

## Day 36: Reflection on Growth

Danish philosopher and theologian Søren Kierkegaard once said, “Life is lived forward but understood backward.” As we enter the final five days of this 40-day journey, let’s take some time to consider where we have been. As a church, we are in an important season of dependence and discernment - we have critical decisions to make that will shape the future of our fellowship. We don’t want to operate in our own wisdom, understanding, or power. So we have spent 35 days seeking the Lord, asking for His wisdom, wanting to heed His invitation, laying our collective “yes” down, and following Him in wholehearted devotion.

What have been the most powerful moments for you over these last 35 days? And why?

Our focus scriptures for today are Psalm 66:5 & Philippians 1:6

<sup>5</sup> “Come and see the wonders of God; His acts for humanity are awe-inspiring.”

<sup>6</sup> “I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

We follow a God who does wonders. His acts on behalf of His people are truly awe-inspiring if we slow down long enough to appreciate them. We have so much to be grateful for. Jesus wants to spend time with us—amazing. Jesus left us a life to imitate—incredible. Jesus said we could, by the Spirit’s power, do the types of things He did. Wonderful. And it all starts with the good work of salvation. Once we surrender and place faith in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, we can take heart that God can be trusted to carry out the transformation of our whole lives. And He is committed to the long game. This is not a spiritual drive-thru but a wonderful relationship we enjoy for the rest of our lives.

Pause to pray God will continue guiding and empowering us to build and sustain a disciple-making culture where all ages are transformed into worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who are marked by self-sacrificial love and daily influence so our communities flourish.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” reflect on the last 35 days of devotions. Write down all that you have been thankful for during this season. Then, use the list as a framework and guide for connecting with God in prayer.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, let this old priestly blessing found in Numbers 6 be prayed over you:

<sup>24</sup> “May the LORD bless you and protect you; <sup>25</sup> may the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> may the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace.” ’

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.