



FULLY ALIVE

The Goal of the Gospel



SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2018

For a Life-Giving Journey

A Message from Matt Heard, Lead Pastor

Read about Pastor Matt at northlandchurch.net/pastormatt.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 10:10 (NIV)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

BAPTISM WEEKEND

"The point of the Scripture narrative is to say that baptism draws together all those stories about creation and Exodus, about Jesus, but also about the life of the church in the world. When we baptize someone, we are participating in that same narrative. We are saying, We are on this journey, this is our story, and it is now your story as well. And if you stick with us, we will help you live that story with us. That's what baptism is all about. ... [It] deeply and symbolically and wonderfully says: This is who we are."

- N.T. Wright

VISION SERIES CULMINATION

Engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus. It's our vision statement, and it's at the core of the gospel. Jesus didn't come to start a religion but to summon the world back to Life. He came to enable each of us, as His fallen image-bearers, to be restored and once again flourish to God's glory. He came to bring us back to Life, to place us in community with others similarly called, and for us to be His instruments of bringing that Life to the people, communities and world around us.

In John 14:6, the Bible says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (NIV). As we launch into this next season together, with His vision for us as our guide, may Northland be a beacon of *orthodoxy* (His "Way" and His "Truth") but also demonstrate and convey *vibrancy* (His "Life").

UPCOMING SERVICES

WEEK 40 » October 6-8 | Every Beat: Life Rhythms of the Psalms | A Song for Our Journey | Psalm 121 | Pastor Sean Cooper

WEEK 41 » October 13-15 | Every Beat: Life Rhythms of the Psalms | What's Love Got To Do With It? | Psalm 136 | Pastor Emeritus Vernon Rainwater

Life in His Name

To lovingly, submissively, intimately, vibrantly relate with God in such a way that it ...

Awakens my heart,
Addresses my longings,
Widens my worship,
Expands my thinking,
Deepens my relationships,
Enables my love,
Broadens my emotions,
Permeates my work,
Enhances my recreation.

Life in His name

Activates my heart,
Amplifies my laughter,
Authenticates my tears,
Heals my brokenness,
Shapes my decisions,
Stimulates my impact.

Life in His name

Fuels my compassion,
Motivates my justice,
Unleashes my generosity,
Multiplies my creativity.

Life in His name

Directs my days,
Settles my shalom,
Solidifies my meaning,
Fulfills my story.

Life in His name

Leads my journey,
Anchors my destiny,
Restores my humanity,
Secures my eternity,
Accelerates my anticipation of Heaven.

Life. In. His. Name.

- Matt Heard

"... that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31, NIV).

Faith

This week we're learning about faith and about the role faith in God plays in being made fully alive in Jesus.



WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.

Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- Who is someone you have faith in?
- Who is someone who has faith in you?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ JOHN 10:10 (NIV) & JAMES 2:14-26 (NIV)

- What's the difference between faith with deeds and faith without deeds?
- What are the two different approaches toward life that Jesus presents in John 10:10?
- What are some of the practical ways you practice your faith in Jesus?
- How does the practice of faith inform the way you fully experience life?
- What's the difference between the belief of the demons described in James 2:19 and the kind of belief Jesus called us to? What's the difference between the life people have apart from Jesus and the life they have in Jesus?
- How does it look different to be fully alive in Jesus? What are some of the visible signs and practices – or "deeds," as referred to in the James 2 passage – evident in a life of faith?
- What are some signs you see in the community or group you're a part of that reveal the fullness of life Jesus provides?
- What's a way you could put your faith in action in the week ahead?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

Hebrews 11 is famous for its depiction of faith. Paragraph after paragraph begins, "It was by faith....," before describing famous Bible heroes and attributing their stories and lives to their faith in God (NLT). That call to live by faith didn't stop in the Old Testament, though. Jesus called us to put our faith in Him. And Paul called us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 to "live by faith, not by sight" (NIV). That call to faith that was the beginning of so many stories in the Bible is the same call to faith we have before us now. Just as God promised before that the result of faith was to be made fully alive, He's making that same invitation to us now, if we'll put our faith in Jesus.

READ HEBREWS 11:24-29 (NLT)

- What are some of the acts of faith that Moses took, according to this passage?
- Without faith, how would Moses have acted differently in those situations? How would his life have been different?
- What is a place in your life where God has "parted the Red Sea" and given you a path forward through faith? How can your group or community help you take those steps of faith?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16 (THE MESSAGE)

- What are the characteristics of the life Jesus has called us to?
- What does it mean to have a "life-giving God"? Where is God breathing life into you?
- How can you "run hard and fast in the faith"? Who in your life can encourage you in your faith in the same way Paul is encouraging Timothy in this passage?

Engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus.

What are some areas in your life where you're hoping to be more fully alive? Who are some people already in your life who can help you experience more of that life in Jesus? How can you spark and share life in the people around you?

WHAT'S CURRENT

Belong & Grow

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 7-28 | 12:30-2:15 P.M. | THE HUB | northlandchurch.net/belong&grow

Start Here!

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 7-NOVEMBER 11 | 9-10:30 A.M. | ROOM 4213 | northlandchurch.net/starthere3

Local Serve Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 8 A.M.-NOON | FOYER | northlandchurch.net/localserve

New “Fully Alive” Worship Album

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE BOOKSTORE FOR \$6 | store.northlandchurch.net

Our Stewardship Commitment

Northland Church is firmly committed to good stewardship of funds entrusted to us by our family, friends and donors. We promise to use your gifts wisely and effectively in Christ's name. To ensure our financial accountability to you, our community, we are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org). We fully support the purpose and goals of ECFA and display its seal proudly to reflect compliance with its membership standards. Please contact me at Glenn.Garton@NorthlandChurch.net or call the church office (407-949-4000) if you have any financial accountability questions. — Glenn Garton, Finance Director



Stewardship Report

Week ending September 17, 2018

\$171,333

AMOUNT
EXPECTED

\$137,660

AMOUNT
RECEIVED

\$378,673*

BUDGET DEFICIT
YEAR-TO-DATE

\$596,659

DEBT PAID
YEAR-TO-DATE

**We have reduced this deficit by spending \$287,348 less than budget during the first eight months of 2018. The current shortage is being covered by our beginning cash balances.*

How to Give – There are three ways to give tithes and offerings:

- At the kiosks in the foyer (electronically or by cash/check).
- Online at Giving.NorthlandChurch.net.
- Mobile via text. Text any amount, followed by the word “northland,” to 45777. (e.g. 50 northland)