# THE WAY OF JESUS

# Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

August 2025

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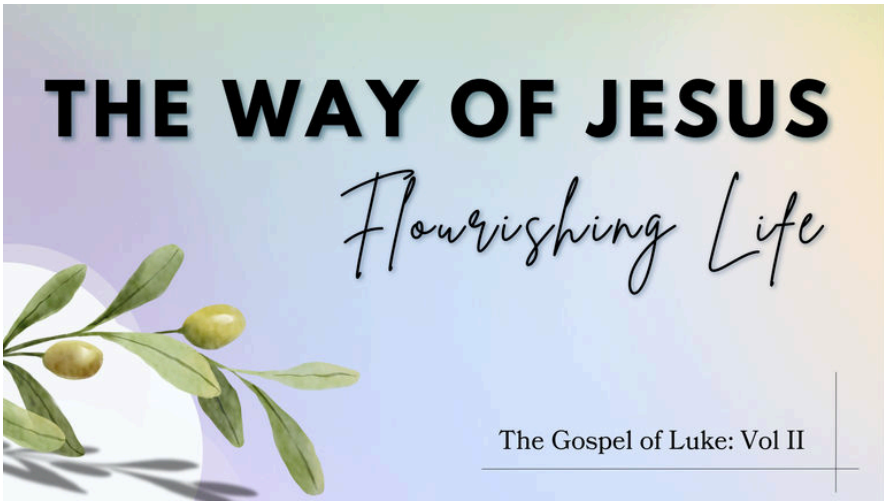



# The Way of Flourishing Life

## An Invitation to Follow Jesus through the Second Half of Luke

If the first half of Luke's Gospel invites us to sit at the feet of Jesus, to know His heart and experience the awe of His miracles, then the second half invites us to get up and follow Him—step by step, story by story, toward Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond.

Beginning in chapter 9, Luke shifts the focus of his narrative. Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), and everything changes. From this point on, we are not simply observers—we're called to be disciples. We're drawn into the journey of following Jesus, and with that comes a question that echoes through every chapter: Will you come with Him?

This road is not easy. It is marked by costly love, radical mercy, and life-giving surrender. Following Jesus isn't about checking boxes or mastering doctrine. It's about

orienting our entire lives around His—being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did. This is the way of true discipleship. Joining Jesus on this path towards the cross, however, is also the way of true flourishing.

In a world chasing comfort, status, and self-preservation, Jesus offers something altogether different: deep peace, a grounded sense of purpose, and an unshakable hope. This is the abundant life He promised—not free from suffering, but full of meaning. Not ease, but joy. Not self-fulfillment, but a life poured out for others.

As you journey through these chapters of Luke, may your eyes be opened to the surprising beauty of the cross-shaped life. May you hear Jesus' call anew. And may you discover, in the shadow of sacrifice, the light of flourishing life.

## Practicing the Way

The way of Jesus isn't something we admire from a distance—it's a life we step into.

Luke has shown us what that life looks like: Jesus walking with people, welcoming the broken, speaking truth, carrying the cross, and pouring Himself out in love. Now, we respond. His way becomes our way.

This life doesn't flourish by accident. It's cultivated through daily, deliberate choices. We orient our lives around three pursuits that shape us as followers of Jesus:

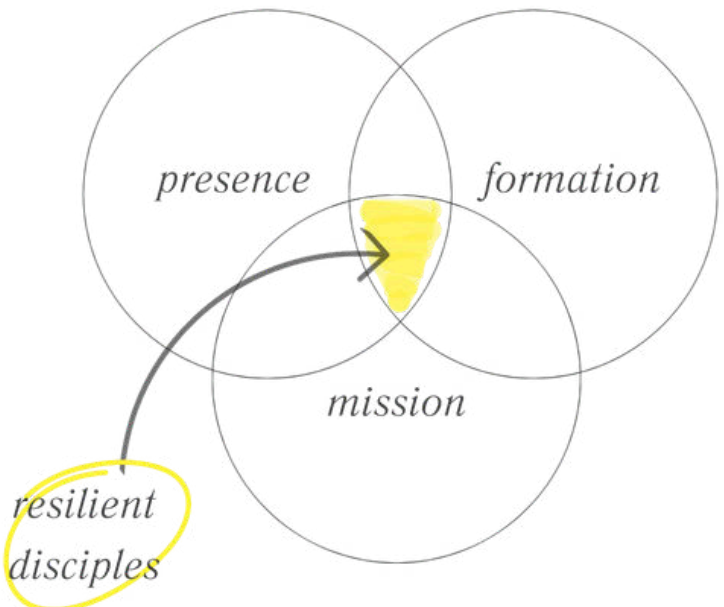
**Be with Jesus.**
**Become like Jesus.**
**Do what Jesus did.**

Jesus' disciples - then and now - flourish at the convergence of PRESENCE, FORMATION, and MISSION.

**PRESENCE // To be with Jesus**
Flourishing begins not with doing, but with abiding. We create space to slow down, to listen, to be still in His presence. Through rhythms of prayer, Scripture, and worship, we live in ongoing communion with the God who draws near. This is where peace and clarity begin.

**FORMATION // To become like Jesus**
We are all being formed by something. As disciples, we choose to be shaped by Jesus—His character, His priorities, His way. Formation happens as we submit to His Word, practice new habits, and let community refine us. Over time, our lives begin to reflect His.

**MISSION // To do what Jesus did**
Flourishing isn't kept to itself—it's shared. Jesus' way leads outward, into neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and the margins. We serve, invite, give, and live with gospel intentionality. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus now sends and empowers us.



This is the way of Jesus. It's not always easy, but it is always worth it. As we walk in His presence, open our lives to His formation, and join Him on mission, we discover the very thing our souls were made for: flourishing life.

# Additional Resources

*Practicing the Way*, John Mark Comer (Unpacking the rhythms of discipleship: to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, to do what Jesus did.)

*Luke (NIV Application Commentary),* Darrell Bock (A deeply studied but pastoral account of Luke's gospel.)

*Luke for Everyone*, N.T. Wright (Helpful and accessible commentary on Luke's gospel and its background.)

*Following King Jesus*, Scot McKnight (Offers rich insight into the gospels, with strong themes of discipleship, mission, and Kingdom.)

*God in My Everything*, Ken Shigematsu (Grounded in the rhythms of Jesus but adapted for busy people, a great tool for becoming like Jesus.)

*How to Pray*, Pete Greig (Accessible and Spirit-filled introduction to prayer--for beginners and experienced Jesus-followers alike.)

J*oining Jesus on His Mission*, Greg Finke (A helpful guide for normal people wanting to live on mission in daily life.)

*Miracle Work*, Jordan Seng (Explores how ordinary believers can join Jesus' supernatural work--to do what Jesus did.)

*Till We Have Faces*, C.S. Lewis (A deep and reflective novel which explores the themes of spiritual formation.)

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 1

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 10:1-24

SERMON TITLE

Learn by Doing

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quotes:**

“There are no accidental saints.”
- John Mark Comer

“The church is not a classroom but a mission outpost.”
- Alan Hirsch

**Week 1: Reflect and Discuss**

1. What holds you back from stepping out in obedience, even when you feel underprepared?

2. How does failure or discomfort shape your understanding of spiritual growth?

3. Where is God sending you this week – to a person, place, or opportunity?

4. What does a rhythm of “try + reflect” look like in your own walk with Jesus?

5. Who in your life models “learning by doing” faith? What do they teach you about apprenticing under Jesus?

6. In what ways have you avoided participation because of fear or perfectionism?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Try + Reflect

Jesus doesn't call us to just sit and study His words; He calls us to walk in them. In Luke 10, we see Jesus sending out 72 ordinary disciples into real places, among real people, with real needs. They're not seasoned experts. They're apprentices, learning on the job, learning by doing what Jesus did.

Discipleship is hands-on. The 72 return with stories of joy, struggle, surprise, and growth. Why? Because faith matures through experience. We don't just absorb information about Jesus, we're transformed as we follow Him into everyday life.

The "try + reflect" approach is the heartbeat of apprenticeship with Jesus. It's not about getting it perfect; it's about being present, obedient, and willing to learn. When we try a practice (whether it's praying for someone, serving a neighbor, or sharing our faith), we step into the kind of real-life formation Jesus invites us into. But the learning deepens when we reflect—when we pause to ask what we noticed, how we felt, where we sensed God, and what He might be teaching us. This rhythm helps us not just do spiritual things, but become more like Jesus through them. Trying stretches our faith; reflecting grows our wisdom, inviting God to teach us and grow us through the experience.

So this week, take one step. Try something new. Choose one spiritual or missional practice to lean into as your apprenticeship assignment. Here are a few options:

- Prayer walk your neighborhood and ask God to show you where He's is at work and to teach you love your neighbors like He does.
- Encourage someone the Spirit brings to mind with a text, note, or word of blessing.
- Serve a neighbor with a meal, an offer to help, or a simple act of kindness.
- Invite someone to church, coffee, or a conversation about Jesus.

Don’t overthink it. Just pick one practice and do it. Then – and this is key – reflect on it.

**What did you notice?**

**What did you feel?**

**Where did you sense God’s presence?**

**What might He be teaching you?**

There is no apprenticeship to Jesus without practice. We don’t grow by simply agreeing with His teachings; we grow by putting them into action. Just like we can’t become generous without actually giving, or patient without facing moments of frustration, we can’t become like Jesus without doing what He did.

Practice gives us the space to work on something intentionally – to step into prayer, compassion, or mission – and then reflect on what God is shaping in us through the process. Growth doesn’t happen by accident (“There are no accidental saints.”); it happens through walking *with* Jesus – experience, and honest evaluation. When we “try + reflect,” we begin to see where our hearts resist, where God is at work, and how we’re slowly being formed into the image of Christ.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 2

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

SERMON TITLE

Love without Limits

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“Love begins with seeing. We cannot love someone we do not see. To see someone means to recognize their value and worth.”

- Jean Vanier

“My whole life I have been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted, until I discovered that the interruptions were my work.”

- Henri Nouwen

## Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. Who in your life right now might be your “neighbor” in the sense Jesus describes?

2. What internal resistance do you feel when confronted with the needs of others?

3. How can compassion become a daily, embodied rhythm for you?

4. What internal narratives (fear, judgment, busyness) keep you from showing mercy?

5. What does it look like for you to cross the road this week?

6. What would it look like to be “interruptible” this week?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Embodied Mercy

Jesus doesn't answer the religious expert's question with a definition; He answers it with a story. A story that flips expectations and cuts straight through our well-guarded categories. The priest and the Levite – the religious professionals – pass by a man bleeding on the side of the road. They likely had good reasons: schedules to keep, boundaries to guard, comfort to preserve.

But love, Jesus teaches, doesn't ask "What's convenient for me?" It asks, "What does this person need?"

The Samaritan, an outsider and assumed enemy, becomes the surprising hero of the story. Not because he felt compassion, but because he acted on it. He saw, stopped, and stooped. His love interrupted his plans, cost him time, and opened his wallet. And that's the point. Jesus is showing us what love looks like when it takes on flesh and walks into someone else's pain. This parable isn't about abstract theology. It's about the way of Jesus. A way that moves toward the broken, not around them. And if we follow Him, we must be willing to let love interrupt us too.

So here's the challenge: cross the road this week. Move toward someone you might normally avoid, someone outside your circle, outside your comfort zone, or outside your usual routine. Let love cost you something.

1. **Pray**: Ask Jesus to open your eyes. "Lord, who is lying in the ditch near me? Who would I prefer to look passed and ignore?"

2. **Identify**: Think of someone who is hurting, overlooked, or just different from you.

3. **Act**: Serve, show up, or simply listen. Interrupt your schedule. Give what you can.

4. **Reflect**: Journal or debrief with a friend. Use last week's "Try + Reflect" questions, asking God to meet you and teach you in your experience this week:

What did you notice?

What did you feel?

Where did you sense God's presence?

What might He be teaching you?

Other notes:

"Love that does not cost us something is not love at all." – Mother Teresa

Crossing the road isn't easy—but it's where Jesus walks. Will you follow Him there?

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 3

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

SERMON TITLE

One Thing

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.”
- Dallas Willard

“The greatest threat to our life with God is not heresy, it's distraction.”
- Rich Villodas

## Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. What good things (like Martha’s service) might be distracting you from the better thing (like Mary’s presence)?

2. How do you respond when Jesus invites you to slow down?

3. What noise in your life drowns out His voice?

4. When do you feel most connected to Jesus? What rhythms support that connection?

5. How can you protect intentional time with Jesus this week?

6. What does it feel like to sit with Jesus without an agenda? No list. No requests. No words. Just present, giving Him the first word, listening.

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Be Still

Jesus' words to Martha are tender but pointed: "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is necessary." It's not that Martha's service is wrong. It's that her serving has become a distraction. Her pace has out run her presence.

Mary, on the other hand, chooses what matters most. She sits at Jesus' feet – no rush, no performance, no distractions. Just quiet attention and a listening heart.

In a world driven by urgency and noise, this story is a quiet revolution. It reminds us of Elijah's moment on the mountain in 1 Kings 19. God wasn't in the windstorm, the earthquake, or the fire. He came in a gentle whisper, the kind only heard by those who slow down to listen. That's where Mary is. And that's where Jesus invites us too.

This isn't about neglecting what needs to be done. It's about reordering what matters most. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God." Stillness isn't a waste of time, it's the soil where love takes root, where anxiety is quieted, and where we are formed as disciples.

Jesus is not scolding Martha. He's inviting her, and us, back to intimacy. The first call of apprenticeship is not to do for Jesus, but to be with Him. That's the starting point of a flourishing life.

This week, create space to sit at Jesus' feet, like Mary. Set aside 5-10 minutes a day for stillness. Try one of the following:

- Sit in Silence – No words, no requests. Just breathe deeply and be present to God.
- Listening Prayer – Ask, "Jesus, is there anything You want me to hear today?" Then wait and listen.
- Scripture Meditation – Read a short passage slowly (like Luke 10:41–42, Psalm 46:10, Psalm 27, or 1 Kings 19:11–13). Let one phrase rise to the surface and sit with it.

Stillness doesn't come easy for most of us. Our minds race, our phones ping, and even in quiet moments, we feel the pull to be productive. But here's the good news: stillness is a practice, not a performance. It's okay to feel restless. What matters is showing up with a willing heart.

Here are a few practical tips to help you begin:

- Start Small – Don't aim for an hour of silence. Start with 3–5 minutes and grow from there. God isn't measuring the minutes; He's welcoming your attention.

- Set the Scene – Find a quiet spot you can return to each day. Limit distractions; create a welcoming space. Have a Bible and journal nearby. Let your body and the space signal that this is sacred time.

- Give Grace – When your mind wanders, don't beat yourself up. Gently return to a simple prayer like, "Jesus, I'm here," or "Speak, Lord, I'm listening."

- Involve Scripture – If silence feels intimidating, begin with a short verse (like Psalm 46:10 or Psalm 27:4). Read it slowly, then sit with it.

- Let Distraction Be Your Cue – Don't get discouraged when your thoughts drift. Instead, use each distraction as a gentle reminder to turn your heart back to Jesus.

Stillness isn't about emptying your mind, it's about filling your attention with Jesus. Like Mary, you're learning to sit at His feet. He isn't frustrated by your fidgeting, He's just glad you came. Keep showing up. He'll meet you there.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 4

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

SERMON TITLE

## Pray Like Jesus

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“The greatest tragedy in life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”
- F.B. Meyer

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”
- Karl Barth

## Week 4: Reflect and Discuss

1. How do you picture God responding when you pray? Does that picture align with what Jesus reveals here?

2. What fears or assumptions shape your approach to prayer?

3. How has your prayer life changed over time—and how do you want it to grow now?

4. What’s a specific area of your life where you need to pray with more persistence?

5. What’s your reaction to the idea of asking “shamelessly” in prayer?

6. How does the Lord’s Prayer reframe or change your picture of God?

7. What would change if you really believed God loves to give good gifts?

8. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

9. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Be Bold

In Luke 11, Jesus tells a surprising story about prayer:
A man shows up at his friend's house at midnight asking for bread. He's loud. He's uninvited. He's inconvenient. But he's also bold—and that's the point.

This friend doesn't open the door because it's the right time or because the request is eloquent. He opens it because the man keeps knocking.

Jesus is teaching us something profound: you don't need to be impressive to pray. You just need to be persistent. Prayer isn't a performance; it's the kind of bold, shameless knocking that trusts the heart behind the door.

Do you trust the heart behind the door?

This is who God is: not reluctant to help, but ready and willing. Jesus says the Father is more generous than even the best earthly parent. If that's true, then prayer isn't about convincing God to care, it's about coming to Him with everything, even when it feels like it's too late, too big, or too broken.

Put your faith into practice:

**1. Name Your Bold Prayer**

- What's the thing you've stopped praying for?
- What's the door you're afraid to knock on?
- What feels impossible, or embarrassing to ask for, or too heavy to carry again?
- Write that bold prayer down. Be honest. Be specific.

**2. Pray It Daily**

- Every day this week, bring that request to God in prayer.
- Not with anxiety, but with confidence in His goodness.
- Speak it aloud if you can. Knock boldly.

**3. Use Scripture to Strengthen Your Trust**

- Return to Luke 11:5–13 throughout the week.
- Meditate on Jesus' words: "Ask and it will be given… seek and you will find… knock and the door will be opened."
- Remind yourself: God is not annoyed by your prayer, He is moved by your persistence.

**4. Journal Your Journey**

- At the end of each prayer, take a minute to reflect.
- What emotions surface as you pray? What shifts in your heart?
- Are you growing in boldness, hope, or trust?

Jesus invites us to pray like a friend at midnight – interrupting, insistent, and full of trust. This is not about polished prayers or spiritual posturing. It's about a God who listens and a disciple who refuses to move on.

Maybe your request still feels unanswered. Maybe the door hasn't opened yet. But bold prayers are not wasted. Each knock is a declaration: I believe You're good. I believe You're near. I believe You hear me.

So don't stop. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking.

Let your prayer be shaped not by fear but by the generosity of the Father.

"Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers."
- Mark Batterson

This week, knock like He's listening... because He is.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 5

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 11:14-36

SERMON TITLE

Eyes to See

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## REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“You are as close to God as you choose to be.”
- Rick Warren

“The mark of a disciple is not information, but imitation.”
- Jeff Vanderstelt

## Week 5: Reflect and Discuss

1. What are you looking at most during your week—and how is it shaping you?

2. Where has cynicism or distraction distorted your spiritual sight?

3. Are you more focused on asking for a sign or seeking the Sign-Giver? How is that shaping how you approach God?

4. What would it look like to reorient your eyes toward Jesus this week?

5. What messages or media are most shaping your imagination and worldview right now?

6. What habits in your life help (or hinder) clarity of spiritual vision?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Confession

“Some demand signs. Others receive light. Disciples learn to see what others miss.”

Jesus speaks directly to the spiritually blind in Luke 11—not those with weak eyes, but with resistant hearts. They’ve seen miracles. They’ve heard His teaching. But still, they won’t believe. Instead, they demand more signs or cast accusations.

The problem isn’t a lack of light – it’s our refusal to see.

Jesus points to the heart behind our eyes. What we gaze at, what we dwell on, what we allow to shape our inner life; these either fill us with light or dim our vision. Spiritual clarity doesn’t come from clever arguments or new proofs, but from repentance – a willingness to name the darkness and receive the light.

Confession is how we open our eyes. Not out of shame, but out of desire: we want to see Jesus rightly.

Each day this week, take 10 minutes to sit quietly and pray this prayer from Psalm 139:23–24:

“Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Then prayerfully reflect on these questions:

- What am I refusing to see right now?
- Where have I been quick to accuse but slow to trust?
- What distractions or desires are clouding my vision of Jesus?

Write down a specific confession. Offer it honestly to God. Ask for light to fill that place.

“If your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light.”
- Luke 11:34

Confession is one of the most overlooked, but most freeing, practices in the life of a disciple. We often associate it with guilt or failure. But in Scripture, confession is less about punishment and more about liberation. It’s the act of naming what’s broken so it can be healed. Bringing what’s hidden into the light so it can be transformed.

In 1 John 1:9, we’re reminded:
“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Confession is not groveling. It’s agreement. We say, “God, You’re right about this. And I need You.” In doing so, we open our hands to receive grace.

King David models this posture in Psalm 32:
“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away…
Then I acknowledged my sin to you…
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

Confession was his pathway back to joy, clarity, and strength. Jesus’ words in Luke 11 call us to that same clarity. The light is shining; it’s not hidden. But we must be willing to let it search us. Confession is how we open the shutters of the soul.

It is not a one-time act, but a rhythm of renewal.

If you want to see Jesus clearly, start with confession. Let it be your daily act of reorientation. Let confession be your clearing of the lens, so you can see Jesus again.

**Next Steps**
While our study in Luke will continue, let's pause and look at some resources for what's next in our journey. What's your next step:

**Ready to get baptized?**
Get baptized (go public with your faith)! Remember any baptized disciple can baptize you! Ask someone to tell you why they were baptized? Start a conversation! Still want to talk to a pastor? No problem. Find a pastor after one of our gatherings or call (909-945-5001) to set up an appointment.

**Want more information about a House Church?**
A fresh season of House Church is coming after Labor Day. House Churches are located all around our valley and are designed to help us practice the way of Jesus: being with Jesus; becoming like Jesus; doing what Jesus did. House Church is a safe place to go deeper with Jesus and in community: www.findcommunity.com/housechurch

**The "Practicing the Way" Course**
As we dive deeper into the way of Jesus through our Luke series, The Practicing the Way Course offers the perfect next step to help you live out His teachings in everyday life. This course will guide you in developing intentional habits and practices that shape you to be more like Jesus. Several new cohorts will be launching after Labor Day: https://findcommunity.com/practicingtheway/

**Global Week of Prayer (Sept 1-7)**
We're hosting a week of nonstop prayer as part of the 24-7 Prayer Movement's Global Week of Prayer—a worldwide wave of day and night prayer, uniting churches across nations and time zones to seek God's face.

Our prayer room will be open 24/7 all week. Sign up for a one-hour slot (or more), bring a friend, and be part of what God is doing across the globe. Let's join the cry: Come, Holy Spirit.

Book your prayer slot: https://findcommunity.com/247prayer/

**NOTES:**

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO