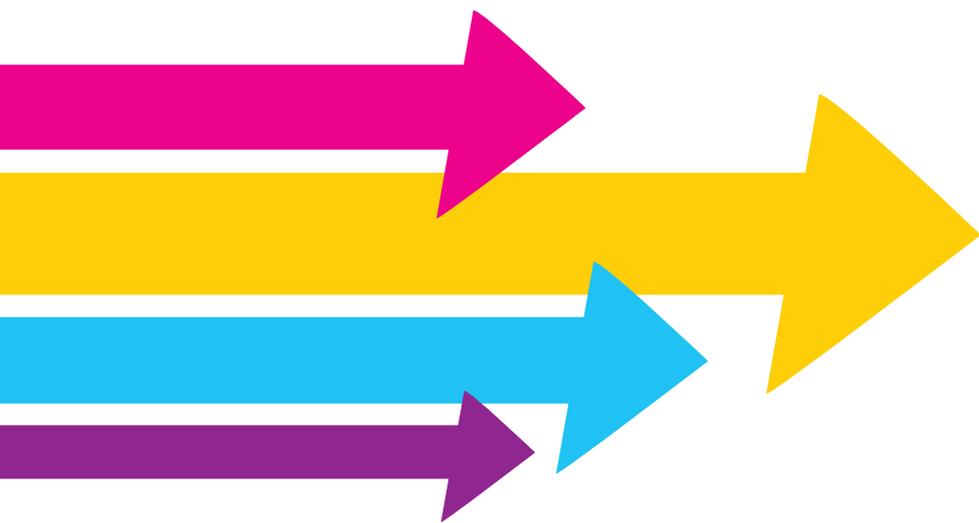


BEYOND



SUNDAY

RESOURCE GUIDE



Beyond the Horizon

In the Bible, we meet a God who is at work to save His world and bring all creation back into relationship with Him. In His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has made a way for this restoration. He calls us to trust in Him, turn to God, and begin a new kind of life that brings His blessings into our lives and into the world around us.

Sadly, the Church has often fallen short of this calling. Many in our world have experienced the Church as hypocrites and bigots, caring more about our rules and traditions than we do about people. When they see this in us, they begin to believe these things about God, and so they reject His offer of salvation and restoration.

WMBC wants to be a people who restore God's image in our world. We want to live our lives in the way of Jesus so that, when people look at us and spend time with us, they come to know God for who He truly is.

We dream of changing how people see the Church so that they encounter Jesus.

Beyond Sunday

Every year, we set a goal that will help us take another step towards that greater vision. This year, our goal is to go "Beyond Sunday." There are two big ideas wrapped up in this slogan.

First, we have seen the trend of people walking away from Sunday service attendance, and the church in general over the last number of years. Many of these people are not walking away from faith, but the format of Sunday services, looking for more personal experiences of the Church.

Second, we feel convicted that following Jesus isn't something we do on one day of the week. Connecting the gospel to the real world is not a part-time job, it's a way of life. We feel God calling us to put that belief into action and commit to being the Church instead of going to church.

Going Beyond Sunday means looking for ways to experience and be the Church outside of the Sunday service, and connecting our faith to our lives. This could mean joining a small group, a ministry team, attending one of our community events, or coming to one of our monthly Prayer Summits. It means engaging our hearts in worship, our minds in learning and discernment, our bodies in service of others, and to do all of this together with the Church.

BEYOND SUNDAY **VISION**

Scripture Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:19-22

Read these scriptures and use the space provided to respond.

Engage your Heart

The first generation of Christians were in wonder of how they had been brought into God's family, the power of the Spirit in them, and what God was doing in their midst.

What makes you feel awe towards God? Is it an attribute of His, a way you've felt His presence or seen Him work? Take 5 minutes to tell God what makes Him wonderful in your eyes.

Engage your Head

Have you ever been on a television or movie studio set for a house or apartment? On screen, they look like real, functional homes, but in real life, they're not livable. There's no running water, no appliances are plugged in, none of the food is real. It might be nice to sit in for a while, but you can't live there.

In Ephesians 2, Paul describes the Church as the house that God lives in: each person a stone, connected to each other, built up and made livable through the way that we love each other, serve each other, and care for one-another.

Consider this: if Sunday morning is the extent of our Church experience, what kind of house are we providing for God? Could he actually live there, or is it just for show?

Engage your Hands

Of all the action words in Acts 2:42-47, which one stands out to you? How can you put that word into practice this week?

BEYOND SUNDAY **GROWTH**

Scripture Colossians 3:16-17; Galatians 6:1-2

Read these scriptures and use the space provided to respond.

Engage your Heart

As we read in Galatians 6:1-2, part of growing with other disciples means being corrected and submitting to the authority of others when we stray away from the way of Jesus.

How easily do you accept correction? Would you find it hard to let people see your flaws and failures?

Engage your Head

Our culture glorifies the importance and the accomplishments of the individual. We applaud people who are self-made, we strive to be self-sufficient, and we are increasingly self-important.

This focus on the individual can creep into our faith. Learning, praying, worship, and acts of devotion to God can all be done in isolation. We can feel the pressure to keep our questions, roadblocks, even our breakthroughs and celebrations, to ourselves. Our faith can go from being personal, to being private.

But Jesus and the Apostles believed that sharing our faith journey with others allows us to be strengthened, challenged, encouraged, and encounter ways of following Jesus that are different than our own. Who do you share your faith journey with? What does this look like? What fruit has this produced for you or for them?

Engage your Hands

This week, share a part of your faith with someone. It could be something God is leading you through, something you're learning, struggling with, even a question you have.

Extra Mile

If you want to go the extra mile, ask someone you trust who is further along the way of Jesus to help guide you on your journey of faith.

BEYOND SUNDAY **COMMUNITY**

Scripture Acts 2:43-47; John 17

Read these scriptures and use the space provided to respond.

Engage your Heart

When you read Jesus' prayer for the Church in John 17, you hear His heart for His followers. Jesus loves the Church, He sacrificed Himself for us, and wants to be with us forever.

What place does the Church hold in your heart? Do you love the Church the same way Jesus does? What makes this difficult?

Take 5 minutes to pray and ask Jesus to help you love the Church like He does.

Engage your Head

When the New Testament describes the church community, it paints a picture of a group of people going through life together. They share possessions, give when each other are in need, gather in each other's homes. They know what each other are going through and are close enough to care for and love each other in meaningful ways.

How does this portrait compare to your experience of the Church? Are you going through life with the Church?

Engage your Hands

This week, reach out to someone in the church to share time, a meal, and/or prayer.

Extra Mile

If you want to go the extra mile, if you're not connected to a small group, sign up for a group and begin the journeying in faith with them.

BEYOND SUNDAY **MISSION**

Scripture James 1:22-26; Acts 13:13-52, 18:1-4

Read these scriptures and use the space provided to respond.

Engage your Heart

In his letter to the Church, James describes “true religion” as caring for orphans and widows: those who cannot care for themselves.

Do you have a heart for the defenseless, the poor, or the troubled? What does it look like for you to practice “true religion” during the week? Who is helping you live out your beliefs in your everyday life?

Engage your Head

We think of Paul as a missionary, going from place to place, setting up churches, and then encouraging and teaching them with His letters. But Paul’s mission work extended beyond his journeys.

Paul’s whole life was a part of His mission work. He made tents for a living, setting up in town squares to sell his tents to the people coming through. While he was in this space, he would bless people and share the gospel with them as the Spirit directed him. Then, he used the money he made from selling tents to help fund his mission work.

We are not all apostles, but we are all called to the mission of making disciples and bringing the good news of Jesus to the lives of those around us. What does it look like for you to make the mission of the Church a part of your week?

Engage your Hands

This week, spend time with someone who is struggling, lonely, or in need.

Extra Mile

If you want to go the extra mile, sign up to be on our Care Response Team and get connected to those in need in our community.

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