



6 WEEK SERMON SERIES

Dear Friends,

I am so excited to be entering into this significant sermon and study series with you. I believe you'll find this to be a deeply meaningful "reset" for your Christian experience or, perhaps, the framework you've been seeking to make your discipleship truly central and transforming in your life. Please do all that you can to be present for every one of these messages. Ask God to show you His heart and shape your heart and mine to be more like His. Pray that the LORD will give me words that are truly helpful to YOU.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer | Lead Pastor

THE FIVE FINGERS OF FAITH

Like the five fingers of a hand, there are five movements of faith that God seeks to inspire in us, so that He can use us to LIFT others. Each finger of faith is important.

1. **Following** God where He leads us
2. **Trusting** God's promises with all that we are
3. **Prioritizing** God and His Kingdom above everything
4. **Surrendering** our possessions for the sake of God and His service
5. **Committing** to God's vision and power regardless of our circumstances

JOURNAL your response to the message

Jesus, I feel

about

because

RESPONDING to the message

- TABLE TALK | At a meal this week, discuss this question with those around the table: **“How have you completed the journal prompt to this Sunday’s message?”**
- Text, email or post to your small group or social media sites one big idea from this week’s message that has stayed with you.
- Prepare for your small group by reviewing the related questions.
- Pray this week’s breath prayer every day.

● GROUP DISCUSSION

PREPARE

A. Pray together this week's breath prayer.

INHALE | To Your Vision **EXHALE | Empower Us to Commit**

B. Share how you completed the journaling prompt at the end of this weekend's worship service?

C. Ice breaker question: What causes you to be more inclined to help someone in need?

RECEIVE

Slowly and prayerfully read or listen to Matthew 27:32–55 twice. Begin and end each reading with a few moments of silence. In the quiet, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into knowing and living what you are to receive from this passage of Scripture.

REFLECT

1. What were the different responses of the various people on the scene of Jesus' crucifixion? Placing yourself in their sandals, why did they respond the way they did?

- Jewish religious leaders
- General crowd
- Rebels beside Jesus
- Roman guards
- The group of women disciples
- Simon of Cyrene

2. Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry a cross. Jesus willingly embraced the cross. When do you feel like Simon? And when do you willingly embrace burdens on behalf of others?

3. How do you feel knowing that Jesus went through this type of rejection and abuse for you?

4. What "cross" (burden, problem, hardship, grief) can you help someone bear this coming week?

5. When you reflect on Jesus giving His life so you may have life, now and eternally, what stirs in you? What emotions or questions are most prominent? Why?

● GROUP DISCUSSION

6. In what ways can you show your gratitude to Jesus for going to the cross so you can have a flourishing life now and into eternity?

REFOCUS

Close your group this week by praying together this prayer from Soren Kierkegaard.

Dear Lord,
Don't hold my sins against me,
But hold me up against my sins.
When my soul becomes aware of You
and each time I am awakened,
may I be reminded,
not of my sin but of Your forgiveness.

RESPOND throughout this week by **COMMITTING**

- Take 5 minutes to sit with God in silence with this request: “God show me how I can commit to Your vision and demonstrate Your form of power, regardless of how I feel, so I may LIFT others.” And then journal what you hear.

- Reflect on what you must lay down in order to LIFT others.
- Pray this week’s breath prayer every day.

INHALE | To Your Vision **EXHALE** | Empower Me to Commit

HEAVENLY FATHER,

We praise Your holy name, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

You offer us unfailing faithfulness, perfect love and unending grace.

You are worthy of our adoration and praise!

Thank You for the ultimate gift in Jesus Christ, who through His life, death and resurrection lifted us out of our sin and shame, offering us a grace greater than the gravity of life.

Father, this world is aching, confused and seemingly hopeless.

We seek Your will, Father.

We lift our eyes to You, Lord, for You are our helper and provider.

You raise the poor from the dust and lift the needy from the ash heap.

Ignite in us an insatiable hunger to LIFT those who are hurting or in need of hope in Jesus' holy and powerful name.

Thank You for this church, Your body at work.

You have trusted us with much.

Grant us the courage to respond boldly to Your call to invest the gifts of time, talent and treasure You've given us to LIFT others who so desperately need You, both locally and globally.

Gracious Lord, we ask You to take Your rightful place on the throne of our lives and make us a remarkably generous, kingdom-impacting people.

All glory and honor and praise to You, our good and faithful Father!

AMEN.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFT

LiftTogether.us

IMPORTANT DATES

Advance Commitment Night

Friday, January 27 | Oak Brook

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, February 12

CHRIST CHURCH 

OAK BROOK | 501 Oak Brook Rd., Oak Brook | 630.654.1882

BUTTERFIELD | 2S361 Glen Park Rd., Lombard | 630.654.1884

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