

**NORTHLAND
CHURCH**

MAY 25-26, 2019

AWAKEN

Grasping for Life

John 3:16-21

Grasping for Life

A message from Matt Heard, Lead Pastor

Read about Pastor Matt at northlandchurch.net/pastormatt.

JOHN 3:16-21 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

A new reality

This week we're learning about the new reality God's called us to step into through the love of Jesus.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Study

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- What's a moment in your life that defined the start of a new chapter for you?
- What brings about transformation in your life?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-20 (MSG) & JOHN 3:16-21 (NIV)

- What kind of life do we experience after we start following Jesus, according to 2 Corinthians 5?
- How did God bring about change in the world, and in our lives, according to John 3?
- Where have you experienced the light of Jesus drive out darkness in your life?
- What are some of the differences you can see looking back at your life, between the old and the new life Jesus has brought about.
- 2 Corinthians 5 tells us that "God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing." Who can you invite into Christ's new reality by sharing the story of Jesus at work in your life?
- What's it mean for followers of Jesus to come "into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God"? How can you put that into practice?

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.

Jesus has such an impact on humanity that we divide all of history into the years before Jesus was born, "BC" or "before Christ", and the years after his birth, "anno domini" which is Latin for "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ." That's because the love and redemption that Jesus offered changed the world and created a new reality. In the same way, when we start to follow Jesus we walk into a new reality in our personal history. We can experience a personal transformation so profound that it can bring us new life and usher us into a new reality.

READ JOHN 8:31-36 (ESV)

- What does Jesus tell us will happen if we experience if abide in his word and follow him?
- What's the "BC" life Jesus is offering us freedom from?
- The Pharisees struggled with Jesus' invitation because they struggled to confess their own sin and brokenness. (Continue reading John 8 to see more about that.) What keeps you from fully embracing the freedom that comes from following Jesus?

READ GALATIANS 2:20 (NLT)

- Could we ever experience the "AD" life for ourselves on our own merits?
- Paul reminds us here that keeping the law cannot make us right with God. How can we resist the temptation to start depending on our own goodness, even as we follow Jesus?
- What's it mean to have Christ live in you?

As we head into summer we'll be scaling back the Digging Deeper Study and removing it from the worship guide. After this weekend you can find a set of sermon related questions at northlandchurch.net/study to help you keep the discussion going in your small group or individual study time. We invite you to visit the Northland Bookstore to explore other group study options. The bookstore can help you find one in store or order materials for your group. Contact Rebecca at rebecca.lang@northlandchurch.net with questions.

What's Current

Get info and sign up at NorthlandChurch.net, or ask a connection team member for assistance.

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night for Student Ministries

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 | 5:30-9 P.M. | 234 W SR 436, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS | Chick-fil-A will donate a % of sales to Student Ministries!

Local Serve Day

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 8 A.M.-NOON | MEET IN THE FOYER | Sign up at northlandchurch.net/localserve

Belong & Grow

SUNDAYS, JUNE 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M. | THE HUB | Register at northlandchurch.net/belong&grow

5th Grade Graduation Ceremony

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 | 6:30-8 P.M. | THE SANCTUARY | Register at northlandchurch.net/5thgradegraduation

Tithes and Offerings

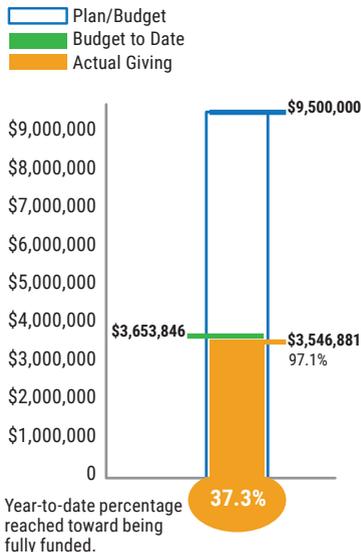


Last weekend was **Student Takeover Weekend** here at Northland—Pastor Rob Hemphill and the student ministries worship team lead us in a powerful way and we cheered the graduates into the next season of their journey. Northland has a rich legacy of students continuing to serve in countless ministries here at Northland and in the community. A huge part of that is because of the way they have been supported by you! If you want to help a Northland student go to camp this summer, you can do that right now on the Northland App under “give” or at northlandchurch.net/give following the link to Missions and clicking on “Support Youth Camp.”

Here is a weekly snapshot for our general giving. We are 20 weeks into 2019 and we are at 97.1% of the need. With 32 weeks remaining, we should be 38.5% funded. As you can see, we are 37.3% funded. On the chart to the right, you can track year-to-date progress as well as where we stand on fully funding 2019. Our goal for tithes and offerings is \$10 million, with our budget set at \$9.5 million. While actual and budgeted amounts fluctuate from week to week, the average weekly budgeted amount is \$182,693.

The work God is doing in the lives of so many through the generosity of your time, talent and treasure is truly **engaging people to be fully alive in Jesus!** In Malachi 3:10, God invites us to test Him and see the blessings He will pour out. As we look around at the expansion of His kingdom through Northland, we believe it is true! If you would like to partner with us financially, check out the different ways to give listed below. You can send your questions or requests for information about our finances to givetonorthland@northlandchurch.net. Thank you for joining us in worship today!

January 1 - May 21, 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).

