



BECAUSE SOME THINGS NEVER GO OUT OF STYLE

# STUDY GUIDE

The Water's Edge Church  
May 2021

[WEOMAHA.COM/OLDSCHOOL](http://WEOMAHA.COM/OLDSCHOOL)



## *Old School Purpose*

*Ask:*

How can I see that God has prepared me for this moment in my life?

What passions and gifts did God give me?

What hopes and dreams do I have for my future?

What is one way I can allow God to guide my steps along the way?

How is it possible for me to align my passions and dreams with God's purpose for my life? What would be an example of this?



*Read & Reflect:*

Proverbs 16:9

Philippians 1:6

Ephesians 2:10

Proverbs 3:5-6

Philippians 3:14

*Back To Basics:*

Rediscover yourself this week. Look back through your photos and social media posts. Ask your friends and family what they hear you talk about most or what you get excited about. Check through your calendar and see what you spend the most time doing. Then journal a bit about what you've learned about yourself and how God might be using those clues to lead you to pursue something new or different.

*Thanks. Help. Wow. Amen.*

*Remember:*

# *A Letter To Graduates And Those In Transition*

From Prayers From The Water's Edge

By Craig Finnestad

Dear Graduates,

You will get a lot of these notes over the next few weeks:

Make the world a better place.

Live life with no regrets.

Chase your dreams.

Laugh often.

Work hard.

Love all.

It seems like yesterday to your parents when they dropped you off at Kindergarten for the first time. They wiped tears from their eyes as this little person walked through this big door. Since that day you attended school about 2,340 times. You learned. You made friends. You have been hurt. You have been mentored. Some days it was lots of fun. Some days it wasn't much fun at all. Your parents will watch you graduate soon. The same teary eyes that dropped you off at Kindergarten thirteen years ago will surely well-up as you walk across the stage.

I want to tell you some things I wish somebody would have told me twenty-some years ago when I graduated from high school. Some I learned from observation. Some I learned the hard way.

Fail often and fail well. Failure is a necessary step to success and significance. Failure teaches courage, wisdom, humility, and perseverance like only failure can. I don't want you to get to the end of your days wondering what might have been if you had only taken a risk, but didn't, because of the fear of failure. Today's failures lay the foundation for tomorrow's dreams.



Don't forget to play. People will tell you to study hard when you go to college and work hard when you get a job. I agree. But I want you to hear this: Don't forget to play. My best memories in life are not sitting in front of my computer writing my dissertation or leading meetings. My best memories are playing in a lake, exploring the world, and hanging out with friends and family.

Love people and not possessions. Stuff can give you happiness for a while. People will give you joy and contentment for a lifetime. Spend much of your time, energy, and resources investing in people rather than acquiring things. You are designed to live in community with others and with God—not with stuff.

Have faith. Some things in life can be proven. Sound travels faster than light. The moon doesn't shine its own light. But the most important things in life can't be proven. We can't prove a friend is really a friend or that forgiveness is better than revenge or that love is better than hate or that God is who God says God is. That is where faith comes in. Have faith in self, others, and God. You'll need it because the most important things can't be proven.



## *Old School Acceptance*

*Ask:*

What does it mean to you that you are seen by God?

How can seeing people the way God sees them change your perspective on things?

How can allowing yourself to be empathetic change your view of others and their situations?

Think of a time when you felt shamed by someone else. How did it make you feel? Did it change your behavior? How do you wish they would have responded instead?

As humans, we all have a need to be seen and understood by others. What steps can you take to see beyond what the world sees and see others as children of God? What steps can you take to see yourself as a child of God?



*Read & Reflect:*

John 1:14 (MSG)

Genesis 16:13

1 John 3:1

1 John 4:10

John 13:35

*Remember:*

*Back To Basics:*

This week, when you find yourself growing impatient with someone or speaking unkind words about them, pause and remember that God sees all of us as His children. Instead of being critical of that person, write down how you think God sees them.

*Thanks. Help. Wow. Amen.*

# *A Prayer To See, Feel and Do*

By Michele Bonewell

Father,  
I'm so tired,  
Tired of trying to keep up.  
Tired of chasing after images in my head of who others think I should be.  
Tired of creating images in my mind of who I think others should be.

Father, today, I seek your rest.  
Rest for my weary body for it is tired of running. Tired of chasing.  
Rest for my weary mind for it is tired of thinking.  
Rest for my weary soul. For it longs for something more. Something more than this.  
More than the images I chase.

Father, help me to look and see.  
See who it is I am to you.  
See the child you created in your image.  
See the one who you deem worthy of Your Son's life.  
See the one who you deem worthy of Eternal life.

Father, help me to look and see.  
See who they are to you.  
See your children.  
See the ones you created in your image.  
See the ones you deem worthy of Your Son's life.  
See the ones you deem worthy of Eternal life.

Just like me.  
Just like me.  
Just like me.

Father help me to love like Your Son.  
Without "what ifs"  
Without "but onlys"  
Without hesitation, fear or discrimination.  
Of myself.  
Of others.

Father, instead of chasing images of perfection, I want to feel.  
Feel the reality of my brother's cry.  
Feel the reality of my sister's plea.  
Feel the reality of who I am with You. Because apart is a burden too much to bare.

Father, help me to feel and then do.  
Do what I can to show them your love.  
Through my love.  
So that there will no longer be a "them" and a "me"  
But only, an "us."

Your children.  
Together.  
Us.

Amen.





*Read & Reflect:*

Haggai 2:4-5

John 15:1-8

Galatians 5:22-25

*Back To Basics:*

Try a few different environments this week to increase your awareness of God's presence. For example: silence, walking, scripture reading, worship, serving, journaling, prayer, intentional community, listening to a podcast, practicing gratitude, etc. Reflect on which were helpful, which have potential, and which were a struggle. Use this exercise to continue to be more aware of God's presence in your life.

*Thanks. Help. Wow. Amen.*

*Remember:*

# *Welcoming Blessing*

By Jan Richardson

When you are lost  
in your own life.

When the landscape  
you have known  
falls away.

When your familiar path  
becomes foreign  
and you find yourself  
a stranger  
in the story you had held  
most dear.

Then let yourself  
be lost.  
Let yourself leave  
for a place  
whose contours  
you do not already know,  
whose cadences  
you have not learned  
by heart.  
Let yourself land  
on a threshold  
that mirrors the mystery  
of your own  
bewildered soul.

It will come  
as a surprise,  
what arrives  
to welcome you  
through the door,  
making a place for you  
at the table  
and calling you  
by your name.

Let what comes,  
come.

Let the glass  
be filled.  
Let the light  
be tended.  
Let the hands  
lay before you  
what will meet you  
in your hunger.

Let the laughter.  
Let the sweetness  
that enters  
the sorrow.  
Let the solace  
that comes  
as sustenance  
and sudden, unbidden  
grace.

For what comes,  
offer gladness.  
For what greets you  
with kindly welcome,  
offer thanks.  
Offer blessing  
for those  
who gathered you in  
and will not  
be forgotten—

Those who,  
when you were  
a stranger,  
made a place for you  
at the table  
and called you  
by your name.



## *Old School Repentance*

*Ask:*

What is your initial response when you hear the word "repentance?"

What are some common behaviors people need to repent from? What is something you need to repent from? (Share as you feel comfortable, or use this question for individual reflection.)

Confession is tough work. Have you approached God and confessed your sin to Him? If so, what was it like? What is preventing you from giving this a try?

What is it like for you to receive God's forgiveness? Is this challenging for you?

Repentance opens doors to living a much healthier and meaningful life. What are some of the doors repentance opens?



*Read & Reflect:*

Acts 3:19-20

Matthew 4:12-17

Acts 2:36-41

James 5:16

*Remember:*

*Back To Basics:*

Practice repentance. Identify an area of your life where you are practicing a destructive or self-destructive behavior. Confess this to God. Consider confessing this to somebody you trust. Turn away (or begin the process of turning away) from that behavior and turn to God.

*Thanks. Help. Now. Amen.*

## *Hold Me. Purify Me.*

From Prayers From The Water's Edge

By Craig Finnestad

Dear God,

You go before me. You are with me. You won't leave me. You hold me.  
(Deuteronomy 31:8)

Hold me in Your arms, help me not to be anxious or afraid, and give me Your peace.

(John 14:27)

Jesus, You held the hand of a little girl and brought her back to life. (Mark 5:38-43)

Jesus, hold my hand and bring me back to life and new levels of life.  
Hold me.

God, show me Your unfailing love and have mercy on me. (Psalm 51:1)

Show me Your great compassion and forgive my sins. (Psalm 51:1)

Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. (Psalm 51:2)

For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. (Psalm 51:3)

I have sinned against You and Your children. (Psalm 51:4)

Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; (Psalm 51:7)

Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

Bring back joy to my life; You have broken me—now let me rejoice. (Psalm 51:8)

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew my mind with purity. (Psalm 51:10)

Do not banish me from Your presence, and don't take Your Holy Spirit from me. (Psalm 51:11)

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me want to obey You. (Psalm 51:12)

Make me pure. Remove all imperfections from my life. Make me holy. Refine me like pure gold and silver. Help me live a life that is acceptable to You. (Malachi 3:3)

Purify my thoughts.

Purify my words.

Purify my actions.

Purify my character.

Purify me.

Amen.



## *Old School Faith Sharing*

*Ask:*

Who are some people that have been important parts of your faith journey?  
What did they do to invite, encourage, and support you?

How have you extended invites or shared your faith with others? What was that experience like for you?

What are some helpful examples you've seen of people sharing their faith?  
What are some unhelpful examples you've seen?

Why do you think sharing our faith is important? Why does it matter?



*Read & Reflect:*

Matthew 9:35-38

Acts 8:26-40

Romans 10:14-15

Matthew 28:16-20

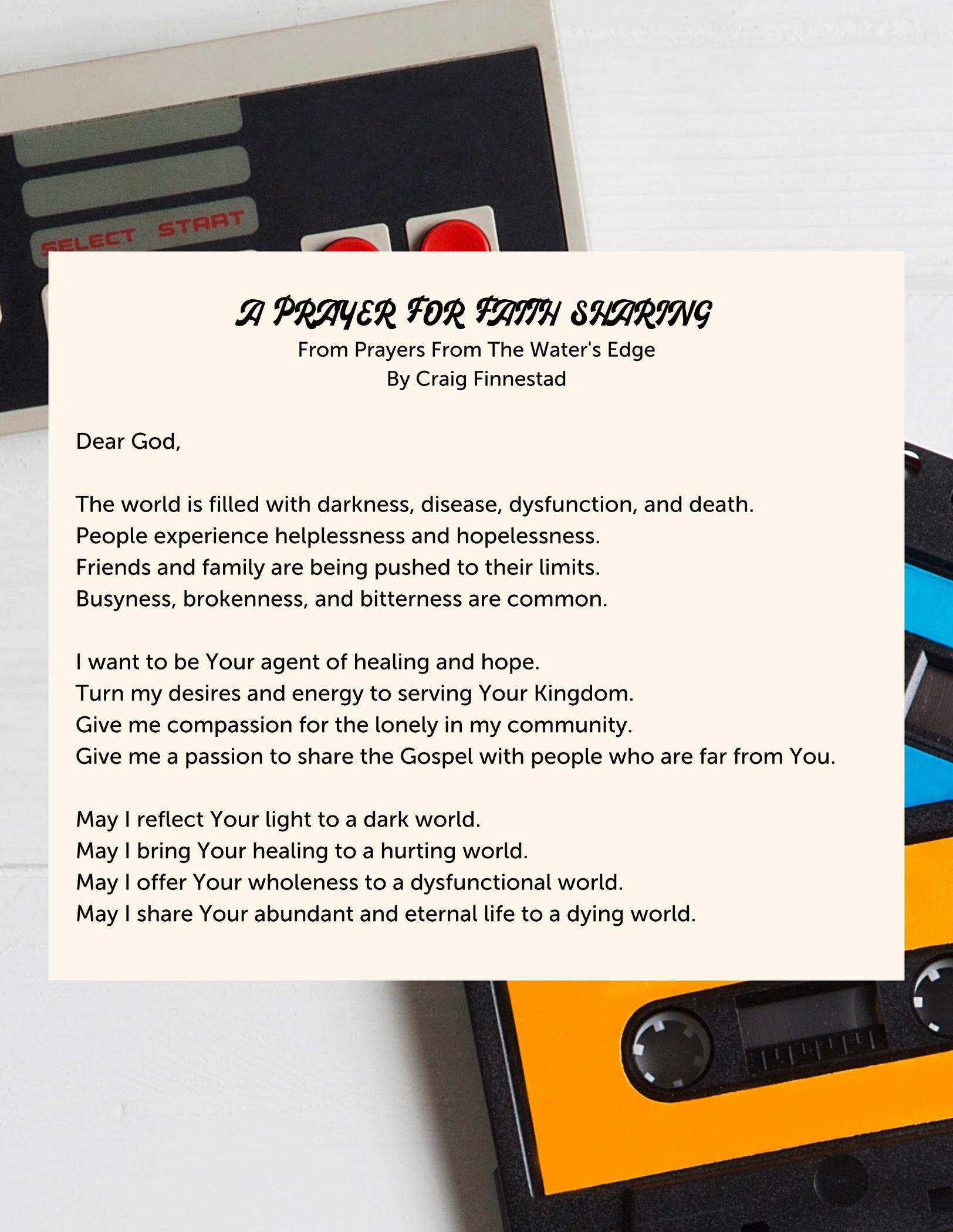
Acts 2:42-47

*Remember:*

*Back To Basics:*

Invite someone to church or share your faith with one other person this week.

*Thanks. Help. Wow. Amen.*



## *A PRAYER FOR FAITH SHARING*

From Prayers From The Water's Edge

By Craig Finnestad

Dear God,

The world is filled with darkness, disease, dysfunction, and death.  
People experience helplessness and hopelessness.  
Friends and family are being pushed to their limits.  
Busyness, brokenness, and bitterness are common.

I want to be Your agent of healing and hope.  
Turn my desires and energy to serving Your Kingdom.  
Give me compassion for the lonely in my community.  
Give me a passion to share the Gospel with people who are far from You.

May I reflect Your light to a dark world.  
May I bring Your healing to a hurting world.  
May I offer Your wholeness to a dysfunctional world.  
May I share Your abundant and eternal life to a dying world.



Bless me with courage to take the next step of faith.  
Help me be a good steward of my time and resources.  
Give me creativity and imagination as I actively share my faith.  
Supply me with humor and humility so that others may see You in me.

Connect me more closely with others who are serving You.  
Intersect my life with the lives of people who need Your grace.  
Help me be bold as I invite others to environments where they can grow.  
Bless me as I do my best to love people into a deeper relationship with You.

Amen.



*Notes:*

*Notes:*