our group could take this week to stand up or advocate for someone else?

8. “To Love Mercy”: The Hebrew word used here for mercy is “chesed,” which means steadfast, covenant loyalty and grace. Micah notes we shouldn’t just show mercy—we must love it.

9. What is the difference between simply showing mercy out of obligation and truly loving mercy?

10. Think of someone in your life who has hurt you or with whom you have a tense relationship. Why do our hearts naturally prefer resentment or critique over mercy? How does remembering the massive mercy God has extended to us change our willingness to forgive them?

11. “To Walk Humbly With Your God”: Humility removes self-promotion and repositions us to depend fully on God, walking side-by-side with Him rather than running ahead in pride or lagging behind in fear.

12. Micah says to walk humbly with your God. Where in your life right now do you feel the temptation to turn your faith into a performance rather than a relational walk?

13. If you look at your schedule this week, do you feel like you are rushing ahead of God out of anxiety or falling behind Him out of complacency? What daily rhythm helps you stay in step with Him?

Respond in Prayer

Look at all three requirements together: Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. Which of these three elements comes most naturally to you, and which one feels like the biggest challenge for you right now? Pray for God to help you trust Him and walk with Him daily.

Next Step

Forest Hill partners with Mission of Hope to offer short-term trips. These trips allow participants to step outside their daily rhythms, encounter God's heart for the world, and join Him in what He's already doing through local churches and leaders. As teams serve, listen, and learn, their faith deepens, their perspective broadens, and their understanding of the Gospel's reach grows.

Consider an interest meeting to learn more about it. You can sign up to receive more info about these meetings when you scroll to Short Term Mission Trips at https://foresthill.org/outreach/.

Week 4: November 22, 2026 – Defend the Fatherless

Main Scripture – Psalm 82:3–4

Message Overview: We hitch ourselves to the Old Testament again in the 4th sermon of this series by looking at a command from the Lord to defend the fatherless. This sermon will focus on the heart of the Heavenly Father and challenge His children to allow theirs to be moved by what moves His.

Big Idea: Break my heart for what breaks Yours.

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 1:16–17; James 1:26–27

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Who are some people in your life that came to "your rescue" when you really needed help? How did they help you in your time of need?

Read the main scripture: Psalm 82:3-4

1. What specific groups of people does God command us to notice and protect in verse 3?

2. When you hear God's command to "defend the weak and the fatherless," who are the modern-day vulnerable people in our own community that we might easily overlook?

3. According to verse 4, what kind of action is required beyond just feeling sympathy for the vulnerable?

4. Go back and read all of Psalm 82. In the broader context, who is God addressing, and why is failing to protect the weak considered a serious neglect of responsibility?

5. How does defending the weak and poor reflect the personal character and heart of God?

6. What is the difference between "judging unjustly" (v. 2) and maintaining the "rights of the afflicted" (v. 3)?

7. How do these two verses connect with other scriptures about justice and mercy, such from last week, Micah 6:8?

8. In what practical ways can our Life Group—or you individually—step in to "rescue" or advocate for someone who is defenseless?

9. What keeps us from getting involved in the struggles of the oppressed, and how can we overcome that hesitation?

Respond in Prayer

Take some time to pray for those communities that came up in our discussion together and pray for mercy and justice in these communities, so they are not forgotten.

Next Step

Congregations for Kids and Defend the Fatherless are two of our ministries we support and partner with through Kingdom Investment as Forest Hill Church. Take a look at some Upcoming Opportunities on our website in how our Life Group can be involved and serve... https://foresthill.org/outreach/.

Week 5: Gospel Partnerships, 2026 – Don't Turn Back

Main Scripture – Philippians 1:3–8

Message Overview: From the comfort of a Roman prison, the Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Philippi expressing his gratitude for their partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The greatest Christian missionary who ever lived understood clearly that collaborative, Gospel-centered partnerships is a part of God's gameplan for the Kingdom of Heaven to be expanded on the earth. This sermon will specifically focus on the partnership between Forest Hill Church and Triad, with Josh Duncan being our guest speaker.

Big Idea: Partnerships make macro-impact.

Supporting Scriptures: Acts 16

Talk through these questions with your life group, family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Who is someone in your life that you always thank God for when you think of them? What makes your connection with them so special?

Read the main scripture: Philippians 3:3-8

1. Paul writes, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..." Paul is writing this letter from a prison cell, yet he overflows with joy. How does Paul's circumstance challenge the way we view our own happiness and prayer lives?

2. When you pray for other believers or your life group members, does joy characterize those prayers? How can we become more intentional about thanking God for one another?

3. ...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... The word Paul uses for partnership is koinonia (often translated as fellowship). What is the difference between casual church attendance and a true "partnership in the gospel"?

4. In what practical ways did the Philippians partner with Paul (e.g., financial support, prayer, sharing the faith)? How can our Life Group better partner together for the gospel today?

5. ...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. What is the "good work" that God started in the Philippians and in us?

6. How does knowing that God is the one responsible for completing His work bring you comfort? How does this truth help us extend grace and patience to others who are still "works in progress"?

7. ...It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart... God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. Paul says he longs for them with the "affection of Christ Jesus." How does Christ's love shape the way we care for people, especially when it is difficult?

8. Paul mentions that the Philippians share in God's grace with him, both in his chains and in defending the gospel. How does going through difficult times together deepen Christian community?

9. Look back at verse 3. Commit to sending a text, note, or making a call this week to someone in the church body, telling them: "I thank my God every time I remember you." Does that sound like a challenge we can and will do?

Respond in Prayer

Take some time praying encouragement for friends, family, and our church. Be silent for a moment and then begin praying together.

Respond in Prayer

Triad is one of our ministry partners. Their mission is in Nepal and reaches out to one of the hardest to reach people groups. Read about them and some of our other missionaries that are serving around the world. Pray to see you can make these hard-to-reach people groups a part of your regular rhythm of prayer. Learn about them here... https://foresthill.org/outreach/.
