

Week Beginning: 16th February 2020

Worship Series: #3 in series **TAKE-OFF**
... the next stage of living the vision begins



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture."

John 10:9

Remember This Week

Listen to the voice of Jesus. He may announce a last minute gate change that will get you moving quickly to a new gate that will send you on an journey requiring great trust and obedience in him. Don't be afraid - he will both equip you and empower you with the gifts you need for the journey.



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 23:1-6

Lord Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and protector, you call us through the narrow gate of salvation to experience a life that is more than we can ever imagine. Open our eyes and ears that whatever gate we take off from, we may hear your voice calling our name - calling us to serve, calling us to share, calling us to use the gifts you have given, calling us to praise – that we may daily see the promise of your kingdom transforming lives with grace as more and more come to enjoy fullness of life in your name. Encourage us in this time to find the right gate when we can impact the Kingdom for you in the greatest way. We ask this in your name. Amen.

1. *Describe your day today using one adjective. What influenced this word choice?*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What's the most memorable or worst airport story you have had?*
4. *Once you are through security, where do you normally head and why?*
5. *What would you consider the greatest spiritual gift God has given you and how is that being used in your current setting?*

It's that moment that you take a deep breath and slowly walk through the narrow door that will lead you to another world on the airside of the airport. The security screening process. Even if you are all prepared, there is still that moment as you wonder whether you will get through without beeping, pick up your hand luggage or carry on without anything being detected or an explosive test being conducted! But get through that and the possibilities are endless. From shops, to bars, to food courts, to prayer rooms, to airline clubs, there are so many things to help you prepare and get ready to board your flight or to distract you from getting to your gate!! But gates there are...plenty of them in an international terminal or city airport...gates which lead to exciting journeys and new places. Today Jesus speaks of security screening, of safety and fullness of life on the airside of grace as he calls us to find the right gate to board the right flight he has prepared for us.

Read John 10:1-10





6. What key words/phrases stand out or speak to you in this text? Share.
7. Is it easy or difficult to think of yourself as a helpless, dependent sheep who needs constant guidance from Jesus, the good shepherd? Why?
8. What does Jesus mean when he says he is the "gate" for the sheep?
9. Jesus says that those who enter in through him will come in and go out and find pasture. What does that mean? How much security and freedom do you feel in your relationship with Jesus right now? Give reasons.
10. To what extent are you experiencing 'fullness of life' at the present time or what is preventing you from experiencing that?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

11. In what ways are you currently 'serving' in or through the Church and how much joy do you get in 'serving' in this way? Share.
12. Is this the gate, the journey, the "work" (verse 16) that God is calling you to do to build up his body the Church or does something else get you excited that you are not currently involved in or doing? Discuss.



Read 1 Peter 4:10

You are called by Jesus. You are gifted by Jesus...to serve others...to build up the body of Christ...and advance God's kingdom into this world. Sometimes we can get too comfortable in the area in which we are serving, where God may have another journey for us to go on - one that requires us to listen to his voice in the same way that a PA announcement at the airport may tell us of a last minute gate change that will have us heading to a different lounge, to board a different plane. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul sums up the gifts this way:

Gifts of the Heart: helps, hospitality, mercy, faith, giving

Gifts of Proclamation: evangelism, teaching, discernment, knowledge, prophecy, wisdom

Gifts of Action: leadership, administration, pastoring/shepherding, encouragement/counseling, apostleship

Gifts of Inspiration: healing, miracles, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues

13. In which category, do you think your spiritual gifts lie or do you have no clue?
14. What could you do to try and discover your spiritual gift and how willing are you to go on that journey?
15. Finish the sentence, 'I am most alive when...' Your answer may help point you on the direction of where God is calling you to go. How could you check to see if that's it?
16. What gifts does your LifeGroup see in you?
17. How could you use that gift to help God fulfil his vision through LifeWay?



- * Praise God for gifting you that you can play a part in his Kingdom plan. Thank Jesus for calling you to him and releasing you to go and live abundantly in the fullness of his grace, using your gifts to be a blessing to others. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you ears to hear where he is calling you to go to have an impact for the Kingdom?
- * Pray for our Church that as we prepare to launch Vision2030: Beyond Limits that God will lead, direct and protect us on the journey and that we would be a people who are living, sharing and growing in his way and having an ever expanding witness in the world.
- * Pray that the new LifeWay Music songs from the Travellers connect with people on their journey and lead them deeper into the way and life of Jesus.
- * Pray for each other and one particular need you have at this time.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, you are called and gifted by God to serve. Amen.

