

**NORTHLAND
CHURCH**

MARCH 16-18, 2019

AWAKEN

... Life From the Lamb

John 1:29-34

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.**

Forgiven by the Lamb of God

This week we're learning about how Jesus was the Lamb of God and about the impact His sacrifice has had on us.

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.

- When is a time you've experienced forgiveness?
- What makes it hard to forgive someone?
What makes it hard to seek or accept forgiveness?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ JOHN 1:29-34 (NIV) & 1 JOHN 1:7-9 (NLT)

- What name does John the Baptist use to refer to Jesus? What are some other times we see sacrificial lambs referred to in the Bible? (See 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 for an example.)
- What does the blood of Jesus do for us, according to 1 John 1?
- Romans 6:23 tells us that our mistakes and sins have earned each of us death. What are some of the reasons we need to be cleansed by the blood of the lamb?
- What happens when we confess our sins?
- What did Jesus have to do so that He could forgive us of our mistakes and sins?
- What has it meant to you to be forgiven and have had your sins taken away?
- What are some ways you can express your thankfulness for the work Jesus did on the cross?

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.

Often we think of forgiveness as a kind of absolution. But the word *forgive* comes from the Latin word *perdonare*, which means to give completely. That means forgiveness is less about overlooking failings and more about the giving it takes to cover those failings. When Jesus offers us forgiveness, He's not removing the evidence of our sins. He has given Himself completely to cover our sins' consequences so that we can be freed from our sin and restored to full relationship with God and with each other.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21 (NLT)

- What makes reconciliation so difficult? How does forgiveness bring about reconciliation?
- What does it mean to be an "ambassador" of Jesus?
- Whom can we tell about the forgiveness that comes through faith in the Lamb of God?

READ ROMANS 6:22-23 (MSG)

- So often the world preaches there is no forgiveness, only condemnation, for our sins. What does God teach us instead?
- What are the results of our sin? What are the results of listening to the world's teachings on forgiveness? What are the results of accepting God's forgiveness?
- Where can you extend that same kind of forgiveness to people in your life?

This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.

Holy Week Schedule

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER AT NORTLANDCHURCH.NET/EASTER

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19 | Noon

Child care not available.

Easter Worship Services

Saturday, April 20 | 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 21 | 8, 10 a.m.

and noon

Monday, April 22 | No service

Child care will be provided at all services for children 3 years old and younger. We will also have childcare for children with disabilities at all services. American Sign Language (ASL) will be provided at the 10 a.m. service. Spanish interpretation will be available at the 10 a.m. and noon services.



Easter Lilies Order Form

Honor or memorialize someone you love.

To place your order by Monday, April 15, fill out this form (please print clearly) and place it, along with \$10 for each plant, into a tithe envelope found at the offering boxes. Label the envelope "Lilies" and deposit it there. Checks should be made payable to Northland Church. Questions? Email easter@northlandchurch.net or call 407-949-4000. Order them online at northlandchurch.net/easterlilies.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

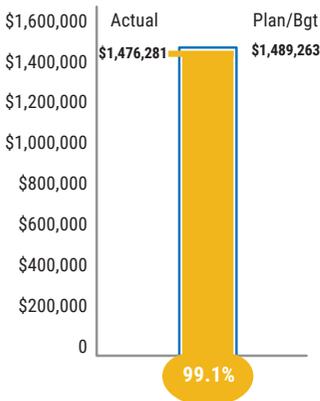
Purchased plants will be placed as decorations throughout the building and will be available for pickup in the lobby at the after Monday, April 22.

Tithes and Offerings



Plan/Budget
Actual Giving

First 9 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 or use the Northland App.



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

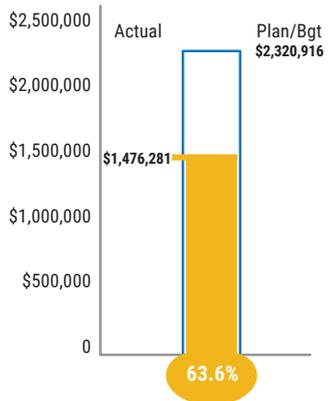


Mortgage Update:

As of March our balance is now \$9.9M

First Quarter of 2019

9 weeks completed of 13 weeks



Percent reached toward fully funding the first quarter.

Questions? Contact our Finance Team at financeteam@northlandchurch.net