

**NORTHLAND  
CHURCH**

MARCH 9-11, 2019

# AWAKEN

**... Living Witnesses**

John 1:19-28; Acts 1:8

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## ... Living Witnesses

### A message from Pastor Nathan Clark

Read about Pastor Nathan at [northlandchurch.net/nathanclark](http://northlandchurch.net/nathanclark).

### John 1:19-28 (NLT)

This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

"Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'"

Then the Pharisees who had been sent asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?"

John told them, "I baptize with[d] water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal."

This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

### Acts 1:8 (NASB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

- » **March 16-18 Communion** | AWAKEN | ... Life from the Lamb | John 1:29-34 | Pastor Matt Heard
- » **March 23-25** | AWAKEN | ... Following for Life | John 1:35-51 | Pastor Matt Heard

**Sleepwalking.** It's what most of us do—not just at night but every day. Going through the motions, experiencing the routines, fulfilling the obligations, fighting the challenges... all the while pushing back a question gnawing at our core: "What is life for?!"

Is life merely when cells are reproducing and a heart is beating? Every one of us has a persistent hunch there's more to the depth and dance of our existence than mere physical and scientific definitions. But where do we turn for a fuller, more accurate and credible understanding?

Two thousand years ago, a Galilean fisherman named Zebedee had two sons, James and John. The brothers were adventurous and opinionated and lived life in large fashion—in fact, they were given the nickname "Sons of Thunder" for their exuberance.

One day while they were working with their father repairing their fishing nets, a Rabbi named Jesus came to the lakeshore and called them both to be His disciples. Little did they know the dimensions and implications of that call or the true identity of the One who was calling them. But follow Him they did... and their understanding and experience of life were forever changed as a result.

The two brothers developed a close relationship with Jesus—especially John. Not only was he one of Jesus' disciples, but he became part of Christ's "inner circle" of companions, and of those, John was probably the closest to Jesus. It was John who sat next to Jesus, and actually leaned against Him, during the disciples' final supper together the night before He was crucified. And it was John to whom Jesus, as He was being crucified, entrusted the future care of Mary, His mother.

During those years of following Jesus—absorbing His teaching, watching Him live, listening to His laughter and wisdom, observing Him interacting with people, seeing Him die on the cross, witnessing His resurrection from the dead and ascension to the Father, receiving His Spirit and then devoting his life to serving Christ's Kingdom purposes—John was impacted at the core of his life story and eternity.

As the days turned into decades, John became a principal leader of the expanding community of Christ's followers hundreds of miles north in the large and influential region of Asia Minor. In the sunset years of his life, John, under the leadership and inspiration of Christ's Spirit, began to write down what he had seen and heard so people like us could enter into the same understanding and experience of life John had—a view of Life authored and enabled by Jesus.

Through John's firsthand observation and experience of Jesus... through his relationship with Him... and through the inspired words he wrote... we meet the Author of Life and the Redeemer of our stories. On the pages of this Gospel of John, Jesus beckons us with an invitation. With a call. With a summons.

"Believe and follow Me, and you'll taste Life as I intended for it to be lived."  
In other words—**AWAKEN.**

# Transformation

This week we're learning about God's faithfulness and His power. We're learning how God brings about change in us and how through that change, the world around us can see God more clearly.

## WATCH THE VIDEO

### [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://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.***

- What are some of the relationships or interests that you represent in your day-to-day life?
- What are some positive ways you've presented those interests?  
What are some negative ways?

## Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

### READ JOHN 1:19-28 (NLT) & READ ACTS 1:8 (NASB)

- What two things happen to us when the Holy Spirit becomes a part of our lives, according to Acts 1:8?
- How did the world respond to John the Baptist displaying his faith, as we see in John 1?
- What are some of the places where we look for power or transformation?
- What are the limitations to the transformation that comes from ourselves? From things of the world? What are the limitations on the power of the Spirit?
- What are some of the signs that reveal the limitations of our own power? What are some of the signs that reveal the limitations of the power of the world?
- Galatians 5 outlines the effects of the power and presence of the Spirit on our lives. What are the signs of the Spirit's power?
- What are some of the ways we witness through our lives? How do those signs reveal God's power through our lives?
- What are some places where you can arrange your life around Jesus more so you can experience and reflect the fullness of God?

***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.

**Many times in Scripture we're called to be witnesses. But those calls are rooted in a bigger invitation – to be people who see Jesus, to be people who follow Jesus, and to be people transformed by Jesus. Our role as witnesses is fundamentally to point out the goodness of God, and one of the chief proofs we can share is the redemptive work God is doing in our lives. As we continue to follow Jesus and find the Spirit bringing about change in our lives, we'll continue to build a body of evidence through our very lives that shows the glory and goodness of the gospel.**

### READ GALATIANS 5:16-21 (NLT)

- What are the “two forces” constantly fighting in the lives of followers of Jesus?
- What is some of the fruit of living according to the world?
- What does that fruit tell us about the limitations a life built on the power of the world offers?

### READ GALATIANS 5:22-26 (NLT)

- What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
- What's the difference between a life defined by the Spirit's power and a life defined by the world's power? What do those differences reveal about God's character?
- Why does that fruit hold such an appeal to the world around? Who are some people that might need to experience God's love, as well as the other fruit of the Spirit, through your life?

**This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies).**

# What's Current

Get info and sign up at [NorthlandChurch.net](http://NorthlandChurch.net), or ask a connection team member for assistance.

## Laugh All Night Comedy Festival

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 | 7-8:30 P.M. | SANCTUARY | [northlandchurch.net/laughallnight](http://northlandchurch.net/laughallnight)

## Belong & Grow Partnership Class

SUNDAYS STARTING MARCH 17 | 12:15-2:15 P.M. | THE HUB | [northlandchurch.net/belong&grow](http://northlandchurch.net/belong&grow)

## Healing Hearts Club

MONDAY, MARCH 18 THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 8:30 A.M.-3 P.M. | [northlandchurch.net/healingheartsclub](http://northlandchurch.net/healingheartsclub)

## Student Life Camp

JUNE 3-7 | REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 31 | LEESBURG, FL | [northlandchurch.net/middleschool](http://northlandchurch.net/middleschool)

## MFUGE Camp Experience

JULY 14-20 | REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 31 | NASHVILLE, TN | [northlandchurch.net/highschool](http://northlandchurch.net/highschool)

## Fully Alive 5K

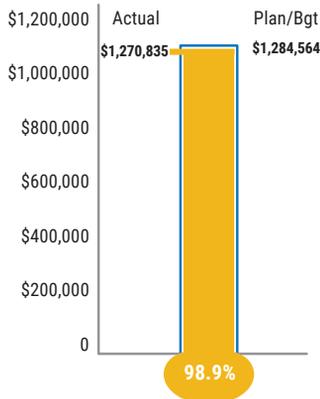
SATURDAY, MAY 18 | 7:30 A.M. | MEET IN THE FRONT PARKING LOT | [northlandchurch.net/fullyalive5k](http://northlandchurch.net/fullyalive5k)

## Tithes and Offerings



Plan/Budget  
Actual Giving

### First 8 weeks of 2019



### Ways to Give

Give by cash or check and drop it in any of our tithe boxes.



Give online at [NorthlandChurch.net/Give](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Give) or use the Northland App.



Give via mobile text. Text "northland" followed by the amount to 77977 (e.g. northland 10).

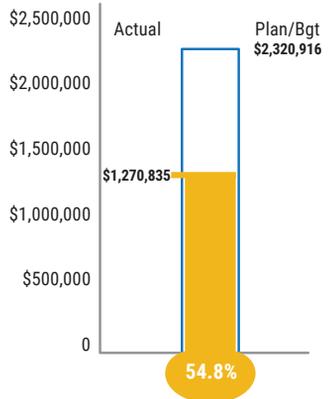


### Mortgage Update:

As of March our balance is now \$9.9M

### First Quarter of 2019

8 weeks completed of 13 weeks



Percent reached toward fully funding the first quarter.

Questions? Contact our Finance Team at [financeteam@northlandchurch.net](mailto:financeteam@northlandchurch.net)