

M I S S I O N

F A M I L Y

D E V O T I O N A L

20/2



NORTH AVENUE  
MISSION

ALL around the  
World



The Mission Conference has been a vital part of NAPC's community for many years. The heart of this church has been to share the message of Jesus and His love to those on our street corner and to those around the world.

As we participate in our 55th Mission Conference: Uniting the Generations in Mission, our hope is that this booklet can be an intentional way for your family to prayerfully engage in God's continuing mission to impact our community and the world with the hope, joy, love and peace we have in Jesus.

Blessings and peace,

**Children  
&  
Family**  
MINISTRIES TEAM

# HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is designed to help you engage in the Mission Conference throughout the week. The family devotional time for each week is to be done Sunday afternoon or evening. Plan to take 20-30 minutes to pray, read scripture, and reflect on the thoughts and questions.

The **THROUGH THE WEEK** section gives morning scriptures for each day and evening prayer ideas.

Mission Conference Dates:

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

- **Reggie Smith Concert** 7 PM in NAPC Sanctuary

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

- **9AM Worship** with Habitat for Humanity CEO **Jonathan Reckford**
- **10 AM Poverty Experience**
- **11 AM Worship** with **Jonathan Reckford**
- **7 PM Worship** with **Rev. Jeff Meyers** preaching on *Call to Mission*

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

- **9 AM Worship** with Author and Lecturer **Lauren Winner**
- **10 AM Sunday School/Lauren Winner Book Signing**
- **11 AM Worship** with Author and Lecturer **Lauren Winner**
- **7 PM Worship** with Author and Lecturer **Lauren Winner**

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- **7-8:30 PM The Persecuted Church Simulation**  
*\*care provided for children in kindergarten and younger*

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **9 AM Worship** with **Dr. Scott Weimer** and Panel of Mission Experts
- **10 AM Discipleship Hour**
- **11 AM Worship** with **Dr. Scott Weimer** with Panel
- **7 PM Worship** with **Dr. Scott Weimer** with Panel

## **SUNDAY MARCH 4 ACTS OF WORSHIP**

- **9:30 AM Discipleship/Fellowship**
- **10:45 AM One Morning Worship Service Only**
- **11:20 AM Prayer Walk** (*followed by travel to service sites*)
- **11:45AM Boxed Lunches**
- **12:15-3:30 PM Service Projects** (*on and off site*)
- **7 PM Worship** with special speaker **Thomas Rawlings** from **International Justice Mission Guatemala**

*Resources Sited:*

*Missions; Foundations Curriculum (by Karen Henly)*  
*The Bible (NIV and NIRV)*

# FEBRUARY 5

## WHAT IS MISSIONS?

### FAMILY

#### DEVOTIONAL TIME OPENING PRAYER

Choose one person to pray for your time together in God's word.

#### OPENING QUESTION

What does *Missions* mean? Brainstorm ideas.

\*The dictionary gives the following definitions:

1. *Assigned task: a special task given to a person or group to carry out*
2. *Calling: an objective or task that somebody believes it is his or her duty to carry out or to which he or she attaches special importance and devotes special care*

As followers of Jesus we are all on a "mission". What that looks like for each of us is different but it all points to the same thing. What is that? The Bible tells us!

#### BIBLE LESSON WHAT IS GOD'S MISSION?

Read Genesis 12: 1-4.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Why did Abraham leave his own country?
2. What did God want to do in the world through Abraham and his descendents (family)?
3. How many people did God want to bless through Abraham?

\*God's Mission was for His people to show the world that He is Lord and to draw all people to him.

#### WHAT IS JESUS' MISSION?

Read Matthew 4:18-25 and John 3:16-17.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What was Jesus' mission?
2. What did He mean by saying to His disciples "I will show you how to fish for people"?
3. Did Jesus achieve His mission?

\*God sent Jesus to us with a special mission. Jesus' mission was to be a sacrifice for our sins that separate us from God, and lead us to forever life with Him. He taught us how to love God and love others.

#### WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus want the disciples to do? What was their mission?
2. What did He promise them?
3. Is our mission today the same as the one the disciples were given? How?

\*As God sent Jesus, Jesus is now sending His disciples. He has the same mission for us, the church, today. We are to know Him by worshipping, reading the Bible and praying so that we can make Him known to others who do not know His love and grace.

#### REFLECTION

#### QUESTIONS

1. What was something new you discovered today?
2. Is there anything you want to know more about?

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Have each person share a prayer as you close your time together.

# FEBRUARY 6-11

## SCRIPTURE & PRAYERS

### MORNING SCRIPTURES TO READ AND THINK ABOUT

#### **MONDAY** *Genesis 12:2*

I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be a blessing to others.

#### **TUESDAY** *Ephesians 3:10*

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

#### **WEDNESDAY** *John 6:38*

For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.

#### **THURSDAY** *John 12:46*

I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

#### **FRIDAY** *John 10:10*

I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.

#### **SATURDAY** *1 John 1:2-4*

That life has appeared. We have seen him. We give witness about him. And we announce to you that same eternal life. He was already with the Father. He has appeared to us. We announce to you what we have seen and heard. We do it so you can share life together with us. And we share life with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this to make our joy complete.

### EVENING PRAYERS TO END YOUR DAY WITH

**MONDAY** Father God, You have blessed our family with so much. We thank you for your faithfulness in our joys and in our harder times. We want to be a blessing to others so that others will know your great love. Help us to do this. In Jesus' name, amen.

**TUESDAY** Lord, we thank you for your wisdom. We thank you for your creation, we are blessed by... (list some of your favorite aspects of creation). We need your wisdom as we live out our mission to make you known to others. We trust that you will bless us with it. In Jesus' name, amen.

**WEDNESDAY** Dear Jesus, our hearts are full of gratitude for you leaving your Father to come to us, your children, who need to be saved. We know that we hurt you and others every day and your amazing love is there to forgive us. Help us to be more like you everyday. In your name we pray, amen.

**THURSDAY** Dear Jesus, we thank you for your light. Our world has so many dark and broken things in it. We can't fix them but we know that you can. Help us to shine your light to others everyday. We love you, amen.

**FRIDAY** Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of full and everlasting life that we have because of our forever friendship with you. We pray for the special people in our lives that need your friendship and the gift of grace that only you can give, especially... (list names). We love you, amen.

**SATURDAY** Father God, help us to have courage to tell others about you in our words and actions. Please help us to pay attention to moments and times where we can witness to your love and faithfulness in our lives to others. We want live our lives and our mission for you! In Jesus' name, amen.

# FEBRUARY 12

## OUR MISSION

## TO THOSE IN NEED

### FAMILY

#### DEVOTIONAL TIME OPENING PRAYER

Choose one person to pray for your time together in God's word.

#### OPENING QUESTION

What does it mean to be poor or in need?

Brainstorm ideas.

\*The dictionary gives these definitions for poverty:

1. *state of being poor: the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing*
2. *lack: a deficiency or lack of something*

#### BIBLE LESSON GOD CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Read Psalm 145:8-21 (written by King David).

#### QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the words that David uses to describe God?
2. What are some of the ways that God provides for us?
3. Do you think God wants us to be a part of providing for others? Why and how do we do that?

\* Some words we use to describe God's character are love, just, compassionate, and merciful. He sees our needs and wants us to trust in His care. He calls the church, His people, to care for the things that he cares about.

#### JESUS CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Read Luke 10:25-36.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What are the 2 things we are called to do from these verses?
2. What was the need in the story and how was it met?
3. From this story, how do we show mercy to those in need?

\*During His lifetime, Jesus cared for many in need. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and showed compassion to those who were not loved by others. We, too, are to love God and love our neighbors... especially those in need.

#### HOW DO WE CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED?

Read James 2: 1-6 and 14-17.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to judge others?
2. According to this passage, how are we to treat people? Why?
3. Why do you think it is important to have both faith and deeds?

\*How we treat others who are different than we are is important in how we share God's love with others. Our faith in Jesus is to be in our heart and our actions.

#### REFLECTION

#### QUESTIONS

1. What was something new you discovered today?
2. Is there anything you want to know more about?

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Have each person share a prayer as you close your time together.

**F E B R U A R Y 1 3 - 1 8**

**S C R I P T U R E**

**& P R A Y E R S**

**MORNING SCRIPTURES  
TO READ AND THINK ABOUT**

**MONDAY** *Proverbs 31:9*  
Speak up and judge fairly. Speak up for the rights of those who are poor and needy.

**TUESDAY** *Proverbs 22:9*  
Anyone who gives freely will be blessed. That's because he shares his food with those who are poor.

**WEDNESDAY** *Matthew 22:37-39*  
Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

**THURSDAY** *Matthew 20:28*  
"Be like the Son of Man. He did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."

**FRIDAY** *Proverbs 17:5*  
Anyone who laughs at those who are poor makes fun of their Maker. Anyone who is happy when others suffer will be punished.

**SATURDAY** *Galatians 5:13-14*  
My brothers and sisters, you were chosen to be free. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to live in sin. Instead, serve one another in love. 14 The whole law can be found in a single command. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

**EVENING PRAYERS  
TO END YOUR DAY WITH**

**MONDAY** Father God, you have told us in your word that one way to love you and love others is to be bold and share our concerns for the rights of the poor and those in need. Help us to do this in our schools, neighborhoods, community and world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**TUESDAY** Heavenly Father, we are blessed with so much. We thank you for our health, clean water, a home and... (list others). We are called to share your love by sharing our blessings. Show us places we can give and give us the desire in our hearts to give generously. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**WEDNESDAY** Father God, we love you with all of our hearts, souls and minds. We confess that there are things we do that disobey you and hurt you. We also confess that we don't always treat others well. We need your help not to judge others but love them with kindness and hope. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**THURSDAY** Heavenly Father, Jesus served you from a place of love and honor. He is our example of how to treat others. Help us to see the places where we can help those who you bring to our lives. Help us not to duck when opportunities come to serve others in your name. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**FRIDAY** Father God, we confess that there have been times when we have delighted in someone being teased, left out, or being without something. We have acted out of the ugliness in our hearts. Even if we didn't say it, we thought it. Please stop us by your Spirit when we are unkind. Correct us to show compassion and grace. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**SATURDAY** Jesus, because of your love you left Heaven to save us. We can live in that love and be free to share it with those who need to hear about you. We want to serve you and love sins by sharing your message of forgiveness from sin. Give us the courage to do that. We love you, amen.

**F E B R U A R Y 1 9**

**O U R M I S S I O N**

**T O T H E P E R S E C U T E D  
& V U L N E R A B L E C H U R C H**

**F A M I L Y**

**D E V O T I O N A L T I M E  
O P E N I N G P R A Y E R**

Choose one person to pray for your time together in God's word.

**O P E N I N G Q U E S T I O N**

What does *persecution* mean? Brainstorm ideas.

\*The dictionary gives the following definitions:

1. *The persecuting of somebody: the subjecting of a race or group of people to cruel or unfair treatment, e.g. because of their ethnic origin or religious beliefs*
2. *Suffering of persecuted people: the suffering felt by persecuted people*

What does *vulnerable* mean? Brainstorm ideas.

\*The dictionary gives the following definitions:

1. *Susceptible to physical or emotional injury.*
2. *Susceptible to attack*

**B I B L E L E S S O N  
G O D S E E I N G T H E V U L N E R A B L E  
A N D P E R S E C U T E D**

Read Exodus 3:1-12.

**Q U E S T I O N S**

1. How did God speak to Moses in this passage?
2. What did God want Moses to do and what did God promise him?
3. Why did God call Moses to do this?

\*People who love and worship God have experienced unfair treatment from the beginning of the Bible. God sees this and knows their sufferings. He wants us to encourage, pray for and support those who today are being persecuted for loving Him.

**J E S U S S E E I N G T H E V U L N E R A B L E  
A N D P E R S E C U T E D**

Read John 15:18-21 and 26-27.

**Q U E S T I O N S**

1. Who is Jesus talking to?
2. What did He warn them about?
3. How did He encourage them?

\*Jesus also saw that the people who loved and followed Him would be hurt by those who didn't believe in Him. He reminds us that His Spirit will be with His followers to give them strength and to spread His love.

**H O W D O W E C A R E F O R T H E  
V U L N E R A B L E A N D P E R S E C U T E D ?**

Read Acts 12: 1-17.

**Q U E S T I O N S**

1. Why was Peter put in jail?
2. What did the church do? What did God do?
3. What can we learn from this story about how we can care for those being persecuted?

\*One thing the church is called to do is to pray for protection, courage, hope and justice for those in our world today who are following Jesus in places where they can be persecuted for it.

**R E F L E C T I O N**

**Q U E S T I O N S**

1. What was something new you discovered today?
2. Is there anything you want to know more about?

**C L O S I N G P R A Y E R**

Have each person share a prayer as you close your time together.

# FEBRUARY 20-25

## SCRIPTURE

## & PRAYERS

### MORNING SCRIPTURES TO READ AND THINK ABOUT

#### **MONDAY** *Matthew 5:10*

Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

#### **TUESDAY** *Romans 5:3-5*

And that's not all. We are full of joy even when we suffer. We know that our suffering gives us the strength to go on. 4 The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope. 5 And hope will never let us down. God has poured his love into our hearts. He did it through the Holy Spirit, whom he has given to us.

#### **WEDNESDAY** *2 Corinthians 12:9*

But he said to me, "My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." So I am very happy to brag about how weak I am. Then Christ's power can rest on me.

#### **THURSDAY** *2 Thessalonians 1:3-4*

Brothers and sisters, we should always thank God for you. That is only right, because your faith is growing more and more. The love you all have for each other is increasing. So among God's churches we brag about the fact that you don't give up easily. We brag about your faith in all the suffering and testing you are going through.

#### **FRIDAY** *2 Timothy 3:12*

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be treated badly.

#### **SATURDAY** *Revelations 2:3*

You have been faithful and have put up with a lot of trouble because of me. You have not given up.

### EVENING PRAYERS TO END YOUR DAY WITH

**MONDAY** Heavenly Father, we know there are many in our world that suffer and are treated badly because they love and follow you. They are doing right. We pray for their courage and hope today. Give them your strength and words of encouragement when they are hurting. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**TUESDAY** Father God, we pray for the strength, character and hope that we have in your Spirit for those who want to worship you freely. We pray for the churches in the world that persevere in such hardship. It is hard for us to even imagine it. We know you love them and are faithful to them. Keep their hearts protected from darkness. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**WEDNESDAY** Jesus, we thank you for your grace. It is all we need in times when we want to be bold for you but are afraid. We pray for the boldness of your followers in places where they can experience deep pain for sharing your love. We pray for your power to flow in them. We worship you and love you, amen.

**THURSDAY** Father God, we praise you for the faith of those in places of hardship. Their love for you and desire to be obedient to you amaze us. Your love for your people knows no end. You will be made known and your church will continue to grow. We thank you that we can be your church today. Show us where we need to grow in our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**FRIDAY** Jesus, we confess that we don't want to be treated badly for following you. Sometimes we don't tell others about you or are afraid of what they will think. We know that what truly matters is what YOU think. Help us not to live in fear of what others do, think or say. Help us to live out of your love and grace for us. In your name we pray, amen.

**SATURDAY** Jesus, because of your love you left Heaven to save us. We can live in that love and be free to share it with those who need to hear about you. We want to serve you and love others with your message of us being saved from our sins. Give us the courage to do that. We love you, amen.

# FEBRUARY 26

## OUR MISSION TO SERVE

### FAMILY

#### DEVOTIONAL TIME

##### OPENING PRAYER

Choose one person to pray for your time together in God's word.

##### OPENING QUESTION

What does it mean to serve? Brainstorm ideas.

\*The dictionary gives the following definitions:

1. *To work for or to be a servant to.*
2. *To prepare and offer*

#### BIBLE LESSON

##### WHY DO WE SERVE?

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

##### QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be salt and light?
2. What are good deeds?
3. How do our actions show others the love of Jesus?

\*Jesus tells us that when we share goodness (salt) and bring hope (light) by our actions and words we can show others His love. We don't do this because we are good and like being nice. We do this because Jesus is our Savior and Lord and gives us the love, power and courage to do so.

##### WHO DO WE SERVE?

Read Matthew 25:34-45

##### QUESTIONS

1. What actions did those on His right do and to whom?
2. What did the other people do and why?
3. Who are the least of these in our world today?

\*Jesus tells us that a part of being with God is to pay attention and care for others. When we share our time, love and compassion with those in need (someone who is hungry, sad, lonely, etc.) we are also showing Jesus how much we love Him and are obedient to His words.

##### HOW DO WE SERVE?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-26.

##### QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the different gifts God gives us? Why?
2. How do the gifts work together like the body?
3. What do you think your gifts are? If you are not sure, how can you find out?

\*God has given us each different abilities from the power of His Spirit that—when we use them—can share His good news with others. When we are using our gifts, we bless others and serve Him well.

#### REFLECTION

##### QUESTIONS

1. What was something new you discovered today?
2. Is there anything you want to know more about?

##### CLOSING PRAYER

Have each person share a prayer as you close your time together.

# FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 4

## SCRIPTURE

## & PRAYERS

### MORNING SCRIPTURES TO READ AND THINK ABOUT

#### **MONDAY** *Micah 6:8*

The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must treat people fairly. You must love others faithfully. And you must be very careful to live the way your God wants you to.

#### **TUESDAY** *Ephesians 6:7*

Serve your masters with all your heart. Work as if you were not serving people but the Lord.

#### **WEDNESDAY** *Joshua 24:15b*

"But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

#### **THURSDAY** *1 Timothy 4:10*

We work hard for it. Here is the saying. We have put our hope in the living God. He is the Savior of all people. Most of all he is the Savior of those who believe.

#### **FRIDAY** *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope. Let us do it all the more as you see the day coming when Christ will return.

#### **SATURDAY** *Ephesians 3:20-21*

God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. Give him glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. Give him glory through all time and for ever and ever. Amen.

### EVENING PRAYERS TO END YOUR DAY WITH

**MONDAY** Father God, we thank you for your word and your guidance. Help us to live your way. We want to treat others fairly, faithfully love them and be careful with the choices we make. It is only through you that we can do this. Thank you for being faithful and loving to us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**TUESDAY** Jesus, help us to see you in others we are serving. They are made in your image and we are called to show them love, kindness and honor. It is only through your Spirit we can do this. We want to serve you and serve others by doing our best. In your name we pray, amen.

**WEDNESDAY** Father God, we thank you for our family today. We thank you that you planned us to be a family. We want to serve, love and share your love with others. Guide us in this and give us grace and joy in it. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**THURSDAY** Father God, it is you who we put our hope in. It is through you that we can serve others. We want those who need salvation to know you and accept you as their Savior and Lord. Help us all to be strong in our belief in you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**FRIDAY** Heavenly Father, we thank you for our church, North Avenue, today. We thank you for the people we call our brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to encourage and be gracious with each other. Help us to be faithful to you and to serve you until your Son returns. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

**SATURDAY** Father God, you are able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. You do everything by your power that is working in us. We give you glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. We give you glory through all time and for ever and ever. Amen.

*...Then they'll be mature in this **oneness**, and give the godless world evidence that you've sent me and loved them in the same way you've loved me. -John 17:23<sup>MSG</sup>*

