



# weekend

## resource guide

for the week of 10 February

*Acts 4.13: When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

The disciples had no special qualifications; they were neither theologically trained nor notably mystical. You don't have to be a specialist to be an active witness for Jesus. The only BA you need is "Born Again," followed by first hand experience with the presence of Jesus in your life.

I have noticed that the witness of any Christian is more effective than the witness of a pastor. People expect a pastor to speak about Jesus — after all we are paid to do it! People are far more impacted when their co-workers or friends talk about Him because this is unexpected (!) and because you are approachable and relevant because you share some of the same commitments and/or interests which your friends or co-workers can easily relate with.

Loved ones, you are surrounded by men and women who Jesus wants to impact through you. I am convinced that no one else has the chance to reach them like you do. Why? Because you are a Christian — not by what you do (or refrain from!) but because Jesus Christ dwells in you by the power of the Holy Spirit. He desires to work through you to touch the hearts of other men and women. The market place is His mission field. It is the field to which he has called you as a full time Christian minister so that He might do the extraordinary through you.

You are called to be what Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York, calls an "ordinary hero." This is

" a man or woman who applied their strength and courageous action toward what God has promised... These heroes did not just sit back, as many do today, saying, 'Well God promised, and I'm sure He will fulfill His word.' They stepped up and took action to make the promise become a reality. They understood that God's work in the world is usually a joint project; He works with us as we yield ourselves to Him... Similarly, the gospel of Jesus Christ will be planted today in hostile cities and territories and nations only by mighty men and women who dare to take risks..."

What we desperately need in our own time are not Christians full of cant and posturing, railing at the world's problems of secular humanism, New Age, or whatever. We need men and women who will step out to turn back today's slide toward godlessness... When it comes to spiritual matters, you and I will never know our potential under God until we step out and take risks.

Would you take a few moments right now and jot down the names of friends, neighbors, or people at work whose Christian faith you are unsure of and then take a moment right now to pray for them...

You are a full time Christian minister whose vocation is the strategic location where God has placed you for service and witness. Therefore, let me say this as concisely as I can: Never underestimate your impact!

May our Father give you favor,

May the Son who saves us give you love, and

May the Holy Spirit fill you with strength and patience as you serve Him through your vocation.

Enjoy your LifeGroup!

## Getting to know one another...

What is your earliest memory of disobeying your parent(s) in order to do something you wanted to do?

## Reading Scripture together...

### Matthew 6.10; Colossians 1.15-18: The Son is supreme...

*“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...” (Matthew 6.10)*

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

*(Col. 1:15–18 NIV11)*

## What? (does the Bible say?)

What do you think the “Kingdom of God is”?

What do you think Jesus is referring to when He asks us to pray for “God’s will to be done”?

Colossians 1.15-18 is a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ the Lord. Write these verses in your own words.

What stands out to you in this description?

## So what? (what difference does it make?)

What do you expect to happen when you pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

Why do you think we are asked to pray for “God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven” is God is the Ruler of the heavens and the earth?

Can we be truly Christian if we have welcomed Jesus as our Savior but are unwilling to submit to Him as our Lord? Why or why not?

David sings, “I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40.8). Do you think there is a relationship between delighting in God’s will and memorizing Scripture? Explain.

## Now what? (how will I think?)

Is this a prayer for God’s will to be done in our society as a whole, in the Church, in our personal lives, or all of the above? Explain how you came to this conclusion?

To pray for “His Kingdom come, His will be done...” we are echoing Paul’s prayer “that in everything he might have the supremacy.” (Colossians 1.18)

– In what areas does Jesus not yet reign supreme in your life?

– What hinders you from surrendering these areas to Him?

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— What steps can you begin to take? How can your LifeGroup encourage you?

How might a “Kingdom perspective”/a high view of the Lordship of Jesus encourage you and your LifeGroup to welcome and do God’s will?

How can your LifeGroup engage in prayer for God’s Kingdom to come?

## Prayer requests...

(write in advance what you want your group to pray for...)

## Praying for my group...