

Week Beginning: 3rd February 2019

Worship Series: #1 in series



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT

Remember This Week

The beginning, the waypoint and the goal of life is Jesus!



This is what the LORD says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."

Isaiah 41:17



Gracious Lord, the vision you have for us is greater than we can ever see, think or imagine. Help us to grasp and take hold of that vision, find our place in it and live it. By the power of your Holy Spirit, let our lives leave waypoints for others that they also can follow the way, the truth and the life that is only found in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless this time together that we may point each other and encourage each other to reach the waypoints you have set before us. Amen.



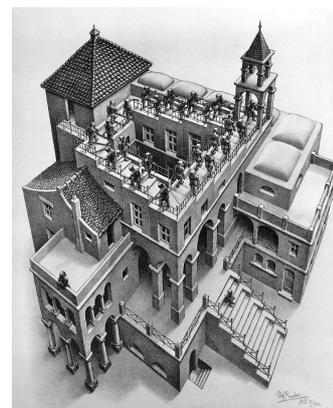
1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Who is the person most likely to get lost in your family?*
3. *What's the biggest dream you have in your life at the present time?*
4. *Spend some time reflecting on your own life. List the 5 most significant waypoints for you in your spiritual walk with Jesus?*

Waypoints are a part of our life. To varying degrees we all have them. For some they are called a "Bucket list" - things that we want to do and tick off before we die. For others, they are life goals - markers along the way that signal we are on the right path, whether relationally, financially, spiritually or career wise. But the only way we can punch in the waypoints for the journey ahead, is to know our starting point and the destination that we are heading to. So as we launch into a new season of ministry, it's time to check our bearings, be clear about the vision God has called us to, so that we can continue the journey with confidence and boldness in the Way he has shown us.

Read Luke 6:17-23:

5. *What message do you hear this text speaking to you on first hearing it?*
6. *How does Jesus' vision for his disciples and his Church compare with the vision you have for your life? What is your vision for your life?*

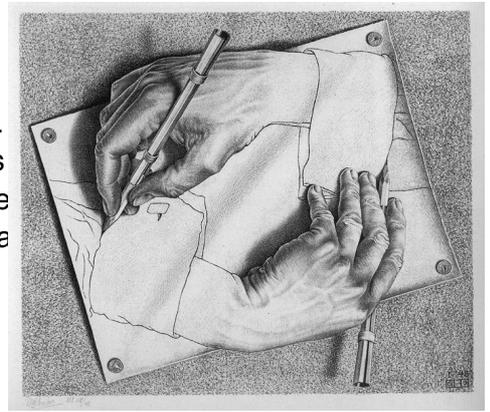
The vision that Jesus gives of the Kingdom here is like looking at an Escher' drawing.





7. *What do you see in these pictures?*

Escher's drawings also make you do a double-take. You look at them, and they seem okay, but then it begins to dawn on you that something is not right with the picture. Things are not as they seem. That's exactly what Jesus is doing in his sermon in Luke 6. People have to do a double take, get their heads around the picture of the Kingdom that Jesus has presented to them. He challenges everything that people think is normal, and flips it upside down to show how things really are from God's perspective and how they will be in eternity. Each statement of Christ is a jolt of reality in our world that is constantly shifting the waypoints of what is normal and acceptable.



8. *What are some examples you can think of how the waypoints have shifted in your lifetime and how has that made you feel?*

The word for Blessed in the Greek could also be translated as "Congratulations!" or "Oh, you lucky person!" How many of you can say, "I'm so lucky to be poor!" When something terrible happens in your life, and all you can do is weep and mourn for days, have any of you ever thought, "Wow! Why can't all my life be this way?"

It's at times like this, that we have to remember our starting point, and our destination. Look at who Jesus is addressing here...it's not the crowd, but disciples - those he has called to follow him, those who are in a relationship with him. He shares these words to equip his disciples for the way ahead, to describe the obstacles that will confront them, conflicting worldviews that will tempt them, frustration that will come upon them and pain that will grieve them and troubles that will threaten to derail them. He reminds them of the destination to which he has called them is eternity in heaven with him. And finally he gives them a vision and waypoints that will encourage them and remind them that they are on the right path because he is with them. The way of Jesus is hard. And you may well wonder how you will get through. But that is precisely what Jesus is getting at here. When the world keeps shifting and the waypoints you have relied on become dead ends, when you can't sleep at night for fear of the future, or struggle through the day with a pit in your stomach that comes from deep seated insecurity. When you look around the world as it is and know that it could and should be better, when you recognise your poverty and become very aware of your need and how you are so utterly dependent on the compassion and understanding of those around you and so utterly in need of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness in your life, then you start to hear the good news that Jesus speaks, you start to see a life and a future that is better than you can ever imagine. You discover a hope and a future that is greater than you thought possible.

9. *Where does Jesus fit into the vision you have for your life?*

10. *What is the good news that you hear in this passage for your life at this point?*

Our vision at LifeWay is to be:

a vibrant Christian Church, equipping disciples of all ages in advancing the Kingdom locally and globally by living fully, sharing boldly, and growing purposefully in the life-transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

11. *What are some of the waypoints that you think we as Church can look to that indicate that we are on the way that God has set out before us?*

12. *What role/part do you think God is calling you to play in this vision or what holds you back from doing so?*

- * Praise God that his vision for this world includes you. Thank Jesus for the waypoint of the cross that gives direction and vision for all life's journey. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep your eyes on Jesus that you may always know the way to go.
- * Pray for the Leadership Team as they plot the waypoints to 2024 in the vision that God has given us at LifeWay.
- * Pray about the role/part you as a LifeGroup and individuals can play in seeing God's vision for the Church in this location can be realised.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, Jesus is life for you. Amen.

