

Y2K

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES & KNOWING WHAT TO DO



YOUTH-TO-KIDS MINISTRIES

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

In January, a team of people from our church told us about some dreams they had for the future of Vineyard Church Glendora and welcomed us to participate in making those dreams a reality!

This past year there has been a lot of change. A lot of it was very hard, but there was also a lot of good that came out of it! Through this time, we have had a chance as a church family, to reimagine what it could look, feel, and sound like to become the church God had called us to be. And, **now is the time** to respond to the beautiful invitation to become what has been imagined!

Each member of our church is so important in making the dream of the Vineyard Co/Gather a reality! YOU are important and play an important role! This devotional guide is made to take you and your family on a journey where you spend time listening to the Holy Spirit about what God is doing through you as we take steps towards the development of the Vineyard Co/Gather!

Our whole church will be working through weekly devotionals, times of prayer and fasting, and times of gathering in-person and online, to help us find out how we might all individually contribute to the growth of Vineyard Church Glendora as we launch the Co/Gather!

This is the special Y2K version of our guide! We will be sending out material weekly that you can work through on your own or with a family member! Below, you'll find an overview of how we'll spend each week!

Welcome to the Co/Gather - Now is the time!

OVERVIEW:

Week 1 - REMEMBERING OUR STORY: Together, we're going to talk about the story God is writing at Vineyard Church Glendora and where God is taking us in the future.

Week 2 - UNDERSTANDING STEWARDSHIP: We're going to learn about stewardship and the gifts that God has given us.

Week 3 - LISTENING TO GOD: We are going to learn about what it means to discern God's voice and act on what God says.

Week 4 - PRACTICING GENEROSITY: We are going to learn about the 5 areas of generosity and how we can practice them at the Vineyard Co/Gather.

WEEK 1: REMEMBERING OUR STORY

This week we are talking about the story God is writing at Vineyard Church Glendora and where God is taking us in the future!

For over 10 years, God has led our Church every step of the way! This last year has been no different. We have all been through a lot since March of 2020: the world shutting down, loved ones getting sick, schools closing, not seeing friends, and seeing really sad things on the news almost daily.

Even though this last year has had a lot of challenges, we believe that the Church is still the best response to a hurting and broken world!

We have been going through a process of praying about our next steps. We have known for many years that God has a bigger vision for our church than we could ever imagine! The story that God is writing with Vineyard Church Glendora is still being written!

We believe that the church joins God's story by understanding the times and knowing what to do. We want to be aware of what is going on in the world and needs within the community, of our neighbors, our friends, and people we haven't even met yet! This is the purpose of the Vineyard Co/Gather.

In John chapter 6, Jesus is ministering to a crowd of people. He's teaching them about God, heaven, life in the Kingdom, and so much more, all while performing miracles! The people were in awe and did not want to leave, but they were hungry and needed something to eat.

John 6 (The Message) :

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."

One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.” They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

Jesus was looking forward to eternity and the Kingdom to come as he taught the people, but he also saw their needs in the moment! He knew exactly what they needed exactly when they needed it! We want to be like Jesus and see the needs of our community and the people around us. We also want to be like the little boy in the story and trust that when we give what we have for the purpose of loving the people around us, God will multiply it!

The Vineyard Co/Gather will be a space where we can gather together, every day of the week, to grow individually, as a church, and in community! It will meet the needs of our community by providing spaces to learn and play, spaces to have meetings, and spaces to eat and drink. It will be a resource used to meet spiritual needs, but also, emotional and physical needs.

We want this to be something our whole church builds together! We want each person to play a role in dreaming about, praying for, and giving to what God is doing through our church at this time!! Together, this will lead us to a place of deep connection with God, each other and our community. Throughout the next 4 weeks, we will be journeying together in praying, fasting, and dreaming for the Vineyard Co/Gather.

Like the little boy in the story who gave his lunch trusting that Jesus would use it for his glory and for the good of his people, we want all people, from our youngest church members to our oldest church members, to be able to take part in the story God is writing at Vineyard Church Glendora!

QUESTIONS TO MEDITATE ON THIS WEEK:

- What part of the Vineyard Co/Gather is most exciting to you?
- What is something you would like to do in this space one day?
- Are there any questions you have about what the Co/Gather is or could be?
- Where do you see God at work through this?

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR THIS WEEK:

Each week, we will be committing Wednesday mornings, from your wake up to lunch, as a time of prayer and fasting together as a church community.

Fasting is when you give up something to make room for more time with God in your day! We want to encourage you, if you are able, to pick one thing that you can give up, just on Wednesdays, that will allow you to spend more time with God praying for what God is doing in our church and in our community! Some examples of things you might consider giving up on Wednesdays are: video games, screen time, desserts, your favorite cereal, etc.

This week, during your prayer and fasting, keep these things in mind:

- People in our community that feel alone and not connected to God and/or people.
- The journey we are on together as a church community
- The space of the Co/Gather and the people and businesses that are in that area.
- Where you fit into the story that God is writing at Vineyard Church Glendora.

During your prayer and fasting time, you can respond to what God is telling you in some of the following ways:

- Draw a picture of what God showed you
- Write a letter or a poem to God about who God is and what you want to be like
- Call a friend or a youth leader to talk about what God showed you