

This “Watching” is not a passive thing, however. We need to make plans to be with people, to lean into them, and engage them. Just as God had to come to us because we wouldn’t first go to him, so too we want to take the initiative to lean into people.

This takes planning. So, this week talk about a plan you are making to do something this week to lean into people. Then, if you didn’t have a Pray & Watch story to share this week, you’ll have one to share next week!

Got your Pray & Watch list? Let’s do at least 10 names this week. Write them down if you haven’t that many so that when you get together in Life Group, you’ll be able to say them all out loud together.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**For the week starting Sunday,  
February 28st 2016**

**How firm a foundation, ye  
saints of the Lord, is laid for  
your faith in his excellent  
Word!**

**Matthew 7:24-27**

---

### **Life-giving Prayer (about 10 min)**

1. Do you have any stories to share this week about worshipping God in the everyday stuff of life?

2. It is helpful to learn a new practice with “training wheels”. Training wheels can help someone who is new at riding a bike. In a similar way, learning to give God glory, honor, and thanks is a new experience for us. So, here are the “training wheels” written out as sentences to help you give God glory, honor, and thanks: Complete the sentence in this way:

Glory: God, it’s amazing that you \_\_\_\_\_

Honor: God, I choose (or want or surrender) \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

Thanks: God, thank you for \_\_\_\_\_.

Open to Psalms 19. Read one or two verses at a time and then stop and try to use the idea from that Psalm to put them into the forms above. I’ve done the last verse for you, verse 14

- *God, it’s amazing that you are unshakable like a Rock.*
- *God, I surrender my words to you. I want to speak right words before you.*
- *God, I thank you for being my redeemer, for saving me from my sins.*

## Life-giving Truth (about 45-55 min)

*There are a lot of questions here. Your Life Group Coach will pick out a few below that are best suited for your Life Group to help process this week's Life-giving Truth. Don't try to answer every question – just think through a few together.*

1. Last week's truth: Did you think about last week's Life-giving Truth *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness*? **Was there a situation in your life this week when this Life-giving Truth was (or could have been) applicable?**
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus said the one who hears him and “does” what he says will be the wise man who survives the coming judgment. Think about what it means to “do” Jesus' words by reading Matthew 5:43-47 as a case study. What are some of the things we are called to “do” from this passage?
3. Imagine that you've been sharing the gospel with Tasha. You've made the point that Jesus died for her sins and she needs to believe Jesus; that she needs to rely upon what Jesus did for her. In light of what Jesus has said about the “way is hard that leads to eternal life” (7:14), “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire” (7:19), that workers of lawlessness must “depart from me” (7:23) and the need to “hear my words and do them” (7:24), respond to Tasha's question: “So do I need to change the way I live if I'm trusting Jesus to forgive my sins? I mean, if he's going to forgive me of all my sins, then is there any reason for me to change the way I live?”
4. Jesus said that everyone who does what Jesus says is like one who builds his house on the Rock. “The Rock” refers to Jesus teaching here. But the reason he calls his teaching “the rock” is because he himself is “the Rock”. Look up these other passages that mention Jesus as a Rock: Rom. 9:33 and 1 Cor. 10:4. (In Rom. 9:33 Jesus is called a “rock of offense” - that means that instead of believing in Jesus, many people stumble over him. That is, they can't accept who he really is and that proves to be their undoing). Now, notice these passages that say God himself is the Rock: Deut. 32:4 and Ps. 18:2, 31, 46. So when Jesus calls his teaching the Rock, he is using a word used of God himself. It's another way Jesus is claiming to be God. **In light of this, what do you think the metaphor of “Rock” implies about Jesus? What does this image communicate to you?**
5. In Matthew 7:14 Jesus said “the way is hard that leads to eternal life.” **In your experience, what is hard about not just hearing but *doing* (7:24) Jesus' words?**

6. The Life-giving Truth “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!” means that Jesus' words are trustworthy and reliable above all else. And yet what he says confronts every culture or person's sensibilities or experiences in some way or another. **In your life, what is one or two things that Jesus said that are most hard for you to accept?**

7. Our church's Statement of Faith #8 says: *We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. Specifically with that first sentence in mind, read First John 2:1-6 and respond to Kyle who says this:* “I know that I'm not saved by my works. It doesn't matter how messed up I am, I'm still saved. People might look at me and say, 'He gets drunk every weekend. He lives with his girlfriend. He hasn't been to a church or Bible study in years. You can't tell him apart from a pagan.' And they're right. But I asked Jesus to be my savior when I was a kid at camp, and so I know I'm saved.”

## Life-giving Relationships (about 5-10 min)

Life-giving Relationships is an invitation to be real with other people about what is going on inside our hearts. We are learning that it's better to be real with each other than be perfect. We want to be real with each other so that we can pray for each other—God's promise is that he will change us when we ask him for help. We don't share what's going on in our heart just to get it off our chest. We pray because God changes us by prayer. We are looking to him to change us.

That being said, talk about this question together: *Why is it so much easier to be real about physical problems than it is to be real about spiritual or emotional problems?*

Does anyone want healing prayer this week? Remember, this is praying for the heart of you, the person, not the circumstances you are going through or other people in your life. Is there anything churning in your heart that we can pray for?

## Life-giving Impact (about 10 min)

Life-giving Impact is about praying for people daily (or more!) that God would make them followers of Jesus and seekers of God's Kingdom and his Righteousness. And then we “watch” for God to open up doors for us to build relationships with them and talk about spiritual things with them.