



immeasurably
more

Embracing the abundance
of God's blessings

 **the water's edge**
C H U R C H

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It was early morning, May 25, 2001. Amber and I were celebrating our fifth wedding anniversary at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was in labor. We didn't know if the baby was a boy or a girl. We didn't know the child's name, but had started a couple of lists. And we didn't know what we were getting into. Life changed that day. I held Benjamin. He had big blue eyes and blond fuzz on his head. As I cradled this precious gift, I was overwhelmed at the prospect of parenting. Like changing his diaper, feeding him, not dropping him, or installing his car seat improperly. Little did I know that was the easy stuff. I remember feeling inadequate.

I began praying a prayer that day. It is Paul's Prayer found in Ephesians 3:14-21. I have prayed it every day since the day Benjamin was born and now also pray it for his brother, David. As I write this, I have prayed this prayer over 8,000 consecutive days.

Over the last 22 years, life hasn't always been easy or perfect, but God has remained faithful to His promise of doing immeasurably more than I ever asked or imagined. For the next five weeks, I invite you to pray this prayer, participate in the study, and open yourself up to the possibility of God doing

immeasurably more in your life.

In Christ,

Craig

week 1

immeasurably more prayer

For this reason *I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.*
-Ephesians 3:14-15

activity

Prayer can be rewarding, prayer can be frustrating, and prayer can be lots of other things. Circle the words that describe how you feel about prayer.

invigorating

sporadic

calming

last resort

deep

refreshing

frequent

don't know how

fun

get distracted

grow deeper

unsuccessful

go in spurts

another task

never do it

dream

Read Ephesians 3:20

Based on this one Bible verse, list two areas of your life where you would like to experience God doing immeasurably more. I am praying over these areas:

1. _____

2. _____

status update

1. What excites you about beginning a new study on following Jesus more closely?
2. In the past, what has helped you grow in your relationship with God?

share

1. Paul was praying for the Ephesian Christians because he cared about them and wanted to see them prevail. What are some of the reasons you pray?
2. What struggles have you experienced when praying? Have you overcome these struggles? If so, how?

read

Genesis 32:22-31

In verse 26, Jacob says to God: "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

1. What does Jacob's tenacity teach us about prayer?
2. What would your prayer life look like if you had Jacob's perseverance?

Matthew 6:9-13

In verse 10, Jesus says: "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

1. What does this verse teach you about the reasons we should pray?
2. What is one way this verse can shape your prayer life?

watch

video on Youtube

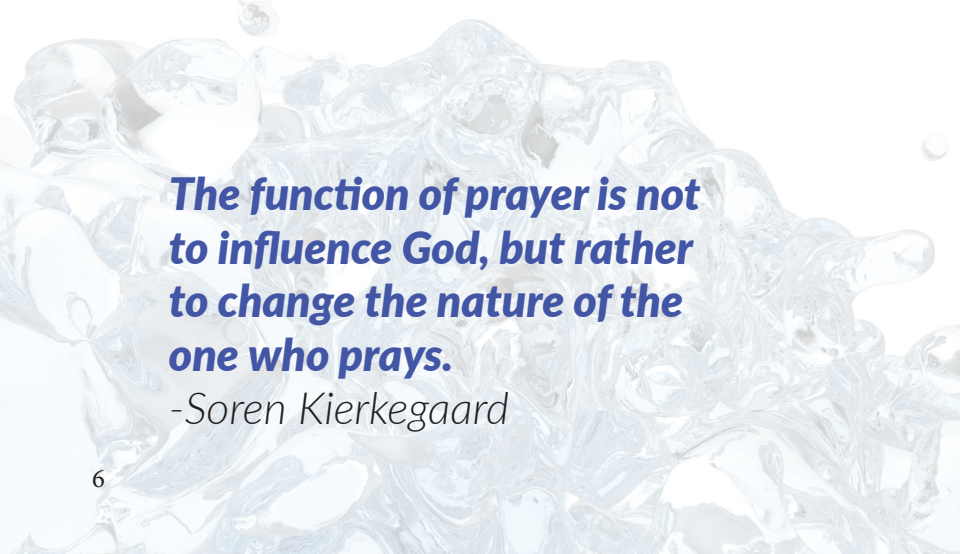
Playlist:

immeasurably more

Video #1:

prayer

1. What does it mean to you to “kneel before the Father” in prayer? Kneeling can be physical and is definitely spiritual and emotional. Do you see a relationship between kneeling and humility? How can “kneeling” shape your prayer life?
2. As humans we derive our name from God and are created in God’s image. What would it look like to pray to conform yourself and restore yourself to God’s image?
3. God is compassionate and generous. In what ways do you think prayer can transform our hearts to be more generous and compassionate?
4. How can we encourage one another to be steadfast in prayer, especially during times when it can be difficult to see tangible results?
5. What is a next step for you to develop a more meaningful prayer life?



The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.

-Soren Kierkegaard

daily prayer

Pray this simple prayer multiple times per day. Consider writing the prayer on a sheet of paper and putting it in a spot you will see often. Or have the prayer be the wallpaper on your phone. Be alert as to how God is speaking to you through this prayer throughout the week.

God –

*Prepare my heart for a deeper relationship with you.
Help me to long for more frequent and more meaningful
conversations with you. Give me the courage to go where
my best prayers lead me.*

Amen.

Reflect on this prayer:

the weekly one thing

plan for more

Spend some time this week planning to grow closer to God and others. Reflect on what it would look like at this point in your life to follow Jesus more closely. Using the readings, prayers, and discussions, make a plan to faithfully do **one** thing to move you closer to God and others.

My one thing is _____

practice for more

Christianity isn't primarily a religion. It is a relationship between God and people. We don't arrive at the perfect relationship with God and others. Our relationships are about growing, recovering and learning. Not perfection, but the continual practice of progress.

How did I do practicing my one thing this week? What were my wins? Where did I struggle? Does my one thing need to be revised? How does my one thing offer hope to me moving forward?



daily Bible reading plan

read & apply the

scripture to your life

Day 1

Ephesians 3:14-21: *Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians*

Day 2

Numbers 6:24-26: *Aaron's Priestly Blessing*

Day 3

1 Kings 3:3-9: *Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom*

Day 4

1 Chronicles 4:9-10: *Jabez's Prayer*

Day 5

Psalms 51:1-12: *David's Prayer*

week 2

immeasurably more faith

He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. -Ephesians 3:16-17

activity

On a scale of 1 to 10, rate your faith during the following times in your life by filling in the appropriate circle.

15 years ago 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10 years ago 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5 years ago 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 year ago 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6 months ago 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Starting at the top row and working your way to the bottom row, connect the dots from the five rows. After the dots are connected, take a few minutes and look at the trend line. What have you learned about where your faith has been and where it is now?

dream

Read Ephesians 3:16-17

Based on Paul's prayer for the Ephesians to experience more faith, write a short immeasurably more dream of what your life could look like if you grew in your faith.

status update

1. Last week, you did one thing to move you closer to God. How did that go?
2. What role do you think prayer has in living a life that is immeasurably more than you can imagine?

share

1. How do you describe faith?
2. What role does community play in practicing and nurturing your faith?
3. How does faith influence your everyday decisions?

read

Hebrews 11:1

1. Does reading Hebrews 11:1 change your understanding of faith? If so, how?
2. How has faith as described in Hebrews 11:1 impacted your relationship with God? With others?

Proverbs 3:1-6

1. In what ways do we tend to lean on our own understanding rather than fully relying on God?
2. How can we practically cultivate a deeper trust in God and surrender our desires, plans, and outcomes to His guidance?

watch

video on Youtube


Playlist:

immeasurably more

Video #2:

faith

1. How would you be different if your inner-being were strengthened? What would your life look like if Christ dwelled in your heart?
2. What is the relationship between faith and generosity, and why is it important in the life of a believer?
3. Share a personal experience where stepping out in faith by practicing generosity, or something else, resulted in unexpected blessings or growth in your spiritual journey?
4. Are there any specific challenges or barriers that may hinder us from fully exercising faith, taking risks, and living generously? How can we overcome them?
5. How can we support and encourage one another in our faith journeys, especially when it comes to embracing risk-taking and being generous in our lives?



Trusting God without seeing solutions is hard. But that's the fertile soil where faith grows.

-Lysa Terkeurst

daily prayer

Pray this simple prayer multiple times per day. Consider writing the prayer on a sheet of paper and putting it in a spot you will see often. Or have the prayer be the wallpaper on your phone. Be alert as to how God is speaking to you through this prayer throughout the week.

God –

Teach me not to be a victim or overthink through stifling reflection. Instead, teach me to breathe more deeply in faith and to follow where you are leading me.

Amen.

Reflect on this prayer:

the weekly one thing

plan for more

Spend some time this week planning to grow closer to God and others. Reflect on what it would look like at this point in your life to follow Jesus more closely. Using the readings, prayers, and discussions, make a plan to faithfully do **one** thing to move you closer to God and others.

My one thing is _____

practice for more

How did I do practicing my one thing this week? What were my wins? Where did I struggle? Does my one thing need to be revised? How does my one thing offer hope to me moving forward?



daily Bible reading plan

read & apply the

scripture to your life

Day 1

Genesis 15:1-6

Day 2

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Day 3

Luke 17:5-6

Day 4

Romans 10:14-17

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

week 3

immeasurably more

abundance



activity

Circle the phrase that describes you better:

I'd rather compete
I'd rather collaborate

I envy other people's successes
I am happy when others succeed

What others think of me is important
Living out God's will is important

I tend to be fearful
I am grateful

What I have is mine
What I have is God's

Pessimism helps me be prepared
Optimism helps me be hopeful

My future depends on my work
My future depends on God's provision

I'm not much of a risk taker
I easily take appropriate risks

I am kind of blessed
I am really blessed

If I had more, I would be generous
I am generous

More circles on the top indicate scarcity. More circles on the bottom demonstrate abundance. Do the results surprise you? What did you learn about yourself during this quiz?



dream

Read Ephesians 3:16

Paul was praying from God's abundant resources. Write a short immeasurably more dream of what your life could look like if our goals in life had more to do with God's resources and less to do with the world's resources.

status update

1. During the previous two weeks, we have talked about prayer and faith. Have you grown in either of these areas since this series started? If so, how?

share

1. What are some ways you see people practicing scarcity? What are some ways you see people practicing abundance?
2. Would people who know you best say that you practice scarcity or abundance?

read

Psalm 23:1-6

1. How does the shepherd metaphor used in Psalm 23 emphasize God's abundant care and guidance in our lives?
2. In what ways does the psalmist describe the provision and abundance that God offers in verse 1 and verse 5?

John 10:10

1. In what ways do you see God's abundant provision and blessings at work in your life, even during challenging circumstances?
2. How can we actively pursue and experience the abundant life that Jesus promises in this verse, both individually and as a community of believers?

watch

video on Youtube

Playlist:
immeasurably more

Video #3:
abundance

1. What happens to a tree with weak or shallow roots? What happens to people with weak or shallow roots? What would it look like for your roots to grow deep down into God's love?
2. Share your understanding of God's abundant love for you: how wide and long and high and deep it is.
3. Paul prays that the Ephesians will live abundantly when we experience the love of Christ. How have you experienced the love of Christ? Did it lead to abundance?
4. How can our understanding of God's abundant love and grace motivate us to be more generous in our relationships, finances, and time?
5. We are created in God's image. God practices abundance and generosity. What is the next step for you to take to be restored into God's image of abundance and generosity?



Three keys to more abundant living: caring about others, daring for others, sharing for others.

-William Arthur Ward

daily prayer

Pray this simple prayer multiple times per day. Consider writing the prayer on a sheet of paper and putting it in a spot you will see often. Or have the prayer be the wallpaper on your phone. Be alert as to how God is speaking to you through this prayer throughout the week.

God –

Open me to receiving Your abundance in all areas of my life. Help me to release my fears about scarcity. Fill my life with gratitude and generosity.

Amen.

Reflect on this prayer:

the weekly one thing

plan for more

Spend some time this week planning to grow closer to God and others. Reflect on what it would look like at this point in your life to follow Jesus more closely. Using the readings, prayers, and discussions, make a plan to faithfully do **one** thing to move you closer to God and others.

My one thing is _____

practice for more

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daily Bible reading plan
read & apply the

scripture to your life

Day 1

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

Day 2

Matthew 6:25-34

Day 3

Acts 4:31-37

Day 4

Romans 8:31-39

Day 5

Philippians 4:14-20

week 4

immeasurably more vision

Now to him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. -Ephesians 3:20

activity

Write whether your vision is blurry or clear in the following areas:

I can see purpose in my life: _____

I can see how God is working in me: _____

I can see how God is working through me: _____

I can see how God has done immeasurably more in my past: _____

I can see how God has used my resources to do immeasurably more: _____

I can see dreams for my life that are God-sized: _____

How would your life look different if you had clear vision on all of these?

dream

Read Ephesians 3:20

Paul's vision for the Ephesians was God-sized. Write a short immeasurably more dream of what God could do in your life or through your life that is immeasurably more than all you could ask or imagine.

status update

1. How have you experienced abundance in the last week?
2. What is something you have learned so far during this study?

share

1. How can we discern whether our vision is aligned with God's purpose for our lives?
2. What are some common obstacles or challenges people face when trying to define and pursue their vision?

read

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

1. How can we discern whether our personal visions are aligned with God's wisdom or if we are influenced by our own desires or societal expectations?

Matthew 6:9-13

1. How does the phrase "your kingdom come, your will be done" inform our understanding of vision-setting as Christians?
2. How can the phrase "give us today our daily bread" challenge our assumptions and expectations about the resources needed to fulfill our vision?

watch

video on Youtube

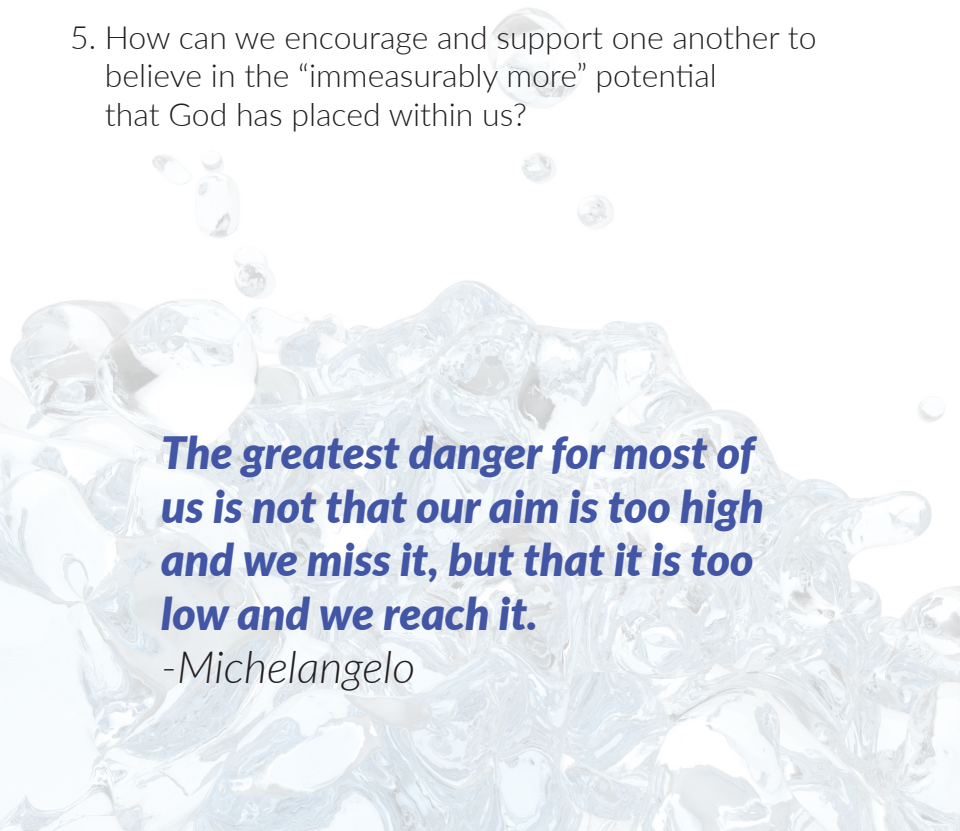
Playlist:

immeasurably more

Video #4:

vision

1. What does it mean that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine?
2. How can we practically apply the concept of “immeasurably more” in our prayer life and our approach to seeking God’s guidance?
3. How can we cultivate a mindset of seeking and expecting immeasurably more in our daily lives and in our relationship with God?
4. How can we balance the tension between actively pursuing our goals and dreams while also trusting in God’s timing and plans for our lives?
5. How can we encourage and support one another to believe in the “immeasurably more” potential that God has placed within us?



The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

-Michelangelo

daily prayer

Pray this simple prayer multiple times per day. Consider writing the prayer on a sheet of paper and putting it in a spot you will see often. Or have the prayer be the wallpaper on your phone. Be alert as to how God is speaking to you through this prayer throughout the week.

God –

Bless me with immeasurably more.

Knock down walls standing in the way of abundance.

Move me to the land of faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Amen.

Reflect on this prayer:

the weekly one thing

plan for more

Spend some time this week planning to grow closer to God and others. Reflect on what it would look like at this point in your life to follow Jesus more closely. Using the readings, prayers, and, discussions, make a plan to faithfully do **one** thing to move you closer to God and others.

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daily Bible reading plan

read & apply the

scripture to your life

Day 1

Jeremiah 29:10-14

Day 2

Matthew 6:25-34

Day 3

Philippians 3:7-14

Day 4

Romans 12:1-2

Day 5

Psalms 37:1-6

week 5

immeasurably more gratitude

To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

-Ephesians 3:21



activity

Set a timer for 30 seconds. Write down as many things as you can think of that you are grateful for.

On a scale of 1 being easy and 5 being hard:

- How challenging was it for you to come up with things you are grateful for? ____
- How often do you express gratitude to God for these things? ____



dream

Read Ephesians 3:18

Write two ways that God has demonstrated how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is for you by providing immeasurably more in your life than you could've ever dreamed.

1) _____ 2) _____

status update

1. How have you grown closer to God throughout this study?
2. Which topic from this study do you most want to continue growing in moving forward? What specifically will you do to continue to grow in this area?

share

1. Paul ends this passage with gratitude to God. On a scale of 1-10, how often do you thank God for the good things in your life?
2. What is something you are very grateful for right now? Who do you need to express that gratitude to? How will you express your gratitude to them?
3. What are some of the obstacles that keep us from being more grateful?

read

Luke 17:11-19

1. What are some possible reasons the other lepers did not return to thank Jesus for healing them?
2. Why does Jesus encourage us to give gratitude to God?

Psalm 118

1. What all does the Psalmist thank God for?
2. What are common things we thank God for? What types of things do we often forget to thank God for?

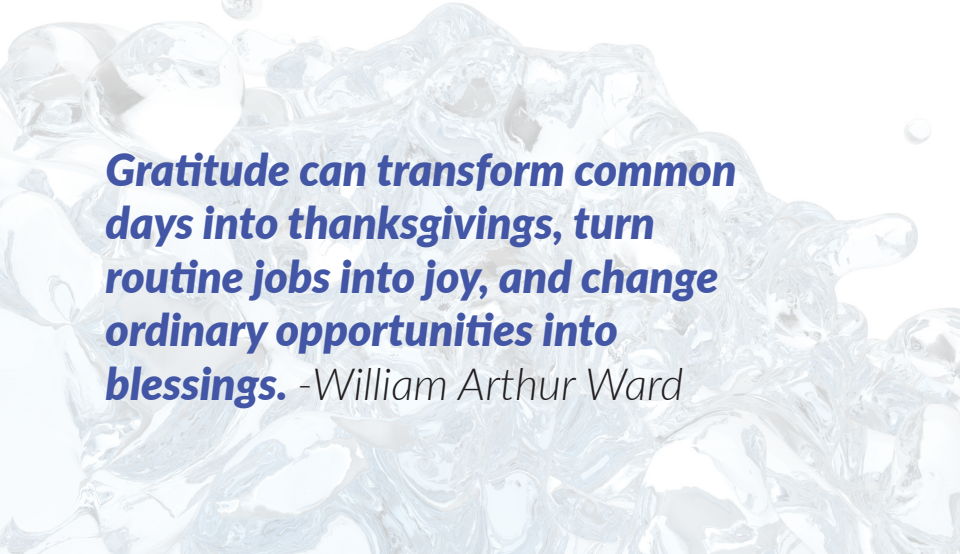
watch

video on Youtube

Playlist:
immeasurably more

Video #5:
gratitude

1. Paul prays that the Ephesians will understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God's love is for them. How does gratitude help us experience God's love better?
2. Why do you think Paul ends this prayer with gratitude?
3. How have you experienced a connection between faith and gratitude? How does being more grateful deepen our faith?
4. Generosity is an expression of gratitude. Explain how you have been blessed by being generous.
5. What is the next step you can take this week to practice more gratitude and become a more grateful person?



Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. -William Arthur Ward

daily prayer

Pray this simple prayer multiple times per day. Consider writing the prayer on a sheet of paper and putting the prayer in a spot you will see often. Or having the prayer be the wallpaper on your phone. Be alert as to how God is speaking to you through this prayer throughout the week.

God –

Open the eyes of my soul so that I may see the gifts you have put before me this day. Teach me to respond in gratitude and to grow in gratitude. Lead me to be generous, as You are generous with me, and to collaborate with You in serving this world for your greater glory.

Amen.

Reflect on this prayer:

the weekly one thing

plan for more

Spend some time this week planning to grow closer to God and others. Reflect on what it would look like at this point in your life to follow Jesus more closely. Using the readings, prayers, and, discussions, make a plan to faithfully do **one** thing to move you closer to God and others.

My one thing is _____

practice for more

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daily Bible reading plan
read & apply the

scripture to your life

Day 1

Psalm 100

Day 2

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Day 3

Colossians 3:15-17

Day 4

Psalm 136

Day 5

James 1:16-18

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

-Ephesians



Now to him who is able to do

**immeasurably
more**

than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

3:14-21



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