

There is always a need for caring adults who can come alongside our children and youth. Ask God if He has a place for you to support the discipleship of our next generation.

4. Declare the Gospel in Word and Deed

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

- Romans 10:14 NLT

15 And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

- Mark 16:15 NLT

37 He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

- Matthew 9:37-38 NLT

The bible declares that God is not willing that any should perish, but in Rom 10:14 Paul asks the question "How can they call on the name of the Lord and be saved if they aren't told by someone?" The answer is found in the Great Commission. Jesus calls us to go into the world and preach the Good News.

Most of us are reluctant to "preach" to the world. But bringing Good News happens in both what you say and what you do. How might a conversation include the Gospel, without "preaching"? What can people see in the way you live that glorifies God?

Sometimes we forget that there are people around us who are ready to hear the Gospel. When we stay awake and alert to what God is doing, we will discover we have many opportunities to shine Jesus' light around us.

WRAP-UP

This weekend, New Life Pismo celebrated all that God has been doing through worship, ministry, new members, child dedications, and baptisms. As we begin the fall series "Awake – Living Fully Alive in Jesus," we are encouraged to stay attentive to God's leading and avoid drifting in our faith. Over the next four weeks, we will focus on abiding in Christ, building meaningful community, discipling the next generation, and sharing the Gospel through both our words and actions.

MEMORY VERSE

This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." - Ephesians 5:8-14 NIV

Challenge – *If there is an area in your life you think is drifting off course, make a course correction this week to get back on track.*

Celebration Sunday Intro to Awake

INTRODUCTION

This weekend we paused to celebrate what God has been doing at New Life Pismo. We have been blessed in so many areas of ministry- Worship, Students, Pantry, Preschool, and in the fellowship of believers who call New Life their home church. We welcomed new members and dedicated little children to the Lord. And of course, the grand celebration of new life in Christ was our witness to the baptisms which took place at the beach on Sunday afternoon. Looking ahead Pastor David introduced our fall sermon series- Awake – living fully alive in Jesus. We want to remain aware and responsive to God's leading, and so in the next four weeks we will reflect on how we abide, gather as community, disciple the next generation, and declare the Gospel.

Ice Breaker

As you reflect on the past year, what is one thing you can celebrate that God has done in your life?

Key Passage

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible--and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." - Ephesians 5:8-14 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Abide

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. - John 10:10 ESV

We have an enemy (Satan), who is just as real as the God we serve. And he has a plan to steal, kill and destroy in opposition to God's plan which is to give us an abundant life. But how does he steal, kill and destroy? One way is through "drift". The Christian life is a journey that takes place over a lifetime. But as time passes, we can find ourselves losing our focus on God's direction in our lives and drifting further and further from the abundant life He intended.

Can you think of an area of your faith journey that you feel has slipped a bit over time? Maybe you don't pray or read the Bible as often as you used to, or you haven't been as regular attending church or bible studies as you once did. What would it look like to "course correct" in that area?

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:4-5 ESV

In John 15 Jesus gives the analogy of branches abiding in the vine. That word abide (*menō*) means to remain, to dwell and not depart. We as branches need to remain connected to Jesus.

Jesus says abiding in him produces fruit. What kind of fruit have you experienced from abiding in Jesus?

Drift is a gradual process, and we may not notice it initially. But if we allow ourselves to become detached from Jesus, eventually we will find ourselves "fruitless". As we see in Ephesians, we don't want to be lulled into sleep, but stay awake and aware so that we don't slip out of the light of the Lord.

2. Community – plus one or more

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. - Hebrews 10:25 NLT

19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." - Matthew 18:19-20 ESV

God made us for community. When He created Adam he said, it is not good for him to be alone. We have been made part of a body of believers; the church. But one way that we can drift is when we neglect that connection with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

New Life is a large congregation, and it can be easy to attend a service and still fail to make a connection. Matthew 18:20 gives us a good starting place for remaining in community. What is the minimum requirement to gather as community in Jesus' name? Who would you name as your one or two closest Christian companions? How often do you meet with them? If you wanted to encourage them in their faith, how would you do that?

31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. - 1 Corinthians 10:31 NLT

Your time in fellowship with other believers extends beyond formal gatherings. Every table is an altar, a place where Jesus is honored in our lives. In fact, we don't want to separate our "religious and secular" lives. The abundant life God wants us to live reflects Jesus at the center of everything we do. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

3. Discipling the Next Generation

5 I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. 6 This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. - 2 Timothy 1:5-6 NLT

Our church is blessed to be a truly multi-generation congregation. Our children and students play a significant role in who we are as New Life Pismo. The next generation is not our future they are our present. When we dedicate children, the entire congregation accepts responsibility to support and encourage them in their faith..

Paul was a "spiritual father" to Timothy. In 2 Timothy he reminds Timothy of his spiritual heritage. At what age did you commit your life to Jesus? Was there anyone who disciplined you when you were young?

Discipling the next generation is challenging. We live in a culture that promotes coveting and critiquing rather than generosity and edification.

Is there a young person in your life that you can encourage in their faith?