



15 Days of Prayer

Over these 15 days, from October 21 through November 4, we invite you to join in worship, in Scripture reading, and in prayer as we seek the Lord together prior to the National Staff Gathering. We pray as one, across the many miles that separate us. That separation will disappear soon as we gather together in Orlando. For those of you who are not able to join us on location, we invite you to join us in these days of prayer as a united community of faith.

Each day we focus on a different piece of our National Strategy, beginning with the foundations of our Vision, Calling, and Values. We declare faith in our God for His multiplying power is we trust Him for our future. We reflect on what it looks like to abide deeply in Christ as we seek to ignite movements of disciplemakers and see multiplying generations of disciples advancing the Kingdom. We also look at the culture we deeply desire to have as an organization by reflecting on the characteristics we pray would define us.

Engage in these five elements each day:

1. REHEARSE – A time of worship rehearsing the goodness and greatness of our God through songs we will sing together at the NSG.
2. READ – A passage of Scripture to meditate on.
3. REFLECT – A few thoughts to encourage and inspire you.
4. RESPOND – A question or thought to consider.
5. REQUEST – Petitions to bring before the Lord.

We also ask each of you to set aside a day of prayer and fasting before the National Staff Gathering begins. [Download the Prayer and Fasting Guide \(PDF\)](#) on the NSG website. We encourage you to connect with your ministry team, a friend or spouse, a ministry or prayer partner, and participate together in community.

We pray that these 15 days are rich with His presence, covered in His grace, and full of His love as you go before Him in preparation and prayer.

—The National Staff Gathering Program Team

Day 1: Our Foundations

Monday, October 21, 2019

OUR FOUNDATIONS: Vision, Calling, and Core Values

Vision: *We see a vital movement of the gospel, fueled by prevailing prayer, flowing freely through relational networks and out into the nations. ([read full statement on navigators.org](http://navigators.org))*

Calling: *To advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.*

Core Values:

- *The passion to know, love and become like Jesus Christ.*
- *The truth and sufficiency of the Scriptures for the whole of life.*
- *The transforming power of the gospel.*
- *The leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Expectant faith and persevering prayer rooted in the promises of God.*
- *The dignity and value of every person.*
- *Love and grace expressed among us in community.*
- *Families and relational networks in discipling the nations.*
- *Interdependent relationships in the Body of Christ in advancing the gospel.*

REHEARSE: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

READ:

*The least of you will become a thousand,
the smallest a mighty nation.*

I am the Lord;

in its time I will do this swiftly.

(Isaiah 60:22 NIV)

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.
(2 Timothy 2:2 NIV)*

REFLECT:

As Navigators we are committed to intentional Life-to-Life® discipling with the Word of God as our foundation, trusting in His promises to accomplish what only He can do. The Lord has invited us to be co-laborers with Him for the advancement of His gospel into the nations. Since our earliest days we have believed that one can become a thousand through the multiplying power of the Holy Spirit. We build on the foundations of men and women who have gone before us trusting in the faithfulness of God.

RESPOND:

Reflect on the first time you caught a vision for multiplying discipling.

REQUEST:

- Thank God for our rich heritage and pray through the Core—Our Vision, Calling and Core Values.
- Pray for all those attending the National Staff Gathering that they would experience celebration, inspiration and empowerment to carry out the new strategic faith initiatives.

Day 2: Audacious Faith

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

AUDACIOUS FAITH – Our God-Sized Goal

By 2030, our goal is to have 1 million multiplying disciplemakers living and discipling together among the lost.

REHEARSE: *More to Come*

READ:

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

(John 14: 9-14 NIV)

REFLECT:

Jesus told his disciples that they would do even greater things than He had done because He was going to the Father. His going to the Father meant that His Spirit would then indwell His disciples and be the flame that would ignite a movement of epic early church proportions. Jesus’ final command was to make disciples of all nations, but it came with the promise that He would be with us wherever we go—His Spirit in us for His calling. Our Vision Statement describes a day when there will be laborers for the Kingdom next door to everywhere. One million disciplemakers is not the end game—God’s glory among all nations is what drives

us. One million disciplemakers over the next 12 years is one step in the journey toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the realization of our vision. One million disciplemakers is not something we can do on our own, it can only be a work of the Spirit of God in us. It will require audacious faith in the hearts of His people for the greater things yet to come.

RESPOND:

What promise of God inspires your faith to trust Him for 1 million disciplemakers?

REQUEST:

- Boldly ask the Lord for 1 million disciplemakers for the advancement of the gospel and His glory among the nations!
- Pray for the planning team as they pull together the final details for the NSG.

Day 3: Prayerful Dependence

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: ABIDE Deeper in Christ

To grow deeper in our dependence on Jesus and His Word—as individuals, in community and on an organizational level—resulting in biblical fruitfulness.

One characteristic of Abiding Deeper in Christ is:

- **Growing in prayerful dependence on Jesus**

REHEARSE: *Waymaker*

READ:

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
(Luke 5:16 NIV)*

*One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.
(Luke 6:12 NIV)*

REFLECT:

Jesus modeled a life of prayerful dependence on the Father. It says He often withdrew to solitary places to pray and spent nights awake on the mountainside talking with His Father. The intensity of Jesus' desperation in prayer even led to sweating blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. If anything should inspire us to be a prayerful people, it is knowing that the very Son of God Himself could not live without being in conversation with the Father. He taught His disciples to pray and He invites us to pray with boldness before His throne. But more than anything, He delights in the joy of relationship with His children who want nothing more than to converse with their Abba Father.

RESPOND:

How would you describe your own dependence on the Lord in prayer? How might He draw you deeper?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to make you increasingly dependent on Him in prayer.
- Pray for our Navigator plenary speakers as they prepare the messages God has for each of them share: Wanda G. Anderson, Lindy Black, Al Engler, Doug Nuenke, and Ben Nugent.

Day 4: Love and Unity

Thursday, October 24, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: ABIDE Deeper in Christ

To grow deeper in our dependence on Jesus and His Word—as individuals, in community and on an organizational level—resulting in biblical fruitfulness.

One characteristic of Abiding Deeper in Christ is:

- **Growing in love and unity with one another**

REHEARSE: *Lord, I Need You*

READ:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.

(John 17:20-26 NIV)

REFLECT:

The world is watching . . . are the people of God different? Jesus prayed for unity and love so that the world might know that the Father sent the Son. Our testimony is significantly impacted by the ways we interact with one another, serve one another, uplift one another, encourage one another, partner with one another, and humbly release our own agendas and desires for the sake of one another. Our light shines bright when we are unified in our love for one another.

RESPOND:

Ask the Lord if there are relationships in your life that He would like to heal that would bring greater unity within your ministry context.

REQUEST:

- Pray that God would use you as a peacemaker who leads in love and unity.
- Pray for our guest speakers as they prepare the messages God has for them to share: Pastor John Onwuchekwa and Dr. Ed Stetzer.

Day 5: Increased Faith and Empowerment

Friday, October 25, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: ABIDE Deeper in Christ

To grow deeper in our dependence on Jesus and His Word—as individuals, in community and on an organizational level—resulting in biblical fruitfulness.

One characteristic of Abiding Deeper in Christ is:

- **Experiencing increased faith and empowerment by the Holy Spirit**

REHEARSE: *Holy Spirit*

READ:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

(Acts 1:8 NIV)

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

(Acts 4:29-31 NIV)

REFLECT:

As followers of Jesus the power of the resurrection dwells within us! It is so difficult for our human minds to even comprehend. We read the book of Acts and marvel at the mighty movements of the

gospel in the early church empowered by the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. That same power is what God wants to work in us today if only we are willing. In a culture of self-sufficiency and abundant resources, our default is to rely on our own strength and abilities. But God is calling us to a life dependent on Him, on His strength, empowered by His Spirit to put our faith in His promises and to trust Him for the future He has for us!

RESPOND:

In what ways have you experienced the empowering of the Holy Spirit in the ministry God has called you to? In what ways are you tempted to rely on your own strength?

REQUEST:

- Pray that God would make us a people marked by faith and who are familiar with the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for our cross-missional breakout session at the NSG for new connections and friendships.

Day 6: Knowledge and Obedience to the Word

Saturday, October 26, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: ABIDE Deeper in Christ

To grow deeper in our dependence on Jesus and His Word—as individuals, in community and on an organizational level—resulting in biblical fruitfulness.

One characteristic of Abiding Deeper in Christ is:

- **Growing in knowledge and obedience to the Word of God**

REHEARSE: *This We Know*

READ:

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

(Joshua 1:7,8 NIV)

But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(Joshua 22:5 NIV)

REFLECT:

Joshua was convinced that the people of God could not set foot in the promised land without the Word of God planted deeply in their hearts and minds. But he also knew it was not just about knowing the Word of God it was about obeying the Word of God

that would really make the difference. We can look back now and see how a lack of obedience to the Word led them down paths of destruction. It is all too easy to study the Word of God, memorize Scripture, and even meditate on it daily without taking the more difficult step of obeying it. The temptation is to build head knowledge without heart transformation. May we be a people fully committed to both knowing and obeying the Word!

RESPOND:

What is your plan to grow in knowledge of and obedience to the Word of God?

REQUEST:

- Pray that we as Navigators would excel still more in our knowledge and obedience to the Word of God.
- Pray for our Mission-specific breakouts at the NSG as staff process together how the National Strategy influences their unique ministry contribution.

Day 7: Igniting Movements

Sunday, October 27, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: IGNITE – Staff Catalyze Disciplemaking Movements

To focus existing staff and recruit diverse staff to equip and mobilize disciplemakers and local leaders for the fulfillment of our Calling.

REHEARSE: *O Praise the Name*

READ:

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

(1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 NIV)

REFLECT:

Paul, Silas, and Timothy were a pioneering team as they entered Thessalonica to live and disciple among the lost. They shared their lives, and their ministry resulted in conviction of sin and the transformation of an entire community. In spite of severe suffering, they ignited a discipling movement that others told about as it reverberated far and wide. We will need many more full-time staff to ignite similar discipling movements on campuses, military bases, in cities and among the unreached around the world.

RESPOND:

How can I bring greater focus to my role in order to ignite a discipling movement?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to raise up more Navigator staff.
- Pray for those sharing testimonies at the NSG that God would use their stories to encourage, challenge, inspire and bless.

Day 8: Multiplying Disciplemakers

Monday, October 28, 2019

FAITH INITIATIVE: MULTIPLY – Maximize Disciplemakers' Impact
To see disciplemakers reach the lost, multiply, and build disciplemaking communities.

REHEARSE: *See You Again*

READ:

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

(Matthew 13:1-9 NIV)

Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the

worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

(Matthew 13:18-23 NIV)

REFLECT:

As we equip everyday men and women to do the work of the ministry, we are praying and asking God to give us foundational men and women who will be like seeds planted in the fourth soil that multiplies 30, 60, or 100-fold. Without maximizing the impact of every day disciplemakers we will never experience the kind of fruitfulness the Lord intends.

RESPOND:

What prevents you from releasing the work of the ministry into the hands of everyday women and men?

REQUEST:

- Pray for all disciplemakers to intentionally live and disciple among the lost.
- Pray for divine appointments over meals, in the halls, and in the chair next to you at the NSG.

Day 9: Passion for the Glory of God

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- ***We are driven by a passion to see the Glory of God revealed and displayed among all U.S. people groups and to the ends of the earth.***

REHEARSE: *Everlasting God*

READ:

*All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
(Psalm 145:10-13 NIV)*

REFLECT:

In his book *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper writes, “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more.” The same can be said for discipling. May the fuel of our discipling not be numbers or methods, but a passion for the glory of God to be revealed among people from every tongue, tribe and nation.

RESPOND:

As Navigators we are relentlessly committed to disciplinemaking. How do you guard your heart from making the means the end?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to stir in your heart a renewed passion for His glory among the nations.
- Pray for the Friday “Abiding Together” session at the NSG that God would use this time in mighty ways to unite our hearts for all He is calling us to.

Day 10: Biblically Grounded, Spirit-Led, Christ-Centered

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- ***We are increasingly biblically grounded, Holy Spirit-led, and Christ-centered.***

REHEARSE: *Spirit of the Living God*

READ:

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into

*the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.
(Colossians 1:3-14 NIV)*

REFLECT:

In his prayers for the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Colossae, Paul asks that they would lead lives worthy of the Lord, which included bearing fruit, growing in their knowledge of God, and being strengthened with power. He reminded them of their inheritance, their rescue and their forgiveness and redemption in Christ. He prayed that these foundations would be built into their lives in order that they might be able to endure difficulties with patience and joy. We come from a rich heritage of Navigator men and women who the Word of God deeply. In a culture that is increasingly biblically illiterate, may we continue to be a people committed to knowing the Word of God, being led by the Holy Spirit, and centered on the person of Jesus Christ.

RESPOND:

How have you seen the importance of these commitments in seasons of opposition? How will you commit to building these in your life now?

REQUEST:

- Ask that God would give us a deeper hunger for His Word, increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and a radical commitment to being Christ-centered.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower and lead us at every moment during the NSG.

Day 11: Fully Contributing with Diversity

Thursday, October 31, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- **All Navigators are fully contributing with diversity of ethnicity, age, socio-economic level, funding source, male or female.**

REHEARSE: Build My Life

READ:

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:14-22 NIV)

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you

*belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
(Galatians 3:26-29 NIV)*

REFLECT:

As our Prince of Peace, Jesus Himself came to destroy barriers and dividing walls of hostility. He came to welcome all as equals into His household. In Him we are all children of God, baptized in Christ and clothed in Christ. No more labels, no divisions, no exclusions. All are joined together, fully contributing, fully participating, and fully engaged. On Day 4 in John 17 we read Jesus' prayer for this kind of unity. It is not only vital and essential to our testimony as believers in this lost world, but it is a means by which we experience His Spirit dwelling among us as the people of God joined together with Jesus Himself as our Chief Cornerstone.

RESPOND:

How can you, in your ministry role, affirm and ensure the full contribution of all Navigators?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to make us one, to see each other as fellow children of God, and to value each person's unique and necessary contribution to the work of The Navigators.
- Pray against any spiritual strongholds that may be preventing us from experiencing all that God intends for us as Navigators.

Day 12: Unified and Interdependent

Friday, November 1, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- ***We are unified and interdependent within The U.S. Navigators, across the Worldwide Partnership, and with the broader body of Christ.***

REHEARSE: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

READ:

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:1-6 NIV)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the

body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27 NIV)

REFLECT:

One of the primary contributing factors to discipling movements emerging across the globe today is interdependence in the body of Christ. The task of reaching the world for Christ is much bigger than any one church or organization. The Great Commission was given to the worldwide Church. As much as The Navigators must be interdependent within the broader body of Christ, so we as The U.S. Navigators must humbly acknowledge that no one part of us— no single Mission or City—can accomplish our vision of life-long discipling independent from the other parts. We desperately need each other and God is glorified when His people dwell together in unity.

RESPOND:

What are ways in which you can intentionally pursue greater unity and interdependence with others within and beyond your immediate ministry context?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to unify us in spirit and in truth and reveal anything in our attitudes or behaviors that may prevent us from experiencing the love and unity that the Lord desires for His people.
- Pray for the combined session with Navigator ministry partners joining us from the President's Gathering that they would be inspired and excited about all that God is doing in The Navigators.

Day 13: Adaptable Learners

Saturday, November 2, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- ***We are learners, creatively adapting and flexing to the changing times without compromise.***

REHEARSE: *On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand*

READ:

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human

hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

(Acts 17:16-34 NIV)

REFLECT:

As Paul engaged with Gentiles, he was familiar with their poets and philosophers, he understood their religion and knew the names of their gods. He was a student of culture and contextualized his message to the audience he was with—to the Jews he became like a Jew and to the Greeks he became like a Greek in order that he might win as many as possible to Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 9:19-20). As we live and disciple among the lost, we too must become learners, creatively adapting and flexing to the changing times without for a moment compromising the purity of the gospel. We must do all we can not to make it difficult

for men and women from all different religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds to enter the Kingdom (see Acts 15:19).

RESPOND:

What can you do to study culture and become more relevant in the way you engage the lost around you?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to give us humble, learning hearts and strong biblical convictions in an age of fluid worldviews.
- Pray for the worship team at the NSG as they prepare to lead us before the throne in worship of our mighty King.

Day 14: Stewardship and Accountability

Sunday, November 3, 2019

OUR DESIRED CULTURE

- ***We are good stewards, embracing accountability and valuing measurement to assess our effectiveness.***

REHEARSE: *Worthy of Your Name*

READ:

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

*“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’
“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’*

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

(Matthew 25:14-30 NIV)

REFLECT:

What can we measure? In a spiritual work, there’s a difference between what we can do and what God alone can do. We can’t produce spiritual fruit, nor can we manufacture spiritual generations. These are the work of the Holy Spirit. This reality, however, doesn’t mean we don’t have a stewardship responsibility with all that God has entrusted to us as Navigators. We can only count, for instance, the number of new believers after God changes someone’s heart. We can, however, be good stewards of our time and money by effectively doing the work of an evangelist and sharing the gospel. Are we sowing good seed abundantly? It can be uncomfortable to embrace accountability and to assess our effectiveness through measurement. It requires humility. It requires transparency. We all long to hear “well done, good and

faithful servant.” Let’s embrace the responsibility that comes with being faithful stewards.

RESPOND:

What’s the hardest thing for you about being a faithful steward in the work of the Kingdom?

REQUEST:

- Ask the Lord to make us increasingly better stewards, embracing accountability and valuing measurement to assess our effectiveness.
- Pray for the exhibit hall presenters at the NSG as they prepare their messages.

Day 15: Abiding Together

Monday, November 4, 2019

ABIDING TOGETHER – Preparing to be in God’s presence in community

REHEARSE: *What a Beautiful Name*

READ:

*How good and pleasant it is
when God’s people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron’s beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.
(Psalm 133 NIV)*

REFLECT:

In just a few days we will be gathering together as Navigators, but more important, as God’s people. With about 1,500 of us all in one room we will celebrate God’s faithfulness, look at the challenges before us, sit in His presence together, and declare our faith in His promises for our future. There will be opportunities to worship together, pray together, laugh together, and cry together. You will connect with old friends and hopefully make a few new ones. Most of all, however, let’s pray the Lord would take great pleasure in His people gathering together in unity for the sake of His name and His glory.

RESPOND:

Share with the Lord what you are most looking forward to at the

Gathering. Express to Him any concerns or worries that may be on your heart.

REQUEST:

- Pray that God would work among us in mighty ways to knit our hearts together for the future He is calling us to.
- Pray for the launch of the new National Strategy at the NSG that God would do a mighty and miraculous multiplying work through us for His glory among the nations!