

Growing Deeper *Sway*

Pathfinder Church Launch Weekend *Nehemiah 9:19-21*

As we celebrate the next phase of our church together, we'd like to take a pause in our Growing Deeper daily study and have an intentional time of prayer focused on God's plans for us both as a church and individually. We know there is great power in prayer, especially when God's people are unified in seeking his will. So, please join us each day by using the prayer prompts to pray for the future of our church.

"Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen." Nehemiah 9:19-21

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. Nehemiah recounts many of the ways that God provided for his people as they journeyed through the desert, away from bondage and toward the promise of freedom. As a church, we also have a long and storied past. Like Nehemiah, we know it is important to remember what God has done. Spend your FIFTEEN by thanking God for all of the ways he has provided for us as a church for the last 168 years. If it is helpful, jot down a list before you begin praying. Ask God to bring to mind some of the things you may have forgotten.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

2. Not only is it important to recall what God has done for us as a church, it is also important to remember what he has done for us in our own life and the lives of our family. Spend your FIFTEEN by thanking God for all of the ways he has provided for you and your family. If it is helpful, jot down a list before you begin praying. Ask God to give you a fresh awareness of all of the ways he has cared for you.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

3. Earlier in the same chapter of Nehemiah, Nehemiah led his people in a time of confession to acknowledge the ways they had forgotten God's faithfulness. Spend your FIFTEEN by confessing to God those times when you may have forgotten his goodness to you, or even taken it for granted. If it is helpful, look over the list you made during the two previous days, and note any specific instances that you had taken for granted. Ask God to give you eyes to see those times when you have failed to appreciate the work he has done in your life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

4. At Pathfinder Church, we hope to exhibit unconditional acceptance and a true-to-life approach, with messages that not only inspire but are relevant and helpful. We want to inspire connections and help people along on their God-directed journey. Hopefully, this has been your experience. Earlier this week we asked you to give thanks for all God has done in your life, and we sincerely hope that your time at St. John/Pathfinder Church is one of the things for which you gave thanks to God. Now think about the people in your life, not just your friends and family, but the people with whom you regularly come in contact: your children's teachers, the cashier at the grocery store, the person that you always see at the gym. Spend your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you identify some people for whom you should pray. Ask him to work in their lives, to make them open to spiritual conversations or invitations to take steps toward discovering what Jesus wants to offer. Finally, pray that our church would continue to be warm and welcoming. Pray that all who enter our doors, or find us on live stream, experience life change by meeting the true Jesus, the one who wants to give them wholeness and abundant life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

5. Ephesians 2:8-10 says, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” As the apostle Paul reminds us in this verse, God has created each of us for a purpose. At Pathfinder Church, we use the 1.1.15.6 to remind ourselves to take steps to live out the path God has planned for us. Spend your FIFTEEN by looking over the 1.1.15.6, and ask God to help you determine your next steps. Finish by asking him to help you accomplish your goal.

1 | Give **ONE DAY** a week to God in Worship & rest.

God has designed us for a rhythm of work and rest. He has called us to set aside one day each week to find rest in shared worship and a retreat from everyday life. We also worship God when we actively support the mission of the local church with our resources, including our time, energy, gifts, passions, abilities, and finances. *Hebrews 10:24–25*

1 | Be some**ONE** to another person in an intentional relationship.

Life transformation happens best when we are in relationship with others. Whether one-on-one mentoring relationships, small groups, or any other form of intentional, committed, Christian community, life is meant to be shared. We are also called to form genuine relationships with people who don’t know Jesus as savior. *John 13:34–35*

15 | Spend **FIFTEEN MINUTES** each day in a faith-building discipline.

Our relationship with God grows as we learn to daily connect with Him. Bible reading, prayer, fasting, meditation, confession, and the Growing Deeper—or other Christian resources—are ways to connect with God all week long. *John 15:5*

6 | Live the **SIX** other **DAYS** serving God by serving others.

Every minute of every day is an opportunity to live as God’s representatives in the world. Whether in our neighborhoods, at school, on the job, with friends, on the field, or out in the community, we have been uniquely positioned to reflect God’s love in the world as we serve others. *Matthew 5:14–16*