



WEEK ONE | OUR UNIQUE CALLING

Look Back

10 Minutes

- Pastor Curtis, in his sermon September 1 on Psalm 84, noted that the psalmist expresses a deep yearning to be in the presence of God with the community of God in the temple. Examine yourself and discuss whether church is something for which you long. What would help you look forward to worship more?
- What actions have you taken this week to prioritize time with God and worship?
- Discuss whether when you come to church you have the expectation of hearing something from God relevant to your life. Give examples of when this has happened.

New Sermon Series: On Mission

(September 8 - October 20)

This series begins our ministry year, during which we will explore our mission, values, strategy, measures, and the vision for First Presbyterian's future. This first six-week series engages the mission (what we are called to do) and the vision (where we are going).

Over six weeks, we will think together about our mission, which answers the question "What are we doing?" We are cultivating community (Sept 15) in the way of Jesus (Sept 29) for the flourishing of the city (Oct 6). This is our north star, the golden thread that weaves its way through everything we do.

Our one year "midground" vision will equip and encourage our congregation toward 5000 invitations that cultivate community (Sept 22). Our 2040 "beyond the horizon" will empower First Presbyterian Church members to grow in their leadership to bring about the renovation of the church (Oct 13).

Read Aloud

Ephesians 2:1-10

Head

Observe the text and the author's main points (15-20 Minutes)

1. What qualities of our nature are reflected in verses 1 - 3?
2. Who is the initiator or "prime mover" in verse 4 and following?
3. For what are we created?

Heart

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors (15-20 Minutes)

1. How does it make you feel to be called "God's handiwork"?
2. What emotions arise when you reflect on God's grace and mercy as described in verses 4 - 5?
3. How does understanding that salvation is a gift (v. 8 - 9) impact your sense of gratitude and humility?

Hands

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others (10 Minutes)

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- What are ways you show gratitude to God for His great love for us?
- How is God's kindness shown to us in Christ Jesus?
- How could verse 10 transform mundane or boring tasks that you do in the course of your everyday life?

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- How can you reflect the grace and kindness of God in your daily interactions with others?
- In what ways can you live out the good works that God has prepared for you (verse 10)? What are ways you can discern what they are?
- Find opportunities to serve others in love and humility. Acts of kindness and service are powerful ways to experience God and share Him. Get in the habit of visiting this site for ideas fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities or contact Madi Weir, Missions Coordinator, at mweir@fpchouston.org.

Reaching Beyond

- Experiencing God's grace can result in a compassionate attitude towards others since all are in need of grace and mercy. Through FPC's partnership with African Renewal Mission (ARM) and recent trip to Africa by Pastor Curtis and covenant partners, there are at least 22 children in Uganda who need sponsorship for health care, school, and discipleship training.

Sponsorships cost \$40 a month. For information and to sponsor a child, go to africarenewal.org/child-pages/child-summary.

- **September 12 - Post Alpha Night** - Pray for the success of the upcoming Post-Alpha night to deepen relationships and interest in Jesus Christ. Pray that those who come feel welcome and continue their interest in and commitment to the gospel. For additional information contact Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach, at epaulpeter@fpchouston.org.
- **September 14 - Movie Night - 3 PM - LC 080** - Pray for and invite friends to come to the September 14th Movie Night for viewing, discussion, and food. For additional information contact Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach, at epaulpeter@fpchouston.org.