

9-13-26 Message

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God's faithfulness, Loneliness, Social isolation, Community, Mental health, Physical health, Spiritual health, Elijah, Scripture, Salvation, Holy Spirit, Sin, Jesus Christ, Grace, Support

SPEAKERS

Speaker 1, Pastor Dow Boyer

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you so much for your grace and your mercy, Lord. And Lord, we are just thankful for your faithfulness, as we've been talking about. We we are thankful, Lord, that to be absent from the bodies, to be present with the Lord. And Lord, we know where Shirley Griffith is at. And Lord, we are thankful that she knew you, Lord, and that she's now in your very presence, Lord. We just pray you just be with our people right now, Lord. I pray there wouldn't be any distractions; we'd focus on you. Lord, it's a very important topic that we're talking about today, and so, Lord, I pray that your word would ring true, and Lord, I pray would bring about change. And if there's anyone here today, Lord, who has not placed their faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, Lord, that today would be the day so that they can be with you in heaven for all eternity. Lord, we just pray you be with us now in Jesus' name, Amen. I think this Thursday night is when the services are being held for Shirley. So, if any of you are wanting to, to come to that, so I'll be officiating that. But we've been talking about God's faithfulness for the last several weeks, and it's been it's been good. I mean, we the the important thing is when we started this, it was about what does it mean that that God is faithful, right? And it was that Greek word "pistos, which actually means trustworthy. It means true. Right, for God to be faithful, He has to be true. He has to be trustworthy. Right, and so that was the point, really, of week one was setting the stage for what we're going to talk about next, which was how God is faithful in our temptations, right? And that First Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you above that you are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it. And it's important. We we talked about some of the different escapes, and that's like going to bed earlier and changing what you watch or where you go, serving others when tempted, going for a walk, praying for other people, working out. We even talked about chopping wood, look for a different job or a different department, delete social media, and some have done that if necessary. And if it's a stronghold, then get help, right? And and we talked about how God's given us His Word, He's given us the Holy Spirit, He's given us other people, and He's given us direct access through prayer. And then last week we talked about suffering, how God's faithful in even in our suffering, and we talked about how temporary things are in Scripture, pointing towards eternity, but in the midst of what we're going through, God's strength is perfect in our weakness. God's grace is sufficient. God is the God of all comfort. So this week we are going to talk about another thing that God is faithful in, but I'd like to set it by telling you a little bit about me. When I was a child, I had a vivid imagination. Go figure, right? I think that that's probably why I don't have any hair now. There was so much activity going on in my brain that the hair follicles couldn't keep up. Anyway, I think that as as most kids, I mean, they probably talk to themselves a little. I'm going to assume most kids do that, just so I don't feel like I'm

going to make my own little club. But I remember that I had certain toys I really liked to play with, and I probably have shared this before, so bear with me. But finding somebody who had the exact same toys was difficult, but I found somebody. This is crazy. It seemed like every toy that I owned, they owned, and I felt like we would be sitting down and and I would be playing and and I would look up and say something and they would finish my sentences. That's the kind of friend you want, right? Because we desire kind of community. It's just later I found out that that was my reflection in the mirror, and it was my invisible friend Mikey, and that is a true story. So my mom's shaking her head yes. So I'm embarrassing myself here, but I found it interesting that even in my solitude and isolation, I was looking for community. And what we're going to talk about today is God's faithfulness in loneliness and God's faithfulness in isolation. I think it's a very important topic that we're going to talk about today. The NIH put out a study in 2023 titled "Loneliness, Social Isolation, and Its Effects on Physical and Mental Health. And here's a couple of things that I think to note from this, and I've got a few. So just bear with me, because I think it's important that we understand some facts, right? First of all, loneliness basically is defined as without company, separated from others. Social isolation is the lack of contact with society. So knowing those two definitions helps frame this study. When the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Says that 1/3 of adults 45 and up are lonely. 1/4 adults 65 and up are socially isolated. And remember those differences there. So that means that people over 65, at least a quarter percent are totally have a lack of contact with society, and we think about even some of the younger kids how things affected. And we don't have to look very much, I guess, back in the rearview mirror more so than COVID, right? But this is what they found out. Even looking at the stats from COVID, is that young people, the social isolation. Here's what it was doing: higher levels of cortisol, increasing BMI. It was leading to lifestyles associated with adverse health consequences, and the research demonstrates adverse effects on the cardiovascular, immune, and the neuroendocrine systems. This is even more common in the elderly and minorities and the poor, according to the study. Now, here's something interesting. They were saying that the solution was more social support, and here's what they said: social support may lower the risk of cardiovascular disease. Social support acts as a buffer for stress-induced cardiovascular reactivity and promotes healthy behaviors such as exercise, which also reduces stress. The multi-site enhancing recovery in coronary heart disease, or enriched, they provided a study that says that behaviors such as diet, exercise, absence from smoking, increased adherence to medical regimens were happening as a result of being in social support. Also, the psychological processes linked to mood assessment, feeling of control, and practice of health behaviors seem the the mechanisms underlying the positive association between social support and cardiovascular health. So there was a link between people's cardiovascular health being better, right, by having more social support, and it was affecting these other areas that were just mentioned. And then it talked about social isolation. On the other hand, on the other hand, has harmful effects on mental health. These include worsening of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation. Studies have shown a greater prevalence of depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation due to social isolation in adolescence than in adulthood. Couple more of these here: a systematic review of 63 studies of more than 50,000 children and adolescents found a significant association between loneliness and mental health problems. And then, lastly, cases of suicidal ideation in March and July of 2020, and suicide attempts in February through July 20th were found to be significantly higher in comparison to data from 2019. Of course, this was due to COVID. An increased use of emergency room services was also observed during the pandemic. Mental health concerns noted in children during the period varied from excessive clinginess, fear of safety, worrying to increase depressive anxiety, difficulty in academics, and it's interesting that the conclusion was this: an ideal approach would be to encourage students to get involved in more in-person activities when available and appropriate. New paradigms are needed to identify loneliness and social isolation across all populations. Now, it's fascinating to me. If I want to summarize all that data, it is being in community is helpful to your health, and it's helpful to your spiritual health. In fact, the author of Hebrews says that for us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, it's like the Bible has had the answer all along, and it's that isolation and loneliness are not good, and it's really the devil's

playground because he's got you alone, he's got you cornered against the ropes, and so he's going to mess with your mind. He's going to use everything that you have when isolated, which usually is your phone or what you're binge watching, and he is going to dominate your thoughts in this isolation. He's going to lie to you to the point where you think it's true, and there's also a link behind all these mass school shootings and isolation and loneliness as well. And then the medication that happens because now you find yourself in therapy because you're just trying to find a friend, somebody to talk to, somebody that will listen to you. And then. Comes the medicine, and then with the medicine comes the side effects, much of which we just looked at here. It's interesting that we start reading in Genesis one one, and God starts making everything, and He says, "This is good, this is good, this is very good. But you know what? The first thing that was not good in all of Scripture, it's found in Genesis 218, and the Lord God said, "It is not good. That should be noted that the man should be alone. Of course, we know this is talking about marriage here, but it's a principle as well. It's not good when mankind is alone. The question, since we've been talking about this for the last few weeks, is where is God when we are alone? Where is God when we are isolated? During COVID, they had so many people that had they couldn't even get to loved ones who were dying in hospital rooms, in isolation, in loneliness, and there's still people today that that has rocked them to the core. Society does not do well when everyone is isolated and when everyone is struggling with loneliness. We have widows, and we clear down to adolescents, all who are feeling the same thing just for different reasons? It's how do we deal with the fact that we can be isolated and struggle with loneliness? God, where are you? Are you faithful when that happens? We know in Genesis 224 the solution was therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; they shall be one flesh. Even when things were going back to one, it took two becoming one. Later in Matthew chapter 19, Jesus actually quotes this, the institution of marriage. He doubles down on how God designed it. He says in verse four, he answered and said unto them, Have you not read that he which made them at the beginning, made them male and female, and said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife. They twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, the man and the woman, let not man put us under. Later, Solomon, smartest man on on the earth, really at the time he's living for sure, in Ecclesiastes four eight through 11. Listen what he says: There is one alone, and there is not a second. Yea, he hath neither child nor brother. Yet is there no end of all his labor? Neither is his eye satisfied with riches. Neither saith he, For whom do I labor and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity. Yea, it is a sore travail. Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat. But how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. I remember the early days of our after-school Bible study at Whiteland. We've got a couple of those students who have attended who are in the room here today, and I remember there was like three or four kids that first Wednesday, and and it was it was hard. This was back 2017 getting this thing going. First of all, the blessing of the school allowing us to do it, and still to this day we're still doing it. But that was at the time was kind of an anomaly. I had to almost beg to get in the school at the time. The superintendent was Dr. Spray, and so I he wouldn't even take my call. So finally, I used LinkedIn and I found somebody that knew him, and I was like, "Hey, you got to tell this guy I'm gonna take him to lunch. And next thing I know, I'm sitting across from him. I think he thought I'm not going anywhere, so he ended up letting me do the after-school Bible study, and now we've been through, you know, two superintendents since then, and different principals. But we're still going in there, right? But here's what I saw in there, and what I continue to see is the importance of those students being able to be around other students in a public school, how that strengthens their faith, and it was hard early on when there was three or four. They felt like we're the only ones, but that group has grown, and we've seen the ebbs and flows. Right? I think it's the same thing for every ministry that we do here, for every one of us. Right? When there's a difference when we are with other people, especially of faith. There's value in it, and a lot of people might just say, "Well, all I need is the Word

of God, and I've got the Holy Spirit. And I'm like, "You're not wrong, but you're also not Tom Hanks and Castaway. If you want to talk to a volleyball, do it. But God has given us community, you know, and some of us I think are probably more prone to community than others. I think about see Luke over here in the front row. He gets energized by people. Sometimes I get drained by people, and we joke about how we're both kind of different. But I've seen him really really sick, but just being around other people, and he might be having a fever and everything, and you would never know it because just the interaction energizes him, right? And so I think it's important to understand that we naturally need others. God made it that way; He designed it that way because He designed it for us to need Him, and that also plays out in our everyday life. One of the best examples in Scripture, I think that you can find is Elijah. Now think about this for a second. Elijah in First Kings chapter 18 is calling down fire from heaven. He's destroying the prophets of Baal. He he is seeing God do unbelievable things, but in the very next chapter, he's running. He's hiding. He's alone. He's isolated himself, and he's wanting his life to be ended. In one chapter, you know, some of us we've we've slayed some of the biggest things in our lives, right? We we have went to school, we've went to work, we've led somebody to the Lord. We are on cloud nine, and then the very next day we get something in the mail saying we're being sued, and we're like down in the dumps. We're like, is this even worth it? Do I even want to continue this life? It's so hard, right? And I think it's a little bit what Elijah was dealing with here. But in verse one of chapter 19, it says Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done. Oh, this cracks me up. Ahab was a weak man. He was a weak leader. He was like, he's like, okay, well, it's time for me to tattle on Elijah to my wife because I know my wife's going to do something about this, right? So Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done. This is First Kings 18. He's giving a recap, right? With how, with all how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. So he's like Jezebel. This is what has happened. Jezebel said, "Don't worry, I got this. Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of those by tomorrow about this time. Here was the threat: you are going to lose your very life because you are on the wrong side of the battle, Elijah. Jezebel says, "I'm going to make you pay. Your life will be as the prophets that you slain. So Elijah starts rubbing his hands together, looks up to heaven, he calls fire down to consume Jezebel. That's what you think should happen. Verse on First First Kings 18. However, that's not what happens. This is what Elijah did as a result of the messenger sending that. He says, "When he had saw that, he arose and he went for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belonged to Judah, and left his servant there. So there at least was two, but then he left his servant there. But then he went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a juniper tree, and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers. It's interesting. It says he went a day into the wilderness. Now there is a wilderness or forest, if you will, in Japan, where people go to commit suicide, it's interesting here that the more isolation you get, probably the more fear that creeps in, right? The more alone you feel when in the wilderness, right? You hear the sound of animals. There's no humans around you, right? You know you're not on your turf anymore. There's no dwelling place found. You purposely go there. You sit under a juniper tree, and it's there that you say, "I can't do this. I don't want to live anymore. A servant who would have been advantageous to him is left for him to go a day's journey away from even that, and as he's talking to God, and he's wanting some God-assisted suicide, the response was, he sent an angel of the Lord to him in verse seven. He did that in verse five and six, but in verse seven and eight a second time, and it touched him and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose and he did eat and drink, and he went into the strength of that meat 40 days and 40 nights unto Horeb, the mount Of God, so instead of God saying, "Your wish is my command, He sends an angel, and nourishment begins. He's like, "You got to eat something, and sometimes that-that is what happens. The more isolated we get, depressed, we're not even eating anymore. We have no energy to even be able to fight, and Satan's like, oh, I got him where I I got him where I want him, right? Remember in First Peter five eight it says that he's as a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour. How do lions attack? They hide in the tall grass until the prey is vulnerable in the middle, and then they surprise attack and they group and they come at him.

That's what Satan does for us, we become very vulnerable. The more isolated we get, when we're not eating, we're not drinking, and our mind goes all kind of crazy places. But it's interesting that God didn't say "suck it up, Buttercup, but He said, "Hey, the journey's great. You know that that was telling me. He says, "Elijah, your time ain't up. There's something in front of you, Elijah. Verses 14 through 18. After he makes it to the Mount Horeb, and he makes it to the cave, and then and then the it's the it's the still small voice, right? And then verse 14, it says, "He said, 'I have been very jealous for the Lord God of Hosts, so he's making his proclamation. He's still, even after he's been nourished by the angel of the Lord, even he's sitting here in this cave. He's still making the same claim that he doesn't want to live. He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts because the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword, and I, even I, only am left, and they seek my life to take it away. This is why, God. This is why I just want to be with you. This is too hard. I'm the only one left. The Lord said unto him, "Go. And he didn't say, "Come home. He said, "Go. He says, "Return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus, and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. Okay, and Jehu the son of Nimshi shall thou appoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abilene. That was not even right, but we'll just go with it. Sounded confident, didn't it? Thou shalt anoint to be prophet in thy room. It shall come to pass that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay, and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left me 7000 in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him. You know, I think that. Excuse me. I think whether it is the school over here, we think, hey, there's 15 kids that come to an after-school Bible study. There's like 2,500 kids in the school, but the important thing of them coming together is to realize that they're not alone. There's others who have not bowed to baal, so to speak. Right? I think that's the important part here. I mean, I know some people say I'll just do church at home. It's important that you come together with other believers, right? To know that you're not alone. You're not fighting this thing just you and your family alone. There is a group of people here. It's why it's important to come to Sunday school. Some things are not just about you. It's about you coming and be an encouragement to other people. It's about coming on Tuesday nights and helping the singles grow. It's about getting involved in a small group. Community is essential. It's interesting that what God said is get up, get busy, get community, and you're not alone. And that is very practical for us today. Whether you're at, if you're struggling with loneliness and you're struggling with isolation, get up. You cannot just sit there and think about how bad your life is. You have got to get up. That's the first thing, and then you've got to get busy. If God has left a beat in your chest and air in your lungs. He's not done with you, so get busy doing something. Come take care of the weeds at the church. There's something for you to do. I promise you. But get busy. Don't just sit there. I remember in Shawshank Redemption when Morgan Freeman. Character is talking to Andy Dufresne, and he says, "Either get busy, get busy living, or get busy dying. And I feel like there's a lot of people sitting just like Elijah, just saying, "God, just take me home. But remember, God said, "Get up, get busy, and then he he said, "I'm going to bring you somebody. I'm going to bring you Elisha. So he says, "Get community, get up, get busy, get community. And then the reminder is, "You're never alone, which is the lie from the pit of hell. And I think that the biggest reason is you're like, "Yeah, but you don't understand. I'm a shut-in. I can't. I can't. Though my only communication is, is through, is through watching this on my computer or on my phone. You're still not alone. Trust me, as a believer, I remember in Second Timothy 4:16 through 17 where Paul says, "At my first answer, no man stood with me. He says, "But all men forsook me. I pray God that it not be laid to their charge. He says, notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me, and and then we say that a lot, right? Nevertheless, the Lord stood with me. But you notice what he says right after it, and strengthened me, that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear, and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lions. Hebrews 13:5 says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have, for he hath said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Now we live in a very unique period of time, because in Scripture there would be times where the Holy Spirit would come on somebody like Saul, and then he would come off of Saul.

Right there'd be a time where David understood this so much that he says, "Remove not Thy Holy Spirit from me, because it was a very real thing. It would come and it would go. Now today, in this dispensation of grace that we live in today, the moment we are saved, we are sealed with that Holy Spirit-a promise. God says, "You clearly can't be alone because I'm in you. I'm with you. Whatever you're going through, you have the Lord and His strength in you. That is the strength that raised Jesus from the grave. That's the kind of power that is inside you. We're told in Ephesians 1:13, and whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom after that you believed. He says, "You were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Sealed. That is a spirit baptism that takes you out of Adam and places you into Christ and seals you. And Ephesians 4:30 tells you how long that seal lasts, till the day of redemption, you are not alone. God is with you. He literally is inside of you, and it is not temporary. And so, when Paul says, "Nevertheless, the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, he was right, and the same can be said about every person in this room. If you are saved, if there has come that moment in your life where you're like, my sin has separated me from God, I see that in myself. I don't think there's anybody in this room or watching who's saying, "Yeah, I'm not a sinner. Well, you just lied, so that's one. It only takes one to disqualify you, because God says, "In my presence, there cannot be sin. We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God, and we're really left in a hopeless situation. I love how Paul lines it out in Ephesians two, and he says, "You are without hope, without God in this world. As he's talking about the Gentiles, and everyone who has not been saved is without God and without hope in this world. But God committeth His love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. See, here's the thing: not only do we sin, but the Bible says the wages of sin, or the payment of sin, is death. There is payment owed when we sin. It's not free. There's no such thing as a free sin. And a holy God wouldn't be holy and just if he just turned a blind eye to it. So here we are, unable to pay our own sin debt unless we want to go to hell for all eternity. We're separated from God because of our sin. God can't even look on us because we're sinners. We're stuck, and God. God said, "I've got the solution. He came down in the form of flesh as the Son, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and that's the key. Died on the cross, and when that blood flowed at Calvary, it was sinless blood. That's why there never has to be another sacrifice. It was the perfect blood sacrifice, atoning for our sins. And three days later, he rose from the grave, proving he wasn't just a man who died for a good cause. He was the God-Man, and so God says, because of that, that was a check that was written for every sin that will ever be committed or has been committed, and they're all now paid in full by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. You just have to receive the payment that was made on your behalf, and the moment that you do that, you are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, and as a result, you can never be separated from the love of God in Romans 8:35 through 39. As a result, you cannot be condemned in Romans eight one. You have been justified or made in a right position with God, as though you never sinned because of what Jesus did on the cross, and all you have to do is believe it was for you. Receive that gift today, and you will know that you will never be alone. Now, there are times where solitude does make sense, like Mark 13:35 says, talking about Jesus, and in the morning, rising up a great while before dawn, he went out into a solitary place and there prayed. There is a time where brief solitude makes sense, and it's actually very spiritual for you. But as a lifestyle, it is not good to be in isolation or Alone, and so let me address with a little bit time that we have left our singles in the room here today. That could be the single again, the the singles. I know that they're saying, "I hear what you're saying. I want somebody so so bad. If you could just line up the want somebody on one side and the people. We could do the sixth grade dance style, but I will say that you can spend so much time wanting and longing for someone else that you never long for the person of Christ. It's interesting in First Corinthians 7:29, as this is a really good chapter dealing with this in one Corinthians seven. But in 29 it says, "This I say, brethren, the time is short. It remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none. A few verses later, he says, "I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. So I'd say, if you're single and it's okay to long for to be in community

with a wife, I get that 100% or or with a husband. But I will say the things you should be focusing on right now is: Does my life look like one that cares for the things that belong to the Lord and how I may please the Lord? Because if you don't do it as a single, you're never going to do it as a couple. So while you're in this season, you can still get up, get busy, get in community, and know that the Lord is with you. Don't make that become an idol-that where you just settle for something. And you see this a lot with young people today; they just settle because they want to be with somebody so bad, and they say, "Man, please tell me you can fog a mirror and that you know who God is. Okay, they're a believer. No, they're not. More often than not, and we settle for it. They say they believe in God. Check. Well, the devils believe and tremble. What God is always what I say when somebody says I believe in God. I was like, what God? Well, I'm saved. What does that mean? So while you are single, still get up, get busy, and get community, right? I think that's so important. And so as we're wrapping this thing up, I'm going to get some amens. They'll be like, "Is this because it's the first week of football? Why is he getting out of here so early? But as we as we wrap this up, I want this to be real practical to you. There is the first thing I said, and this is something else that. I think needs to be addressed. It's not just you needing to get up, but it's also identifying other people who need to get up and helping them get up. And there's been times in our lives where I know when Rachel is-I think it's probably with Libby, trying to think back-and she was in kind of a rough spot. And man, we'd have people just show up at the house, helping her get up, helping her get things in order because her body was doing some crazy things, and so part of you getting up is looking for somebody else that needs help getting up. You know, practically, you know, maybe you spend this time instead of focusing on how alone you are and encouraging other people. That could be part of your getting up. That could be part of you getting busy, right? And if you're if you're so isolated, when was the last time that you were involved in anything outside of a Sunday morning? When's the last time you came to a concert this Friday with other believers, right? When's the last time you got into maybe a small group or went to a Sunday school class. If that doesn't work with your time schedule, I'm sure that Jeff could use you in food pantry. There are ways for you to get busy. If transportation is a reason, then we'll find out. Call the church. We'll find out who's in your area. That's what the database is there for, right? We will find a way to help get you busy, but you cannot do it alone. Community is critical. You need to be here. You need to be in your place. It's not only good for you; it encourages other people. Your faithfulness is important, and when we need to call on somebody because we need help, it's required of a steward to be found faithful. If you're not here, then you're missing the greatest, probably the greatest attribute you can have, and that's your availability. So it's important that you get up, get busy, and get community. But even when you are discouraged, do not forget that you are not alone. If you're a child of God, the Lord is with you. I'm going to have you all stand at this time. If you've enjoyed coming to Grace Point, you've got questions about maybe getting busy, as I talked about today, or getting more community, then this might be a good time for you to come forward afterwards, or while give you a head start while we're gonna sing here in a minute and we're gonna pray, but you can come up and we'll have a couple workers up front. If you have been saved recently and you want to know what's my next steps, I know for sure I'm saved, but how do I grow in my faith? And you want to know how the church can help with that? Then come forward. Let's talk about that. Let's have a conversation. If you're visiting today and you have questions about the church, we invite you as well. So whatever it is, we want to use this time afterwards to be able to move forward. If you want to come up there or come out to the information desk, and you can get your questions answered. But for now, we are going to pray, and then we will sing a chorus, and then we will dismiss. Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for your grace and mercy. I thank you for the word of God and how true it is, and I thank you for how faithful you are, Lord. I know that this is a problem in the world today, and we hide in circles and just glued to social media, or glued to video games, glued to this binge watching. I know how normal it is for families to walk through the front door and everybody go to their corner of the house and never see each other till the next day. Satan wants parents not engaged with their children. Satan wants people in isolation. Satan wants access to our mind, and Lord, some of these tools, some of these practical things that we can do to get away from that is to

get up, to get busy, to get community, and always remember that we are not alone, and that Your strength is inside us. Lord, I just pray that you just be with our people right now. Whether they are dealing with the loss of a loved one, whether they have been through a divorce and feeling like they can't get back up off the mat, Lord, there is grace. There is room to come and get involved and to be faithful. We're not here to judge those past decisions and and leave those people in that shame, Lord. I pray that whether people are have been single for a while and they've been praying for somebody, that maybe the more faithful everybody is, maybe the more single people find each other. But Lord, I pray that you just be with us now as we move forward as a church. May we be cognizant of those that we haven't seen in a while, that may be struggling in isolation, and know how important it is to be heard, to be prayed for, to be loved on. Lord, may we be proactively looking for other people. Lord, I pray there isn't a person here, Lord, who leaves this place today without knowing how much you love them, that you sent Jesus to die on the cross for their sins, and that He was buried, and three days later wrote. Again, that they can have eternal life by just placing their faith in that alone today. Lord, I pray that we all leave this place today, knowing that we're going to be in heaven together one day for all eternity. Lord, be with us now. We give you all the honor and praise in Jesus' name. We hope you received the blessing from today's service. We would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at gpeindy.net or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512. For more options to watch, just click on demand on the website. Until next broadcast, may God bless you. Is our prayer.