

Computer Generated Transcript - We finished our series on Sampson last week and we're I'm one of the take time here in between our our two series and we're going to be starting another one here in a couple weeks but I want to take a few moments here today in between these series to just kind of talk again about some of the vision and some of the things that we're trying to do as we are launching into this year I really believe that God has already begun to do some of the things that that we've been praying about that we've got has already begun to stir in some of the hearts that that that this is this is big on and and so I really believe I shared this all the way back in December that I really believe that God is going to do something really neat in some hearts in this place in this year and like I said we've already begun to see that but I really want to just kind of keep focus on that as we're going through the year I don't want to lose that and so I we're going to talk about this concept today again and just go into it a little bit and and so I want to now let me start before I say this I know there's going to be a Sunday school answer that everybody knows but when we talk about that when I ask this question OK and and everybody's going to know and we're going to be talking about long after God after we go but I want to ask this question of what is something that you've long for like what is something that you have literally like everything else one on hold because you had to go get this thing you know what is something that you have deeply desired and were willing to give up maybe something else to get this thing as as you go so what is something you've long I know everybody is like we're in church I was like Jesus OK I get that but that's that's not what I'm trying to accomplish right now through this question so it's OK for you to want other things as well. Then just Jesus and we're going to be talking about that like I said as we go on but it was something that you long for something that you have just gone after your family to know Jesus love I heard love what else what was that a trip right OK. A vehicle that is a Spoken like a true high schooler right there all right a house all right yeah baby yes what else good Mexican food gone on the hunt for my wife when she was pregnant especially there was like certain foods that she was longing for right and that was like the only food that didn't make her feel sick so you know we had to make those late night runs to different places to get those cravings satisfied there was a longing for those foods what else what else is something that you have longed for. A horse Eastpointe now he's not saying that for himself he's pointing at his wife and saying Oh horse OK that's not really fair how about you now Gentry was one for you yeah he did her getting a horse that's a good good husband dancer good job thirty six inch walleye that have you ever caught one like that. Now yet still longing for that awesome what else nothing else a kayak All right. A finished house that's never going to happen when I'm sorry that's. The day it's minister going to be buying a new fixer upper that's just how John Roll so. Well House a cat I've longed to get away from cats you long to get them all right what else was something else good toilet paper. Fair enough there enough. Well is that new furniture all right there's all kinds of things that we set our sights on and that we go after right and a lot of these things that make sense of us a lot of us can relate to different things right like you're willing to trade in one thing for something that's more important to you and all of these different things and that's OK I'm not when I when we start talking about long after God I don't want anybody to feel guilty about also wanting something else OK The point I'm trying to make isn't you know we should just focus only in on God and never want anything else or else you're somehow less of a Christian that's not what I'm saying but what I would say is what is our first priority right what is our first long what is our first desire what is the first thing when we think of that I just want more of that pops into our head and I do want to say that I think that God needs to be in that spot it is such an important thing I have done different things personally. I've had this guitar I was trying to think of it with Dan earlier today I think I've been playing this guitar for twelve or fourteen years and it's one of those two numbers now and when I got that guitar that was something that I really set my sights on I saved money for a long time I traded in some other things to be able to get that and I really went after and it was one of those things that I just really desired and since then now every scratch that's on that bad boy is mine you know I mean you can see where the pick is starting to wear away the wood and I just notice in the back even there's some buckle rash I used to wear ties to protect the back of my guitar but now I just decided it's not worth it and so so there's some there's some

buckle rash on the back of there that's happening it's Those are my marks I've been because I've been playing it for so long it was something that I wanted and I went after and there are those kind of things I remember with Mandy you know when I first started going after my wife and pursuing her like nothing else you know I mean like there are always other options. Right I mean there's always more people out there but you set your sights on the one that really matters all of a sudden and the fact that there's you know three billion other women on the world it just doesn't matter anymore right because there's one that you're going to pursue and go after and and there's these things in our lives that become important and these things and and I would say that in the Bible we see this consistently spoken of in the Old and New Testament both we see people long after that but we see people specifically longing after God and I would I would challenge your thinking today because I think every single one of us whether you're a first timer in church dis morning and I mean we have people in this church almost every week that are so either haven't started their walk with Jesus yet or are just beginning it all the way to people who are basically born inside of a church and have been inside the church for the last eighty years and I mean there are there are are amount of maturity and experience in all of these things that ranges across the board and I love that about this church all right but I would encourage you whether you are just starting whether you have been following Jesus or for decades or you're somewhere in between I would challenge you with the thought of. Is there room for more right is there room for you to go after Jesus more to long after God more and I would say that for every one of us here today there's probably room for more there's probably areas for us to grow in our long forgot I want to read I'm going to read a lot of scripture this morning all right I mean so I need you to get your Bibles out and I need to get your page turn in fingers loosened up you know you might need to like crack some knuckles or something whatever's going to help you get ready to turn the pages of your bible more some of you are like you're already holding your phone in you're like I'm ready to go just start talkin all right I'm going to read out a. The New Living Translation for most of these verses as we go through some of them are not in the New Living Translation but most of them are so if you've got an electronic version that's the translation I'm going to be reading out of for the most part this morning but I want to read then we're going to start in the Old Testament and then we're going to read a couple in the new and go back but we're going to start in Psalms OK and I'm going to start in Psalm one thousand so if you're unfamiliar with your Bible if you take your Bible and you open it up right to the middle you're probably going to hit either Psalms or proverbs if you get proverbs just turn back one one book and you'll get there but songs chapter one nineteen which is the big right it's the largest chapter in Scripture we're not going to read the whole thing OK that's not where we're going I'm just going to read one verse out here this morning and we're going to we're going to keep moving through some scripture All right so song chapter one nineteen verse one thirty one is where we're going to be today Psalm chapter one nineteen verse one thirty one the author writes here I pant with expectation longing for your commands that interesting to any of you write like David as he's writing as he's doing all of these things is going through you see David reference over and over in the Psalms that he longs for God's laws I think most of us think that's crazy most of us probably look at that and we think really his laws like that's one of the things that you love about God is His laws. But for most of us if you really get it it's such a weird thing because a lot of us don't like to be told what to do Sherry's not in your head emphatically. Most of us when we think about all of the things that we love about God If you've been serving God for any amount of time most of us if we listed the things that we love about God His laws or his commandments probably wouldn't be on top of that list. Right there's lots of there most of those you would probably say forgiveness or Grace or you know those kind of things but most of us probably wouldn't put you know what I really love about God is his loss. And yet we see over and over in scripture that they don't only long for God They long for God's love because they know these writers of Scripture they know God well enough to know that if God makes a law it's for their good. Not for their harm some Chapter forty to one maybe one of the most familiar songs you know I'd be probably a top ten so I'm Chapter forty two verse one. Song Chapter forty two worst one says for the choir director a psalm of the descendants of Cora and then

it starts where we all know right as the deer. Soul of your quote me King James right now as the deer panted for the water so my soul long and after you write such wonderful Shakespearean old English as the deer longs for streams of water so I long for you Oh God OK so there was a song I don't know when it was written somebody help me out probably the late seventy's eighty's probably about that time when it was early eighties when it was written and most of you know it right as the deer pants for the water so my soul along with added and I should say most of you know some of you if you've been in church long enough you know and lots of you probably don't it was before your time and that's OK but it's a song right and usually there would be some I don't know how many of you guys you remember overheads in church right like you rock to the overheads it wasn't about screen projectors and stuff it was it was overheads and and some of you don't even know what that is because you never even saw one in school right but if this little light with a mirror and there's a clear piece of film that you put stuff on and it takes that light and then IT projects it up on a screen like that and so my church when I was when I was in younger with the one that I grew up in the pastor took it upon himself to pay a local artist to design like design these overheads he so ours were done in sharpie and she she she did all of this artistic stuff on there and usually when you see this in a song or you see this verse on maybe a bookmark or it's a very peaceful scene. Right as the deer longs and so it's like a deer standing in the water with its head down but that is not really doing justice at all to the words that are on this page how many of you have ever seen. An animal chased by a wolf. You've seen like you've either watched it on a video or you've seen it in life and you've seen them where the wolves are smart and man those things are smart right there usually send a wolf or two behind the animal to chase it until it gets tired until it's absolutely and utterly spent and then they chase it right into the pack in the pack is strong and waiting and ready but that deer or that animal that's that's getting chased is utterly spin it's heaving you watch their sides just explode in and out and there's frost all over and all of those kind of things and it's it's actually pretty brutal to watch it go down I know Chris tells a story he saw that happen right in front of him one time and out by his place I was at two years ago or so three four man I'm getting old four years ago times Roland by and he saw this happen but I mean it's that is the picture that we have of this a deer that is at its last leg longing for water this is not meant to be a peaceful thought this is meant to be I am desperate for more of God as a deer pants desperately as its sides are heaving just begging for a break in a drink that's how my soul wants God that's that's my desire for God that level of intense seeking That's how I want God that's a tough standard Can I just be honest and say that in my fav journey that has not always been my level of desire for God. And if you've been serving Jesus for longer than about ten minutes it probably hasn't always been yours either but that's what we're supposed to chase Isaiah Chapter twenty six that's after Psalms if you turn more toward the back it still in the Old Testament keep a finger and so on we're going to go back there one more time but Isaiah Chapter twenty six verse nine Isaiah Chapter twenty six verse nine says that night my soul longs for you indeed my spirit within me seeks you diligently for when the earth experiences your judgments the inhabitants of the world would learn righteousness. This is another interesting one on multiple levels it's interesting to me when I talk about people who are struggling with any any kind of anxiety or or depression or those kind of things and I'm not a counsellor I'm not trying to pretend like I am OK don't don't misunderstand what I'm saying. But one of the things that I see a lot of people when they're struggling with anxiousness or anxiety of those things is night is a really tough time right when you lay down in the pillow and all there is is you in your thoughts. Right now that's a difficult time and some of you are not in your heads right now because you know exactly what I'm talking about. And it's a difficult time to deal with with with the quiet and you start to a lot of a lot of people just wrestle with their thought process at that time and he's saying at night my desires for you my desire when everything else kind of goes away and I'm sitting there in the dark my desires for you but what is his desire really set on he's desiring God's. Judgements. He wants. To judge people now again people mistake this word now because we think of this is a super negative thing right and we think we think of the word judgement and it's always negative judgment all people i hate all those guys you know I mean like that's but but God's judgments are not just negative God

will say that is wrong but he also says that is right right and it's but they won for God's judgment because it brings about righteousness which is a fancy church word for meaning more like right being more like that. That when God judges us. We're more like him and I lay talks about at night I desire this there's this deep desire turned to Psalm chapter seventy three song chapter seventy three psalm chapter seventy three verse twenty five Psalm seventy three twenty five says Whom have I in heaven but you and besides you I desire nothing. The author gets to a point where God is All That Matters Amos eight eight eleven that's a tougher want to find K. that's in the minor prophets toward the end of the Old Testament you can go ahead and look through that one a miss eleven if you're not familiar with your Bible you probably need to look in the what do they call that thing at the beginning the contents and and find your page number all right because that's a toughie it's not very big and it's packed right into a whole bunch of other small ones at the end of the Old Testament Amos Chapter eight verse eleven says Behold days are coming declares the Lord when I will send a famine on the land not a famine for bread or a thirst for water but rather for hearing the words of the Lord like people become desperate for hearing God's word. It's what they long for it's what they desire. To hear God's word and some of you are like I wish you'd stop reading already. Because you're already bored. And yet this is what God says he wants in this desire for his word turn to John chapter six thirty five that's in the New Testament you can keep going toward the back if you're an Amos Matthew Mark Luke John John chapter six verse thirty five. John chapter six verse thirty five Jesus is teaching and he's talking about. Himself honestly in this point the Son of God is trying to teach people who he is John chapter six thirty five it says Jesus said to them I am the bread of life he who comes to me will not hunger and he who believes in me will never thirst Jesus is saying if you really sell out for me all of this other stuff is going to stop and you will be satisfied because I am enough I am. Enough. And it's such an important thing Jesus is declaring his divinity here he's saying that he's God as he's saying this. But he is saying that if we desire after him that's that's enough. For us I want to look at one more story and this is a bigger one we're going to land on this one for a while all right Nehemiah Chapter eight Nehemiah Chapter eight that's in the Old Testament in the Old Testament again OK. If you see first and second Kings First and Second Chronicles you need to keep going past that a little bit Nehemiah Chapter eight so Nehemiah and as are other books of the Bible that are right next to each other and there there you'll see actually in this that it even mentions Ezra. Their contemporaries of each other they live at the same time and they're doing two different works basically for the same thing Israel has been in captivity they were the Nation of Israel was absolutely and utterly destroyed by Babylon by a Syria there's just this wave of countries that came one after another and just wrecked them and they have been in captivity as slaves for years Jerusalem's walls are broken down the brightest and the best in the young were taken away as slaves so this area has been just completely decimated for decades and decades and decades all right and finally Nehemiah and as for a comeback basically at the same time and Nehemiah's job is to rebuild the wall right he goes and he talks to the King at the risk of his own life he asks the conquering King of their nation to pay to rebuild their wall which sounds pretty crazy but he does it anyway right because God is in this thing and they rebuild the wall and it gets to a point once the city of Jerusalem is safe again that they begin to talk about these things of God again and it's Nehemiah Chapter eight so I'm going to ask you if you're physically able to stand OK I'm going to ask if you're physically able to stand up if you can't stand up. Really stand on your feet OK that's that's what I want if you can't stand for longer than about a minute you have my permission to stay seated OK I'm not trying to make somebody pass out or feel bad or anything like that that's not what I want but Nehemiah Chapter eight we're going to start in verse one and we're going to read down through verse twelve All right Nehemiah Chapter eight verse one in October when the Israel lives and settled in their towns all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Watergate they asked as were the scribe to bring out the book of the Law of Moses which the Lord had given for Israel to obey so on October eighth as were the priests brought the book of the law before the assembly which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand he faced the square just inside the Watergate from early morning until noon and read

aloud to everyone who could understand all the people listen closely to the book of the law. As are the scribe stood on a high wooden platform that had been made for the occasion to his right stood a whole bunch of guys whose names I can't pronounce and to the left was a similar list of people who I can't pronounce and then in verse five it says as rusted on the platform in full view of all the people when they saw him open the book they all rose to their feet. Then as are a Praise the Lord the great God and all the people chanted a man and a man as they lifted their hands they bow down and worship the Lord with their faces to the ground the Levites Jeshua but there's a whole bunch of them then instructed the people of the law of the people in the law while everyone remained in their places they read from the Book of the law of God and clearly explain the meaning of what was being read helping the people understand each passage then Nehemiah the governor as wrote the priest in the scribe and the Levites who were interrupting for the people said to them don't mourn or weep on such a day as this for today is a sacred day before the Lord your God for the people. Had all been weeping is they listen to the words of the law and Nehemiah continued go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared this is a sacred day before our Lord don't be just dejected and sad for the joy of the Lord is your strength and the Levites to quiet the people telling them hush don't weep for this is a sacred day so that people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal to share gifts of food and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them you can sit down how many of you were even able to pay attention the whole way through that. Right like five of you raise your hands some of you didn't know if I was being serious and so you just didn't raise your hands some of you I would say fully probably a third of you if I know people in this room wandered off around verse five OK and stop paying attention at all these people had been in captivity for decades they hadn't been able to worship God their temple had been destroyed and they're starting to see all this stuff come in you can see if you read eight nine ten in this area for days they are out in the courtyard of Jerusalem worshipping God and listening to his word when it says that they read the Word of God The Law of the Lord K. we don't know if that included Genesis so let's give them a break and let's not include Genesis in this one K. and let's just go right here in the Bible that would mean at least four books of the Bible they read outloud verse by verse and they didn't just read them it says they instructed them clearly on what that meant. And they were so desperate to hear from their god after this long absence that they stayed. And they stood. And they listened and they learned I'm not going to go all day I promise some of you already feel like I have when was the last time you were so desperate for the Word of God that you would be willing to do something like that when was the last time you were so desperate to meet with Jesus you were willing to do something so uncomfortable. To just get more. I'm not trying to heap guilt on you Don't mistake what I'm trying to do with this I'm not trying to say you're all terrible and I'm awesome and just be like me that's not what I'm saying but I think there's room for all of us to grow. And are seeking God. In our desire for him for days. They sat out in the courtyard and listened to Ezra the Levites teach and preach and and go through verse by verse. The law of the prophets and that's not even all the fun ones right I mean like Dred Leviticus. Numbers. Man those are so like when I'm doing the chronological Bible and I get to numbers those are verses that I really have to pay attention to because my eyes tend to go cross and sometimes I have to read the same thing four or five times because it's these huge lists of names and numbers and a bunch of stuff that I don't understand I really have to pay attention I'm not trying to say there's nothing of value in there please don't mistake what I what I'm saying right now but what I'm saying is that's effort books that's not like judges words just stories and it's it's it's you know it's history this is like. It's unbelievable what they would have gone through line by line teaching by teaching to understand but they were so desperate for it they were willing to stand out in the streets. And hear it from morning and you know. Like three days in a row if you look through all these chapters because they're desperate for God they've been away and now they're back and there's an opportunity to hear from God for the first time in a long time and they are so excited about his word that they come and listen in that way it's pretty intense it's pretty amazing. Listen. We're not bound by an Old Testament law OK we don't we're not dependent on a building to meet

with God So what I'm trying to say when I say that all right they this I mean they were not allowed to do sacrifices and offerings and all of those things for this entire time that that temple is destroyed I talked about this last week now again the temple was destroyed in eighty seventy right and so it's been gone for almost two thousand years they have not been able to offer send sacrifices and all of those kind of things as a as a practicing Jew and it's this weight of oppression that lands on them because they're on their own able to really commune with God without their temple. That's one of the beauties of the New Testament Jesus says I am bringing a new covenant and there's a priesthood of all believers and he brings about all of this amazing stuff so we're able to communal and commune with God outside of a building but one of the things that I feel like that can sometimes cause us to be to struggle with as Christians is laziness. Because we can commune with God anytime we want and because we don't need somebody else to offer and go through this huge process for for having our sins covered in those things it's easy sometimes to just get lazy if you don't like the way one Bible says something you have access to dozens of quality translations specially if you've got a phone in your pocket right I mean we have so much access to Scripture sometimes what it does is instead of of causing us to desire to grow it just causes us to get lazy. And to take things for granted. And we desire lots of stuff and again I'm not trying to say it's a desire a boat or something like that as long as it's in its place that's fine as long as it's in a right priority order that's fine but our first and foremost desire as followers of Jesus should be Jesus. And sometimes there's so much access it's easy to just get complacent. I don't really have to study. I'll go to church on Sunday and I'm sure the preacher will do that and I don't really like the way he teaches anyway so I just grab six other podcasts and listen to them on my way to work I don't really need to do anything at all just play in the background and I'm sure something will absorb if I listen long enough I don't really need to pray. There's lots of people that do that around the church they don't really need my prayers the lanes around you know she'll pray. She's not here so I could share a name out loud it's easy to get complacent. It really is I have. A probably will again I don't like saying that but chances are throughout my faith journey they're going to be times when I am desperately seeking more of God and times when I just get lazy and probably So are you and that's why I'm saying for every single one of us there is room to grow in this for every single where one of us no matter where you're at and your growth process of being more like Jesus there's probably room for you to desire God more in your heart and in your life and if there isn't today the next month there probably will be it's not about earning God's love it's not about earning his you know whatever being a more it's about our heart's desire for more of God. You don't have to earn Grace you don't have to earn salvation Jesus took care of all of that on a cross two thousand years ago. But because he did so much for us we should want more of him. And it can be tough. But it's always right. We see a model in Scripture Old or new testament people desiring more of God right I mean you see I could have picked literally hundreds of verses in scripture and I just grabbed a couple of them. We could tell story after story of people who are desiring more of God How about something crazy like Peter or Paul is getting beat up and like waiting in prison to die some miracle happens and rather than running out and eating at Taco Bell they go to church. Right because they want to be involved with the people of God and seek after God more how about I mean any anything like that there are so many stories that we could grab about people desperately seeking more of God And my question is just a simple one where are you out in that today where you add in that process. Of your desire to seek Jesus and I can hear it already I'm sure I'm going to get phone calls this week or e-mails now I won't because I'm mentioning it people don't but if you just understood my story you know I had to step back I get why you have to step back from responsibilities but you shouldn't step back from your desire from Jesus there's a difference I'm not talking about how we don't sometimes need to step away from you know an active service or something like that sometimes because of situations in life we need to step away but we do not step away from God in the midst of our circumstances that's the exact wrong thing to do instead of trying to pull away we should be running toward him in the middle of those difficult times some people like Will. Was that mean I got to pray four hours a day. What does that mean I have to read you know twenty chapter you write because we automatically take something like this

and we try and fix it into like little pockets of our own understanding instead of just saying no we need to desire God more. Whatever that looks like for you. Some of you do need to find your Bible and blow the dust off of it and start reading Sure that's a good idea some of you probably need to not trust that mom's praying for you and pray to God yourself right because you haven't really talked to God in quite a while so when you might need to start doing some service you might need to get involved beyond just hearing and get involved in something and start giving of yourself I can't tell you what it looks like but I can tell you you're not going to just be able to quantify more of God you're going to be able right now I'm praying for twenty three minutes so if I add twenty five I'm doing what Pastor said. That's not what I'm talking about today at all. What I'm saying is if we really believe and I do that God is doing things in people's hearts this year if we really believe and I do that God wants to come alive again and some people's lives in this place if we really believe and I do that Jesus wants to break chains of addiction in this place and I really believe that then what I would say is stop chasing all the wrong things and chase after Jesus. Stop chasing all the extra stuff and go after him if you're stressed if you're tired if you're addicted if you're broken if you're if you're broke if you're pair or if you're if your marriage is falling apart as we speak and you don't see a light at the end of the tunnel don't skip G.'s us and chase everything else. Go see a counsellor you had start budgeting that's smart do that but chase Jesus. Because he's the one that can make a permanent difference he's the only one. That can make a permanent difference and he turned all. Difference in our lives so are you desperate do you see. The dear six water. Are you longing for more of him would you give up anything. To get closer to Jesus I can answer those questions for you I can answer for me and there's room in my heart to grow in my desire for Jesus I want to see God move I don't have to earn it again Don't mistake what I'm saying but I want to see God move and I truly believe that for me part of that is making sure I am seeking more of Jesus that I don't earn salvation I don't have to earn his love I don't have to earn grace. And I just really believe. There is room for me to grow in my desire for God I think there probably is in your life as well. So going in the service how in most services. If you're in this place. And you don't know Jesus you've been hearing me talk about him you've been we've been going through this whole thing and you you don't know Jesus you've never asked him to forgive you you've never been involved in and His forgiveness you never you never said God rule my life and this morning you're ready to in just a moment we're going to give you an opportunity to do that it's really simple the Bible says that we acknowledge our center we believe Jesus is who he says he is we confess our sins to him we're forgetting boom that's it it's not difficult it's not complicated it's not a long drawn out process that's the beginning of our journey with Jesus. And if you've never done that we want to give you an opportunity to do that this morning if you're in here and you would say. I did that and you know I lived for Jesus but I if I was honest today I'd have to say that living for Jesus has not been my priority living for whatever I want has been my priority and I'm ready to stop that and Starling for Jesus again and give you a chance to respond maybe you're in here and you would be honest and you would say my heart for more of God. Hasn't been what I know it should be I've desired lots of things but more of God lately just hasn't been my priority and this morning I want to see that change. And to give you a chance to respond All right. What about your heads I want to close your eyes. And I want to whole bunch of people looking around that's not the point of all of this and I would ask this first question if you're in this place and you've never chosen Jesus before. But this morning you're ready to accept his sacrifice he died two thousand years ago for you but he didn't just die he rose again he's not just a man he is the Son of God and he conquered sin in death so that you could be forgiven and if you've never experienced that before and this morning you are ready to I'd like to just raise a hand want to pray with you we're not going to wait long I'm not about motivating people through guilt or awkwardness. But if you're in here and you'd say I've never chosen Jesus this morning I want to I'd like you to raise your hand we're going to move that second question maybe you're in here and you would say I've chosen Jesus before. But I know because I've chosen him before that my life lately doesn't look like what it should. Have been living for me now for him and I need forgiveness for that. And you're ready to make that change today I'd like you to raise your hand and I want to pray with you is there anybody

in here today that's you. I got you there anybody else back in here and we just and then here's what we're going to I'm going to pray I'm going to ask you if you've chosen Jesus. To repeat after me so this project person who raise their hand saying they want to be more like Jesus isn't just on their own I don't know if you know how to pray so you just repeat after me all right. Jesus I've chosen you. But lately I've chosen me. And I'm sorry. Forgive me. For having my priorities mixed up help me to live for you your name I pray it's awesome I want to encourage you raise your hand talk to the person who brought you talk to me and I'd love to answer any questions you may have one encourage use morning to do that and now work to our last question all right so there's only two kinds of people left in this room. People who are following Jesus or people who aren't and aren't ready yet are right I want you to tell I want to tell you if you're in that second group you're just not ready yet I want you to understand we're praying for you we we want you to make that decision because we believe it's the best decision you could ever make but I'm not talking to you right now OK I mean everything else is your thing but I'm for just a moment I want to talk to people who've been following Jesus All right so if you're in here in that second group I want you on not asking anything of you this morning OK if you're in here you've been following Jesus. And you know that there's room for you to grow in this you know this morning you would say if we had a chance to sit down and tell me your story you'd say it hasn't been what it's supposed to be not saying like you're in all kinds of sin or or you somehow stop believing in Jesus you just know that chasing Jesus and growing in him it hasn't been your priority and this morning you're willing to say God I need more I'm going to ask you from a Jesus and all of your peers to stand up so we can pray for you I want you to know I'm Stan and I'm not standing here because I'm preachin I'm standing here because I can grow in this area and I I want more of that today all right I'm not trying to motivate out of guilt if you're doing good. That's OK That's something to celebrate but I want you to hear from me today. This is an important thing. To seek after Jesus to desire more of him. To long for him in those times and who he is this is not something to be embarrassed of this is something to say yes I want more here's what we're going to do. I want to encourage you to just pray this morning and if you could turn on some music. That be awesome I was going to encourage you to pray. I'm going to pray for you. Out loud. And then I'm going to say a man and I'm going to sit down here and I'm to start praying. All right. If you want to grow in Jesus I want to encourage you to talk to him this morning one encourage you to seek more whatever that looks like for where you're at if you're good that's all right when I ask you guys keep this quiet place exploring all right. You can pray as long as you need to there's twelve minutes left before you have to pick up your kids if you haven't. Got some time. One encourage you to pray. You're good you're ready to go by all means. You are free to leave. All right and I'm just praying I challenge you and encourage you. To seek after Jesus with all your. God you're good. I thank you for your word and I thank you for. Who you are. I thank you Jesus that you cared enough about me. To die for me. To demonstrate your power and to rise again and forgive me. God you've cared enough about me to choose me. And sometimes I don't have my priorities where they need to be I don't seek you with the same passion that you sought. I'm sorry for that. Got I asked mourning for myself for everybody who's who's here who's going to be watching on the Internet or on T.V.. To go bust just chase you. For good. Growing.