

Computer Generated Transcript - So we launched into this series it would be two Sundays ago now called foundations and we're talking about these basics of the Christian life these things that that are are not really complex issues necessarily but there are things that as somebody who wants to grow in their faith these are things that we should be growing and these are things that we don't just arrive at All right we talked about prayer and Bible reading and listening and some people are like oh yeah OK well I used to really pray hard you know what I mean or or that's my gift and so we just kind of stop growing or whatever and that I want to encourage you to continue to ask God to grow you in that to stretch you in that as you are as you are communicating with God It's such a big deal last week we talked about worship of God and particularly through music and how it connects our heart to Jesus and how music is is I mean I call it the language of the soul there's something in music that just stirs inside of us and it's such such a big deal and as we're talking about this part of the way that this connects in this we started the thing last summer where we challenge people to grow and to guide to take a card and to for the next year pick a name and to put a name down of somebody we're going to go to and ask to help us grow in our faith right somebody to challenge us we're going to schedule time to meet with somebody who challenges us to grow and then we also talk about putting a name down somebody that we feel like God is calling us to guide them in their faith to help them grow in their faith if that's somebody that didn't know Jesus yet if it's somebody who did but is just starting this journey of faith and so we challenge people to do that that was that was forty nine weeks ago that that happened OK So in three weeks it will have been one year since we made that challenge and some of you I said this last week and we were like oh man I forgot to start this we got three weeks OK you get to go and if you haven't yet we've got some cards back there and we want to encourage you. To get going here's the thing everybody talks about doing stuff right everybody talks about losing weight or everybody talks about getting in shape right everybody talks about eating healthier everybody talks about all of these different things I just mentioned three things that are all kind of put together but everybody talks about reading the Bible more Everybody talks about we talk about a lot of stuff that we never start right a lot of us we talk a lot about stuff that we never be and I really want to learn to play piano this year so we go buy a book and then never gets even out of the bag that we bought it in much less to a piano right I mean we talk a lot and then we never start so I want to encourage you I'm not joking when I say there's three weeks left if you haven't started start just get it roll in somewhere all right we need to be growing in our faith and we need to bring bringing other people along with us in the journey that's that's being a follower of Jesus that's what it means that's what we're called to do and so I want to encourage you to get go in in that alright to do it some of you have already been doing it for a year and that's awesome and some of you have it gets started these are things as you're talking about guiding somebody in your faith or you're talking about growing these are perfect things that you can set up with somebody to talk through and help help them grow in them and to be stretched yourself as you grow and it's such a big deal these are easy things to kind of look at and get our heads around in Scripture and today we're going to talk about something that can be kind of intimidating maybe a little scary for people OK Well let's talk about sharing your faith this morning what it's all about sharing your face I am a firm believer that healthy things grow all right that healthy things grow if you look around this earth God created the earth and things that are healthy growth right I mean that's just how it works and so I believe if we're healthy in our relationship with God We should be helping his kingdom grow it's just part of the natural outfit. Oh of being healthy in our walk with God It's a piece of it and I know it can be intimidating All right and I know some of you feel like this is my job OK like that's what we give money for Pastor So you get out there and make sure people hear about Jesus no that is not OK. We're all called to this this is something whether you're shy or outgoing whether you have a million friends or you have three if you have three they're probably a lot better friends than those of us who have a million friends who I call somebody a friend who I like shook their hand with one time in a restaurant OK. Well no matter what your personality is no matter what what your sphere of influence looks like God has put you in a place and you have connections that he wants to use for His glory. All right and we are all called to this regardless of

whether or not we feel like we're good at it regardless of whether or not we feel like we're we're built for it we absolutely are called to share our faith I'm going to share a couple of scriptures that if you've been around church these are going to be really familiar to you all right even if you haven't been around church I talked about this one two weeks ago even if you haven't been around church you've heard this one reference I guarantee somewhere some time you have seen this sign with this verse on it all right the second one is a story that when I was a kid we even had a song about OK And so we're going to talk about that but John three sixteen is where we're going to start All right John chapter three verse sixteen if you've got a bible I want you to open it up I want you to take a look at it and if you don't know how your Bible works Scaife you start at the beginning that's Genesis and you'll flip toward the back of it and they'll be a whole bunch of really weird names toward the end of the Old Testament right you're going to read names like I guess Zachariah Isn't that weird but you're going to read names like how back in Obadiah and stuff like that and then they're going to get to names that are normal Matthew Mark Luke John OK that's where you need to land if you hit X. you've gone to. You are all right so that's that's that's where this is in your bible I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation Some of you got your phones out and if you're looking at log OS or you version which are free Bible apps you can I'm going to read out the New Living Translation If you want to see the same words that I'm going to read OK but John chapter three verse sixteen right everybody seen the song or seen the sign somewhere at a football game or whatever you watch that there's John three sixteen on something right and it says very simply if you know this verse why don't you just say it with me for God so loved the world. This is like the purpose statement of the Gospel of John. OK if you want to talk about mission statement or purpose statement you want to talk about business things and how we're supposed to look this is what the whole Gospel of John rests on OK is declaring who Jesus was and it says that God love you so much that He gave His Son for you right and if you keep reading under verse seven it says that God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world but to save the world through him the whole reason Jesus came to this earth was that so people would be able to be saved from their sins and connected to God. That's the whole reason he came and if that was the reason Jesus came then shouldn't we as people who are followers of Jesus want to continue his mission shouldn't we as followers of who he is grab on to his heart beat pick up that mission statement and run with it you can turn back one book in the Bible to Luke Matthew Mark Luke John it's right right before this Luke and there's a story in Luke. About a man names the key is right and some of you know that song right you could sing it with me Mandy was make fun of me because she says I learned differently than her was a key is was. And a wee little man was he right so a lot of you know the song that maybe not everybody but the key is as you're looking through the Bible and you're looking at those kind of things the key is is a short little dude it says in the Bible and he hears that Jesus is coming so what he do he climbs up in Sycamore tree. See that's the verse that everybody knows differently I just heard to see what he could see and for the Lord he wanted to see right and that's what Manny makes up for me all the time but we all I just heard both of them in there. It's not just me but you can laugh all you want All right so. The key is he climbs this tree because he just wants to see Jesus he's short he can't see over the crowd he just wants to see him like he just wants is this guy that everybody is talking about he just wants to get a glimpse a glimpse of who he is so we climbs up in this tree to see him and I'd ask you when's the last time you wanted to meet with Jesus so bad you were willing to do something uncomfortable right the last time that you just you just needed just that much more of Jesus so you were willing to do something that was uncomfortable for you to get to that point. The key is was a grown man climbing the tree. In our culture today that be weird OK in his in his culture in that day it was weird grown men did not climb trees OK but he did something that was weird to see Jesus and it picks up Jesus is telling this story and people are like man he's a tax collector why are you bothering with the key is what what is going on here and in Luke Chapter nineteen verse nine Jesus just reiterate swi he came to this earth right in Luke nineteen verse nine Jesus responds salvation has come to this home today for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham for the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost Jesus came to this earth to find people who don't know him and bring

salvation to them that's why he came we just summed up John three sixteen all over again and if we are followers of Jesus then we should pick up his mission statement and that becomes to seek Him to save those who are lost now listen you can't save anybody you are incapable of saving somebody. Or you are capable of though is creating a relationship with somebody and bringing them to a point where Jesus can save them. You're not capable of salvation as cool as you think you are that's not on your like super power abilities. Only Jesus can do that but God uses us all the time to bring people to that point where we can. Where they can experience who Jesus is and we can do it I talked to several people this week and I asked a couple of someone who could be here someone who can but I want to ask Cody and Linda come up here for a moment. And there everybody is really excited to be in front of a group of people right this is everybody's favorite thing to do is to stand up in front of a group of people in the talk but I just ask both of these two to share for just a. A moment not their whole testimony which you should sit down and listen to them talk about how they came to know Jesus because it's a great thing and the whole testimony but just kind of how they got their foot in the door all right and how how the process began for them as people were talking to them about their faith All right so go ahead I told the man yeah that's Cody and that one's landscape just in case you were confused let's let's let's let's make sure you know and I've been going to this church for over five years now my wife also comes to this church Katelyn she's not here today but we started coming to this church I was a senior in high school and I know this is only supposed to be three minutes but I'm sorry it's going before. I feel like it's really important for me to tell you the boy I was at the time that I was lost and that's with the boy you should be looking for in our community as well as I think my parents to fifty year old adults in the community that you do. I was in seventh grade and we had gone through a lot of adversity had a church here in this community and not this church and we faced a lot of difficult times and one of those difficult moments that we had we were receiving threats against our family we got letters in the mail that were threatening our family from an individual at the church who wasn't stable and it was really difficult my parents found it difficult to move on from that I found it difficult as a twelve year old boy to move on from something like that I was going through confirmation class and we had to withdraw from that class from that moment I was in seventh grade and I knew I wanted to learn more about Jesus I had this hunger for the Lord and to learn more and it wasn't till I was in high school I was able to drive I had time to be to make my own decisions to go places that my parents didn't need to drop me off and I was asked to go and try out these different churches or. Own town and check out their youth group and I found one youth group in particular was interesting Tori and Travis bell it as well as Levi how all three were a part of this youth group here at this church and they kept inviting me every week after a fair and track practice and high school and they were persistent and Jason said Go ahead tell me I was annoying and said it wasn't. As much as you feel like it's annoying telling someone they should come check out our church it's more so just the persistence in doing that so that that person can make that decision for themselves but they don't feel forced in the first or second time that you asked them so I made my own decision to come here after the multiple times that they did ask and I found the Lord and the second time actually came to youth group in that youth building great over here I thought the Lord and I felt his presence and it was an overwhelming experience for me and my wife wasn't a part of it at the time girlfriend at the time I should say. And I invited her to come with and it took her a little while the build that courage up to come and she felt that sense of family and community here that I was feeling and once we started to come to church on Sundays it was a really easy decision for us to want to give back so from that moment and we're in this church today because I feel like you're represents this whole situation we give back to the youth group and we help Pastor John Scally as well as Lynne and Mandy and anybody else who helps old on Wednesday nights Caitlin and I are there almost everyone's a night that we can be and we want to give back to the children and the youth at this church because that's how we came to know the Lord so in this place how long were they asking before you went the first time they asked for about a year. So you can either look at me and say I'm stubborn or however you look at it it took me a year to build up the courage to do it myself. It was a lot of persistence on their part so I could I know I haven't seen Tori in traverse in a

long time but what I do see them and leave I always try to take a moment to thank them for being persistent in high school. Xcode. OK is so my story I would say I grew up in a Catholic home and so when I went to college I actually went to I started college at I.C.C. and the reason why I started college was because I was bored so and I was like No I don't have really any friends I moved here to help my sister and then I just I didn't really know anyone so I was like oh I should go to college because that's where you meet people so that's why I started going I was partying so I didn't really know the Lord. I was going there and then at I think it was we were I was in a math class with this guy name Andrew almond in here and we coned dinner for short where he was known by and he wasn't like in charge of like the campus ministry there he wasn't even on leadership but he felt led to like asked me to come and I would it was a long time before it was like at least a month and he kept asking like every day we were in class he said hey you want to come to Panorama I'm like What is it and so he's like it's a campus ministry that you know a whole bunch of students meet and I go why why would you do that like because to me like I would only go to church if my parents were around and I was forced I attended church every Sunday but to me it was just like why would you do it like on your own. And so it's always like OK I know things and so this went on for a long time and then he dropped out of math because you was failing or something I didn't but he would come and meet me after class like waiting by the door and I was like this kid does not relent like that in trying to stop interject that's like a huge stalker thing to do. Right and it seems weird right and he was just like you know if you use come and check it out wants like I will leave you alone kind of thing I was like OK so take your chances in your method and we love him. So he so I came I actually invited a couple of friends at the time so we went and he's just this huge football player and I'm like the small little girl and so we went and we checked it out and when we went there it was just a very light friendly environment and. For me it was just seeing like oh other kids were meeting on their own and wanted to know God like on their own was just a totally different thing that I've never experienced and then just people started to pour into my life at the time and so. I want to say a year later I started going and I started you know just meeting with them and it was student land so students were giving testimonies we can and like doing messages and things like that so that was really cool and like through that people were just really disciple and I came to know the Lord through that and actually I got saved in that you building and which were doing youth ministry right now so Bassett cool story because panorama used to be at the college we met in the engineering building and then we outgrew it. It. Used to be like I was seven a people that was meeting and then it became like seventy five people so we had to find a new place to meet at the time and so that's where I was say was up at the building in the crash cafe. Thank you very. Much going to have Trevor come up here John talk to Trevor he was already sent from the old church I'm going to call him out while he's sitting. Trevor is a guy who started coming here because a friend asked him when he started coming I seventh or eighth grade probably seventh grade started coming at ten in the youth group he's been coming here to church for several years he's getting ready to go on a missions trip with us in two weeks because his buddy invited him to come and I could talk about several of you in here some of you who were invited by people who don't even attend our church which I think is awesome. They invited you to come one time and they came with you once and then they bailed and you're still here and that's that's amazing to me that that's part of your story and I love all of these different connections you know I mean if you look at Cody and you see the amount of time it took in the amount of percents persistence it took a lot of people to give it up but I mean if you know the hows and you know the Belhadj boys you know they're nothing if not stubborn you know what I mean there that's that's that's how it rolls right and sometimes that's what it takes. I'm I'm so grateful for their persistence and that he's in the church and he's plugged in now and for Lynne she's she's Are you pastor's wife right I mean she's in full time vocational ministry because a dude named Dinger wouldn't give up. I mean I think that's amazing right I mean because somebody wouldn't give up she eventually came to know Jesus I can tell a story about for me I got tricked into going to camp all right I mean if you've been around here long enough you know part of my story but I grew up in the church and then my mom was leading our youth group and had a moral failure and and it caused me to not believe in

God and and I was I was just kind of doing life and getting in lots of trouble and doing those kind of things and when I would visit my dad every other weekend I had to go to church with him right and I didn't want to be there but I had to go and so because he was my dad and that's what I had to do right so we went and then they started talking about camp and. All I heard about before camp was that there were sports and there were girls I thought it was a coed sports camp which I thought was the greatest thing in the history of the world right because to me all sports camps were always gender specific right we went to football camp we did those kind of things there was never any girls are now we going to do sports camp with ladies awesome that's worth a week of my time so I went and then I found out that they go to church three times a day. And I was he did I was actually very angry that I had been misled so strongly but the reason I went to was I had two buddies who went there had been working on my faith for a long time and throughout this whole thing there was several things that happened I'm not going to tell the whole story right now but there were several things that happened and eventually literally I don't recommend this don't lie to kids to get them somewhere it's not really a good thing I literally got physically pulled to an altar like physically pulled to an altar I did not want to go and they made me go anyway. I don't recommend that don't physically pull people into our church OK but that's where I went and I I I took some time once I got there to just say Jesus if you're real you have five minutes that was literally my prayer if you're real You've got five minutes to prove it. And I was on hard angry kid and and Jesus touched my heart that day and I can explain it to you in a way that would make sense to anybody that has an experience that kind of a thing before but Jesus softened my angry heart and it was amazing but it was because I had friends that wouldn't give up I could talk about my great grandpa and where the faith journey for our whole family started about how he was a swearin smokin farmer who got invited to come to church because he played guitar and he was still a swearin smokin farmer playing guitar at his Lutheran church and when the ladies went to the pastor and complained that the swearing smoking farmer was on the stage the pastor said he. Going to play until he gets saved and then we'll deal with the other stuff. But he went because a friend invited him to come play guitar in the church and that was the language he knew that was the connection into his world that brought him into connection with Jesus and the reason I tell that story is we make this a really difficult thing right in our minds we're like oh everybody hates church now so if I say if I say I'm a church person that automatically just makes me ridiculous. That's why you have relationships with people right that's why you build up relationships with people so they know who you are one of the things that I think we make a mistake in a lot of times as as Christians and this is my opinion I'm not trying to make a giant statement of this is absolutely God's truth but one of the mistakes I feel that we make as Christians one of the mistakes that I think we make is whenever we're talking to somebody about faith we're always talking about somebody else's faith. Right we're always talking about some pastor somewhere or some teacher somewhere or somebody else who said something one time or our friend who is really outgoing or whatever we're always talking about someone else's faith when we're sharing our faith and I think that that really is a mistake because when you're in a relationship with somebody who doesn't know Jesus but you're in a relationship with a person they don't care about somebody else's faith they know you. They want to hear about how Jesus has changed your life and what that means in your day to day walk as you do life and you follow Jesus they don't know who Tommy Tenney is they don't know some famous evangelist they know you and that's where a lot of us need to start we've been friends for a long time let me tell you my story. Let me tell you how it matters in my day let me tell you how it brought me through a situation like the one you're going through right now. I'm not saying it's wrong to talk about what other people say but God put you in their world and you want to use your story all right and I want to encourage you to allow God to do that there are so many people every one of us who is here there's a connecting point somewhere down the line some of you you know like you might be fifth generation Christian or twelve generation Christian but at some point somewhere in time somebody went to somebody in your family and said I have something that is so important that I have to tell them I have to tell you about this. And at some point time in each one of our trees it's there and for some of you might have been

last week. Some of you maybe was a year ago at some point in time there's a connection that involves somebody stepping outside of their comfort zone. And bringing the name of Jesus into a relationship and aren't you thankful for that moment. Because that moment affects eternity destinies change not for a few years but he turned it he has changed because someone was willing to do a hard thing. And that was share their faith. It's difficult it's difficult today it was difficult one hundred years ago it'll be difficult in a hundred years to share our faith I talk about it a lot with people now and we sit our our our job as Christians isn't really to share people with people who don't know about Jesus anymore everybody in America knows something about Jesus they've heard his name a lot of them know a lot of wrong things about Jesus but we don't live in a in a culture where no one's heard of Jesus anymore right people have to have heard that name they might not know anything about the faith our job a lot of times is to reach to the detour ched not the unchurched. People who have come to church and experienced something hard like Cody shared about and it wrecked their faith it wrecked their concept of who God is it wrecked their you know what however you want to word it and so now you're not just talking to somebody who has no idea about what the faith is you are talking to somebody who has a has has a hard thing in their past that they have to get over before they're willing to hear about Jesus that's our job now though. To reach out to those people with who Jesus is and to let him speak his truth. Into situations and we're all called to it not just me. Every single one of us who claims to follow Jesus this is our call you might call it The Great Commission Jesus told us in Matthew chapter twenty eight one thousand and twenty to go and all the world. He tells us again in Acts Chapter one it also in the Holy Spirit so we can go into all the world we are called to share our faith so I want to talk about three things that I try and keep in mind when I share my faith with people all right here's three things that I try this is just three practical things that as I'm sharing my favorite people are trying to keep these things in mind OK. I want to connect with them I want to give them a chance to talk that's difficult for me if you've ever done a meal with me you know I can very easily take over a conversation and never give anyone else a chance to talk it's just my personality I apologize for all of you who have done that too in the past is something I work on all the time and I'm still not very good at it but I want to hear somebody else's story I want to hear where they're at in life because I want to hear how my story can connect with their story and there's a way to make that happen because Jesus is awesome has built in I don't want to just talk into a vacuum I don't want to just talk in a way that they don't care about or in a way that doesn't matter to them I want to hear what's going on in their life so I have a chance to talk specifically about something that matters to them at that time I look for ways to connect and that means I have to shut up. Some of you that's easy some of you have a harder time talking than shutting up some of you are like me and you just need to close your mouth. Let somebody else talk for a minute so you can connect that's one of the things I keep in mind when I'm trying to share my faith the second thing is I want to be authentic I'm not you and you're not me I'm not going to make up a story I'm not going to because if I make up a story that's just ridiculous Jesus doesn't need a fake story. He's big enough all who he is I can't be you you can't be me some of you are shy and you have these real deep meaningful relationships you can't manufacture those I can't just fake that I can't pretend to be shy I can't it will never work it will never be convincing because I'm not. Someone you can't be outgoing if you're not you don't have to be something you're not I can't be from a family that never had tragic issues I can't I can't be that person my story can still connect with somebody else's but I can't be something that I'm not and I'm not called to be I'm not called to be Billy Graham I'm not called to be Paul if Jesus would have wanted Paul I've said this before of Jesus would have wanted Paul alive today Paul wouldn't have lived in the first century he would be alive today instead you are you are God's chosen vessel to reach this culture with the gospel of Jesus Jesus thought you would be the best people to do it. That's why you're here today not somebody else should be you. You don't have to be somebody else be yourself the last one here is share is I want to be friendly sorry I got how to find him I shoot here. To be friendly. We live in a culture that loves to fight. Right and we love to fight. About everything maybe you don't like to fight but you're still good at it because it happens all the time just go online for three seconds we love the fight especially

online because when we're not face to face we love the fight we love to be right. Right we want to we want to prove our point beyond a shadow but can I tell you for those of you who are wired that way and I am one of them that is a hindrance to sharing the gospel of love if you can't stand to be wrong if you have to prove your point as a hindrance to you sharing the gospel in a way that will make a difference to people. Because when we're trying to share our faith it's not about proving them wrong and proving ourselves right. It's just about showing who Jesus is. Right it's about letting Jesus do what only Jesus can do and I know some of you are already thinking about a verse right be ready with a see a reason for your faith in season and out that's my job that's what I'm going to do. Right OK turn first Peter let's look at it first Peter chapter three toward the end of the Bible OK there's a bunch of really small letters first second third or first and second Peter first second third John Jude right before revelation the last one the big one K. It's right in that zone first Peter chapter three I'm going to start reading in verse thirteen so you can you can talk about Peter's talking about being persecuted for their faith Peter's talking about being beaten and imprisoned because of what they believe all right and he says in first Peter chapter three verse thirteen now who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good but even if you suffer for doing what is right God will reward you for it so don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Verse fifteen instead you must worship Christ as Lord of your life and if someone asks you about your Christian hope always be ready to explain it there is your verse and I'm going to read it in the translation in just a second OK If somebody ask you about your Christian hope always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way keep your conscience clear then if people speak against you they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ I want to switch over the past because you might be more familiar with those words. And verse if he says but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you yet with gentleness and reverence we are called not to win an argument but to show who Jesus is with gentleness and reference yes you should have already a defense of your faith I'm not trying to say be stupid don't misunderstand what I'm saying but the way that we communicate what we believe is important if you're just a jerk Here's a jerk and you're really easy to write off we are called to have a defense of our faith. And to present it with gentleness and respect that eternal decision warrants it's an important thing this is such a big deal so I have to remind myself I know you guys you're I mean I would like to argue it's fun. I enjoy I tell people a lot some people hate confrontation and they run from it with every fiber of their being and some people are OK with confrontation and then there's like point one percent of us who crave it a little bit right like just a little confrontation just to get me through my day it's just fun I guess I there's a few people in here I've got a few buddies who I can just have confrontation with because they're good enough friends and they like it too and so then I'm not going to hurt somebody who hates it right they'll chuckle and Chris is kind of laughing over there we just we need a little bit of it right and so they're safe for me to just you know have confrontation with over nothing. That that's so true and some of you are like man you are weirder than I thought. He's too I am. And so I have to really be conscious when I'm talking to people about my faith that the goal is not to win an argument the goal is to let Jesus do what only Jesus can do. And I have to present who he is. With mercy gentleness and love those are three things I remind myself about maybe you're like band that is the easiest things in the world that's who I am maybe some of you need to remind yourself to just talk sometimes. Like well just let my light shine and people follow Jesus that's great we're called to do that people should recognize who we are by what we're doing but you are eventually going to need to open your mouth. To tell them why you're different right you can't just let your light shine and never open your mouth. Some of you need to maybe write down on your list OK maybe today we need to talk. Where I have to say we need to listen you're like OK I have to open my mouth today these are three things for me though that are important and it's important for you to find a way. To share your faith it is absolutely vital it is absolutely your job we need to be people who are marked by our desire to follow Jesus and as we desire to follow Jesus I guarantee you if your goal is to get as close to Jesus as possible then Jesus is going to ask you to share your faith with the people around you. If your goal is to be like Jesus if your

goal is to say man I just want more God grow in me speak in me help me to know you better help me to live my life for you Jesus is going to say to you. It's time to give some away. That person doesn't know me. It's absolutely all of our responsibility there are people in your life I may never meet without you your the one who has a relationship Jesus wants to be part of it. We've talked about a lot of things this morning we've talked about we took community gathers we remember Jesus's death we did you know we talked about that very thing we talked about how it was his desire and his purpose. To be here and to make sure that people knew about him and it's our job now to continue that on. It is your calling it is all of our job to do this I want to encourage you some of you I mean you talked about Cody and Lynn both mention they weren't necessarily sitting in a one on one conversation with a table they got invited to a place where they were able to encounter a group of people and and hear Jesus presented that's OK if that's where you're at today start there for some of you you've got friends that may never come here and you are going to need to sit at a table. And share your faith with them in a way that relates to them if you don't know how to do that give me a call I would love to have those conversations with you this is what we're called to as follows which is the self foundational issue there is no black and or there is no gray here if you choose Jesus black and white it is your job to share your faith it is your job to make Jesus and I'm so excited it's like a week and a half away and we're going to be in Slovakia. Sharing Jesus it's exciting but you know what's amazing is it's easier for me to go to another country and share my faith than it is for me to talk over the fence to my neighbor about my face Slovakia needs Jesus. Sort of Grand Rapids and Bovey and Cohasset and Coltrane and taconite. And all these other towns out here I love talk all night that's one of my favorite town names. Pastor Brian used to think I was serious when I was saying that he always thought I was serious. It's taconite I know. Our friends need Jesus some of your family members need Jesus they need to see you live for him and he to see it make a difference in your life and they need to hear it from you. I don't ask you about it hasn't closed your eyes to some we do at the end of almost every service. I don't want to talk about sharing faith in the not give people a chance to respond some of you maybe have been asking people who are here today for a long time and they're here I just want to give a moment here we believe in this Church of Jesus Christ came live died and he rose again we believe that because it's what the Bible says He said I am the way I am the truth I am the life I am the only way to the father. So I just believe it's really simple if you acknowledge that you're a sinner believe Jesus is who he says he is and confessed your sins then we believe you're safe and if you've never done that in this place of spawning I want to give you an opportunity to do that. Right so with every every head bowed every every eye in this place closed. We're not going to wait long I'm not going to call you up here and embarrass you we're not going to make you come up front this morning but if there's somebody out there and you've never chosen Jesus. But this morning you are ready. I'm going to ask you slip a hand in the air and I want to pray with you is there anybody in here you've never chosen Jesus before but you're ready this morning we're not going to wait long. I don't like to do things out of guilt or awkwardness So we're going to move on. All right you can go and look at me here's what I'm going to do. Not going to ask you to stand OK this morning actually I am everybody stand up. If you can physically stand in this place this morning I want you to stand. All right here's the deal every single one of us can be better at this every follower of Jesus in this place can be better about sharing our faith we can be more ready to share we can be more responsive to sharing we can listen to who God is and speak through us more we need power for a witness we need God to work in our hearts we need to have boldness in conversations we need to have the patience to sit and listen sometimes every single one of us who is following Jesus and here there is some way that you can be more empowered more practiced more ready to do this through the name of Jesus so I'm just going to pray for everyone stand in and if you're physically unable I'm going to pray for those of you who are sitting too that God would work through you to make himself known it's not about you be an awesome it's because Jesus is awesome. And people need to hear about him. God you're good I thank you for your words. I thank you for your example I got to thank you that you told us that you love the world so you came you told us that you came to seek in save those who don't know you. And I pray that you fill us with passion for that. I

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pray that you put a fire inside of us to share our faith with people who don't know you got our friends our family some of us they don't know you help us to be wise help us to be gentle and loving. And help us to be bold because the world needs you we get to be a part of that. And your name I pray. Amen. Amen here's here's a just for a second if you're going to Slovakia we want to meet with you afterwards. We've got a couple minutes so we're going to go through things here if not have a great Memorial Day Actually I completely forgot to do this earlier Can I have you sit down for a second again because I just want to honor something you don't get a levy at. I had a written down on the top of my tablet and I started thanking people and forgot to mention it at the beginning of the service this is Memorial Day weekend and that's a big deal and I don't I don't want to just skip over this this is an important thing so if you are a person in this church and you have experienced loss in your family as a result of somebody serving or you have had a good friend who died in service of this country I'd like to just have you stand for just a moment because we want to recognize that this is this isn't porn This is a big weekend and. I don't want to just skip over it all right I want to I just won you've got to clap for these people and I want to praise. Jesus I thank you that I live in this country doesn't have problems yes is it perfect no. Are we here today and free because people have been willing to go and sacrifice without a doubt and I thank you God for the men and women of this country throughout its history who have been willing to go. In our place on our behalf see things that many of us can't begin to imagine and some of them gave an ultimate sacrifice for their country. I pray that you be with the people who are remembering this weekend I pray that you be with those who are hurting because of a friend sacrifice a family member sacrifice and this is a time that we take to remember I just pray that you be the God of comfort to them I pray that you be God our Father in these moments and wrap people in your and your dad's arms. We thank you for those who went thank you for those who are still here your good Jesus and man. Now you can go.