

Plan to join us as a Life Group!
make those plans today!

LEARNING TO BEHOLD JESUS WITH GUIDED PRAYER



THE PRAYER EXPERIENCE

SEPT. 10 | 6:30pm

BRING A FRIEND!

10 KEYS TO A STRONG CHURCH

THE POWER OF ONE ACTS 2:42-47

WEEK 5

Imagine walking among the towering redwoods and sequoias of Muir Woods, their immense size and age leaving you in awe. Some reach heights of 350 to 375 feet and widths of 32 and a half feet. The phrase “staying power” comes to mind as you consider the elements these trees have endured over 2,000 to 5,000 years. You might assume their strength comes from deep taproots, but the reality is different. These trees boast a shallow root system, with interconnected roots binding them together. This unity, rather than individual depth, is what gives them their remarkable endurance. Beneath the surface, hidden from view, lies their true strength.

Just as these trees find power in their interconnectedness, the church is meant to be a beautiful example of unity. Despite our diverse backgrounds, we are bound together through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as these trees stand strong amidst storms, a united church can withstand and positively influence an ever-changing culture. Just as “E Pluribus Unum” signifies unity in diversity for our nation, the church is a living testament to the strength that comes from being woven together as one.

(10 min) PRAY

As a Life Group, pray for unity in the body of Christ and for our church and for us to be real with each other working hard for love and unity in our relationships.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

1. Have someone read Ephesians 4:1-3. Discuss the statement, “Love and unity don’t come automatically; they’re developed and defended.” How can we actively work on developing and defending love and unity in our relationships?

The goal isn’t to join a church – it is to become part of God’s family

2. What are some tools that Jesus provides us with to ensure healthy relationships and unity within the body of Christ? (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:15-20)

Love and unity are not a means to an end, they are the end.

3. Challenging people are often placed in our lives to help us grow in love and unity? Share personal experiences of growth through challenging relationships.

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints “

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

4. What are some ways that we often hide our “cracks” or flaws from each other? How does being authentic about our flaws help our relationships?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE: ***Matthew 5:23 “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go.”***