



WAYPOINTS

Series Guide



This guide is designed to help you stay connected to each week's message beyond Sunday morning. For five days after each message, you'll find a short reading and a question or two to help you reflect, pray, and consider how the message might take shape in your life.

Our hope is simply that it gives you an easy way to keep the conversation going with God throughout the week.



In the first week of Waypoints, we explore Rosewood's first value: Bridges, Not Walls. Looking at Acts 15 and the Council of Jerusalem, we see that the early church had to decide whether it would require outsiders to become like insiders before they could fully belong. The verdict was clear: "We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God." This message invites us to recover something deeply rooted in the foundation of the church: a passion for removing unnecessary barriers so people can encounter Jesus.

Message memories for Sunday, September 13:

Day 1 – **Don't Make it Difficult**

"We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God." ACTS 15:19

The first Christians had to decide what would be required of people who wanted to follow Jesus but did not share their Jewish background. James' conclusion was remarkably simple: if people are turning toward God, don't stand in their way.

That remains a helpful question for the church today. Are we helping clear the way for people coming to God, or are we unintentionally making the journey harder?

Consider:

What kinds of things might make church feel difficult or confusing to someone who did not grow up around it?

Where might God be asking you to help clear the way?

Pray:

God, help me recognize anything in me that makes it harder for others to move toward you. Give me the humility and wisdom to clear the way so people can see Jesus more clearly. Amen.

Day 2 – The Longer You’re Inside

Read Acts 15:5-11.

The Jewish Christians in Acts 15 were not trying to hurt anyone. They were trying to preserve practices that had shaped their faith for generations. But what felt natural and necessary to them could become an obstacle for someone coming from somewhere else.

The same can happen to us. The longer we are insiders, the harder it can be to remember what church feels like from the outside.

Consider:

What parts of church life feel completely normal to you simply because you have been around for a while?

How might those same things feel to someone walking into church for the first time?

Pray:

God, help me see through the eyes of someone who is new, unsure, or unfamiliar with church. Keep me from confusing what is familiar to me with what is essential to following you. Amen.

Day 3 – Not Easy, Just Not Unnecessarily Difficult

Following Jesus is not easy. Jesus challenges our pride, greed, bitterness, relationships, priorities, prejudices, and much more. Removing unnecessary barriers does not mean removing the challenge of discipleship.

The church does not need to make Jesus easier. But neither should we add requirements Jesus never gave.

Consider:

What is the difference between making Christianity easier and making it easier for someone to encounter Jesus?

Are there expectations you sometimes place on people that may have more to do with church culture than following Jesus?

Pray:

Jesus, give me courage to follow you wherever you challenge me, and wisdom to distinguish your call from the expectations I may have added to it. Help me point people toward you, not toward becoming more like me. Amen.

Day 4 – The God Who Moves Toward People

Read Luke 15:4-7.

Jesus described God as a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to search for the one lost sheep. God does not sit at a distance waiting for lost people to figure out how to get back. He moves toward them.

That means building bridges is not primarily a church-growth strategy. It reflects the character of the God we worship.

Consider:

What does Jesus' picture of the shepherd tell you about how God feels about people who are far from him?

What is one person in your life you could intentionally move toward this week?

Pray:

God, thank you for moving toward me. Give me your heart for people who feel far from you, and show me someone I can move toward with kindness, grace, and genuine care this week. Amen.

Day 5 – The Church You Would Invite Someone To

Imagine a friend who has never been to church, walked away from church, or is unsure what they believe. Now imagine the kind of church you would be excited to invite that person into.

A church that builds bridges does not abandon truth or discipleship. It simply refuses to create unnecessary obstacles between people and Jesus. And churches become that kind of church because the people inside them choose to become that kind of people.

Consider:

Imagine the church you would invite a friend who has left the church to attend. What is different about that church?

What is one thing you could personally do to help Rosewood become more like it?

Pray:

God, shape Rosewood into a church that reflects your heart for people. And begin with me. Help me build bridges, remove unnecessary walls, and become the kind of person who makes it easier for others to take a step toward Jesus. Amen.

BELONG BECOME

Week two explores Rosewood's value of Belong and Become through the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. Jesus chooses relationship and proximity with Zacchaeus before Zacchaeus has done anything to change. And that belonging becomes part of his transformation. We'll explore why genuine belonging means more than being welcomed on Sunday, how authentic relationships help us become more like Jesus, and why people who are different from us may be exactly who God uses to shape us. This message is an invitation to discover a community where you can belong while you become.

Message memories for Sunday, September 20:

Day 1 – **Belong Before You Become**

Read Romans 8:14-17.

God's invitation does not begin with, "Change enough, and then you can belong." Paul describes followers of Jesus as adopted children of God. Belonging comes first, and from that secure place, God begins forming us.

We don't become so that we can belong. We become because we belong.

Consider:

Where are you tempted to believe you need to change before you can truly belong with God?

How might spiritual growth look different if you began from belonging rather than earning?

Pray:

God, thank you that your love is not something I have to earn. Help me trust that I can come to you as I am while also allowing you to shape who I am becoming. Let my growth come from the security of knowing I belong to you. Amen.

Day 2 – Known, Not Just Welcomed

“Each member belongs to all the others.” ROMANS 12:5

Belonging is more than being welcomed into a room. It means becoming known in relationship with other people. That requires honesty. We cannot experience growth in the parts of ourselves we never allow anyone else to see.

Consider:

Where in your life are you known beyond the version of yourself you usually show others?

What might one small step toward being more honestly known look like?

Pray:

God, thank you for creating us for relationship. Give me courage to let trustworthy people know the real me, including the parts I would rather hide. Help Rosewood become a community where honesty is met with grace and where authentic relationships help us grow. Amen.

Day 3 – **Becoming Together**

Read Romans 12:9-13.

Following Jesus is personal, but it was never meant to be private. God often uses other people's encouragement, wisdom, honesty, patience, and even their differences to shape who we are becoming.

We belong to Christ, and we are becoming more like Christ together.

Consider:

Who has God used to shape your faith or character?

What made that relationship safe enough for growth to happen?

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for the people you have used to shape me. Help me receive encouragement, correction, and wisdom from others with humility. And make me the kind of person whose presence helps others grow closer to you as well. Amen.

Day 4 – We Need What Others Bring

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-20.

A healthy body does not work because every part becomes identical. It works because different parts bring different gifts and perspectives.

The same is true of the church. Belonging does not mean newcomers eventually become like us. Every person who truly belongs brings something the community did not have before.

Consider:

What different perspective or experience has helped you grow?

Is there a kind of person you have difficulty imagining Rosewood “needing”?

Pray:

God, protect me from confusing becoming more like Jesus with becoming more like me. Help me value the gifts, experiences, and perspectives you have placed in others. Give us the humility to recognize that you may use people different from us to shape who we are becoming. Amen.

Day 5 – **Built Together**

Read Ephesians 2:19-22.

Paul describes people who were once strangers becoming members of God's household and then being built together. That means new people do not simply join what already exists. Their presence becomes part of what God is building.

Some of the people who are not at Rosewood yet may someday be exactly the people God uses to shape who Rosewood becomes.

Consider:

Who in your life might need somewhere to belong before they know exactly what they believe or who they are becoming?

What could you personally do to offer them that kind of belonging?

Pray:

God, thank you for giving me somewhere to belong while I am still becoming. Help me offer that same gift to others. Shape Rosewood into a community with room for people who are not here yet, and use all of us together to form the church you are calling us to become. Amen.

got questions?

In the third week of Waypoints, we explore Rosewood's third value: Got Questions? It means being the kind of community that welcomes doubt and encourages questions that can deepen faith. Beginning with twelve-year-old Jesus listening and asking questions in the temple, we see that Jesus was never threatened by sincere curiosity. Through the stories of Nicodemus, Thomas, John the Baptist, and others, this message challenges Christians to approach faith conversations more like journalists than salespeople by listening to understand rather than trying to close a deal. Whether you have followed Jesus for years, are considering what you believe, or are simply curious, there is room for your questions.

Message memories for Sunday, September 27:

Day 1 – Questions Aren't the Enemy

"After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." LUKE 2:46

One of the earliest pictures we have of Jesus is not him preaching or performing a miracle. He is listening and asking questions. Questions do not have to be signs that faith is failing. Sometimes they are how faith grows. Curiosity can push us beyond inherited answers and invite us to understand God more deeply.

Consider:

Were questions welcomed in the faith environment you grew up in? If you didn't grow up in a faith environment, how were religious questions received by others?

What questions about God or faith have you been hesitant to ask?

Pray:

God, thank you that you are not threatened by my questions. Give me the courage to be honest about what I wonder, doubt, or do not understand, and use my questions to draw me closer to you. Amen.

Day 2 – “Help My Unbelief”

“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” MARK 9:24

Faith and doubt are not always opposites. Sometimes they exist in the same person at the same time.

The father who spoke these words to Jesus did not pretend to have perfect faith. He brought Jesus what he actually had: belief mixed with uncertainty. And Jesus did not reject him for it. You do not have to pretend certainty in order to come to Jesus.

Consider:

Where do belief and doubt currently coexist in your own faith?

What would it look like to bring that honesty to God instead of hiding it?

Pray:

Jesus, I bring you both what I believe and what I struggle to believe. Meet me in both. Help my faith grow without requiring me to pretend that I have everything figured out. Amen.

Day 3 – Jesus Wasn't Afraid of Honest Doubt

Read Matthew 11:2-6.

John the Baptist had publicly identified Jesus as the one God had sent. But later, sitting in prison and facing an uncertain future, John sent messengers to ask Jesus, essentially, "Are you really the one?" Jesus did not shame John for asking. He gave him evidence to consider.

If someone as faithful as John could experience doubt, perhaps doubt is not proof that something has gone terribly wrong. Sometimes questions are simply part of the journey.

Consider:

Have you ever felt guilty for doubting something you once felt certain about?

How might your faith change if you viewed sincere questions as something to explore rather than something to fear?

Pray:

God, when certainty feels difficult, keep me close to you. Give me patience with unanswered questions and confidence that honest searching does not drive you away. Amen.

Day 4 – Journalist or Salesperson?

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” JAMES 1:19

When conversations about faith become debates to win, we stop listening. A salesperson listens for an opportunity to make the pitch. A journalist listens because they genuinely want to understand. Jesus consistently showed curiosity, presence, and gentleness toward people who came to him sincerely.

Before someone is ready to hear what you believe, they often need to know that you have actually heard what they believe.

Consider:

When someone disagrees with you about faith, are you more likely to listen or prepare your response?

What questions could you ask someone that would help you better understand what they believe and why?

Pray:

Jesus, make me a better listener. Replace defensiveness with curiosity and the desire to win with the desire to understand. Help my conversations with others reflect your patience and gentleness. Amen.

Day 5 – Truth and Love

“If I... can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge... but do not have love, I am nothing.” 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2

There’s nothing wrong with having answers. Christianity makes real claims about Jesus, God, resurrection, forgiveness, and life. But truth without love can become noise.

We can hold convictions while remaining humble enough to listen, learn, and admit what we do not know. A church confident that Jesus is the truth does not need to be afraid of honest questions. Questions are not the destination. But they can be an important part of the journey.

Consider:

What questions would you ask Jesus if you knew he would not be offended?

How could you help Rosewood become a place where someone else would feel safe asking their questions?

Pray:

God, help me pursue truth with humility and speak truth with love. Make Rosewood a community where people do not have to hide their questions, and let my own life help create that kind of space. Amen.

← TAKING THE INITIATIVE →

In week four, we take on the value “Taking the Initiative: Moving toward others with the grace and intention Jesus has shown us.” At the heart of the Christian story is a God who does not wait at a distance, but moves first. In Jesus, God came toward us in love, grace, and service. Because of that, Rosewood is called to take the same posture: moving toward one another inside the church, and moving toward our community as a faithful presence in the world. This message invites us to become a church that does not merely open the door and wait, but lovingly take the first step toward others because grace moves first.

Message memories for Sunday, October 4:

Day 1 – Love Moves First

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son.” 1 JOHN 4:10

The Christian story begins with God taking the initiative. He did not wait for us to find our way back to him. In Jesus, God moved toward us and closed the distance we could not close ourselves.

Grace doesn't wait to be deserved. Grace moves first.

Consider:

Where have you seen God moving toward you before you were moving toward him?

Is there someone you have been waiting to make the first move?

Pray:

God, thank you for loving me first. Thank you for moving toward me with grace, mercy, and patience. Help me reflect that same love by being willing to take the first step toward others. Amen.

Day 2 – **Somebody Should Do Something**

Read John 13:4-5.

At dinner with his disciples, Jesus noticed something everyone else noticed too: no one had washed their feet. Everyone could have thought, “Somebody should do something.” But Jesus got up, wrapped a towel around himself, and served them.

Taking the Initiative often begins with noticing what everyone else sees, and deciding not to wait.

Consider:

Where do you find yourself thinking, “Somebody should do something”?

What might change if you become that somebody?

Pray:

Jesus, give me eyes to notice the needs around me and the humility to respond. Keep me from waiting for someone else when you are inviting me to serve. Give me the courage to act first when love calls for it. Amen.

Day 3 – As I Have Loved You

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” JOHN 13:34

Jesus did not simply tell his followers to love. He gave them a model: love others the way I have loved you.

Jesus noticed people, served them, forgave them, and moved toward them. Taking the Initiative begins by learning to do the same with one another.

Consider:

Who around you might need someone to notice them right now?

What would it look like to love that person as Jesus has loved you?

Pray:

Jesus, teach me to love others the way you have loved me. Help me notice people who feel overlooked, move toward people who feel alone, and serve without waiting to be asked. Shape my love to look more like yours. Amen.

Day 4 – Seek the Good of the City

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city...” JEREMIAH 29:7

God told his people to seek the good of the place where they lived, even though the people around them did not share their beliefs or values.

Faithful presence means remaining faithful to God while actively seeking the good of our neighbors. We do not have to wait for people to become like us before we care about them.

Consider:

What does it look like for you to seek the good of your neighborhood, workplace, school, or community?

Where might you be tempted to withdraw rather than move toward others?

Pray:

God, help me be faithfully present wherever you have placed me. Teach me to seek the good of my neighbors and community with humility, generosity, and love. Keep me faithful to you while moving toward people who may not believe or live like I do. Amen.

Day 5 – Who Will Move First?

“Not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others.” PHILIPPIANS 2:4

Taking the Initiative asks a simple question: Who is going to move first?

We can believe people matter and still wait for someone else to notice them. But Jesus did not wait at a distance. He came looking. Following him means becoming people who are willing to take the first step.

Consider:

Who has God placed near you that you have been waiting for someone else to notice?

What is one concrete step you could take toward that person this week?

Pray:

God, make me someone who moves first. Give me the courage to notice, the humility to serve, and the love to close the distance between myself and others. Help Rosewood become a church known for taking the initiative because we follow a God who did the same for us. Amen.

DISCIPLES to APOSTLES

When a church becomes more outward facing, it is natural for people inside the church to ask, “What about me?” The answer is not, “You don’t matter,” or “Everything is about you.” Instead, Jesus shows us that discipleship always included being formed and sent. In Matthew 9-10, Jesus sees the crowds with compassion, tells his disciples to pray for workers, and then sends them as the answer to their own prayer. The harvest is plentiful, the workers are few, and sometimes the person God is sending is you.

Message memories for Sunday, October 11:

Day 1 – See What Jesus Sees

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them.”

MATTHEW 8:39

Jesus looked at the people around him and saw more than a crowd. He saw people who were hurting, searching, and in need of someone to care.

Before Jesus sends his followers, he first teaches them to see people the way he does.

Consider:

Who around you might be easy to overlook?

What would change if you saw that person with the compassion of Jesus?

Pray:

*Jesus, give me eyes to see people the way you see them.
Replace frustration, fear, or indifference with compassion.
Help me notice the people around me who may be
hurting, searching, or simply hoping someone will care.
Amen.*

Day 2 – You Might Be the Answer

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” MATTHEW 9:37-38

Jesus told his disciples to pray for God to send workers into the harvest. Then, almost immediately, Jesus sent his disciples themselves.

Sometimes we ask God to send someone, help someone, encourage someone, or just do something. Then, God invites us to become part of the answer.

Consider:

What are you currently asking God to do that he might be inviting you to participate in?

Where could you take one step instead of waiting for someone else?

Pray:

God, thank you that you invite ordinary people to participate in your work. When I pray for you to send someone, give me the humility to consider whether you may be sending me. Give me courage to say yes when you invite me to take part. Amen.

Day 3 – Still a Disciple, Now Sent

Read Matthew 10:1-2, 5.

Jesus' followers are first called "disciples," meaning "students" or "pupils." Then Jesus sends them, and they are called apostles, or "sent ones."

They did not stop being students. Jesus kept forming them. But their formation was never meant to end with learning. At some point, what they had learned was meant to be lived.

Consider:

Where is Jesus still forming you as his disciple?

How might something you have learned from Jesus be useful to someone else?

Pray:

Jesus, keep forming me as your disciple. Teach me your ways, shape my character, and deepen my faith. But do not let what you are teaching me end with me. Show me how to use what I am learning to serve and love others. Amen.

Day 4 – From Observation to Participation

“Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.”

JAMES 1:22

There is a time to listen, learn, receive, and be cared for.
But observation is not the destination of spiritual formation.

It is good to be spiritually fed. Eventually, we begin asking who we can feed. It is good to receive help. Eventually, we begin to notice who we can help.

Consider:

Where have you become comfortable observing rather than participating?

What is one thing you already know about following Jesus that you could begin putting into practice?

Pray:

God, thank you for the people and experiences you have used to form me. Keep me teachable, but also make me willing to participate. Give me courage to put what I know into practice and use what you have given me for the good of someone else. Amen.

Day 5 – Where Are You Being Sent?

“These twelve Jesus sent out...” MATTHEW 10:5

Following Jesus was never only about becoming more like him. It was also about being sent by him. Jesus still forms us, heals us, teaches us, and meets us in the highs and lows of life. But he also sends us into our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and communities.

The harvest is still plentiful. The workers are still few. And sometimes the person God is sending is you.

Consider:

When you leave church each week, where is Jesus sending you with what he has been forming in you?

Who might God want to reach, encourage, or serve through you?

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for continuing to form me. Help me not confuse being fed with being finished. Show me where you are sending me and who you are sending me toward. Give me the courage to carry your love into the places where you have already put me. Amen.