The BIG SIX

Key Practices to Following Jesus

Introduction

Rooftop Church was founded 25 years ago by a group of soon-to-be college graduates who loved the depth and excitement of their student ministry and wanted to keep doing church and life together. Matt, Jason, their wives, and many of their friends are still living the dream—and many more of us have joined them along the way. This year, we're going back to the basics and revisiting the principles upon which Rooftop (Community) Church was founded.

As our church-wide study this fall, we're focusing on our key practices. There are six of them, and we remember them with the mnemonic: That Which Every Church Should Practice—Teaching, Worship, Evangelism, Community, Service, and Prayer.

We're coordinating this study with our current sermon series, so you'll get the most out of your Small Group experience if you can attend a Sunday service each week as well. We gather every Sunday at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m., and kids' classes are available for children from birth through 5th grade during every service.

You'll use this workbook almost every day this fall. On Sundays, use the Sermon Notes page to take notes during the message. Each week also includes five Daily Practice entries to help you set aside a few minutes each day to grow in your relationship with God. If you have kids in your life and would like to spend devotional time together, be sure to check out the Daily Practice: Family Edition.

We hope this study helps you grow deeper in your faith, develop meaningful friendships, and practice following Jesus together.

Many blessings,

Erin Schrage & Pastor John Bollinger

The
BIG SIX
Key Practices to Following Jesus

Sermon Notes

Date:

Topic:

Primary Scripture(s):

Additional Scripture references:

Main points:

Application:

The
BIG SIX
Key Practices to Following Jesus

Aug. 23-29, 2026

Week 1 - Teaching

Welcome and Introductions

Ice Breaker

Each week we'll read a prompt or play a game to get to know one another better. This week, go around the room and tell the group about your favorite teacher.

Small Group Expectations

Meeting with a Small Group is an important part of the discipleship journey. Together, we want to learn more about the Bible, deepen our relationship with God, and build stronger relationships with other believers. Here are the values that help our groups thrive:

- **Privacy:** Personal things shared in the group should remain confidential.
- **Prayer:** Your leader will be praying for group members throughout the week, and group members are encouraged to pray for one another as well.
- **Preparation:** Both leaders and group members should make every effort to come prepared each week.
- **Participation:** Every group member is encouraged to participate in discussions while also being mindful not to overshare. If you're naturally quiet, challenge yourself to share at least once each week. If you enjoy talking, be intentional about leaving room for others to contribute. Keep in mind that while some people are uncomfortable with silence, a few moments of quiet often provide the opportunity a quieter person needs to speak.

If any issues arise regarding these values, please talk with your Small Group leader. If needed, you can also reach out to John Bolliger, Rooftop's new pastor for Small Groups

Watch Videos

- Welcome from Pastor John
- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Pastor Matt Herndon

Discussion Questions

The
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Key Practices to Following Jesus

Group Discussion Questions

1. What practice is our focus this week?

2. What were the main points of the sermon?

3. How is this practice promoted in Scripture? (Read aloud and discuss.)

4. How does this practice glorify God?

5. How does engaging with this practice make us more holy?

6. What does this practice require of us? What feels easy to you? What feels challenging to you?

7. What can/should/will you do this week to grow in this practice?

8. How is this practice something that happens better when we practice it together? As a small group? As a church?

Daily Practice
Week 1 - Teaching

Verse of the Week

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4

Introduction

This week's focus is the value of teaching. Good teaching promotes learning, and learning leads to knowledge. As followers of Jesus, we grow in our faith by engaging with Scripture and allowing God to shape our hearts and minds through His Word.

This week's Daily Practice focuses on reading the Bible. We'll be reading through the book of James, a New Testament letter that we believe was written by Jesus' brother between A.D. 40 and 50. James offers practical wisdom for recognizing unhealthy habits, growing in spiritual maturity, and experiencing the joy that comes from putting our faith into practice.

We'll read through the entire book of James this week. In the weeks ahead, we'll return to specific passages that connect with each of the Big Six practices.

Before you read each day, take a moment to pray. Thank God for the privilege of learning from His Word, and ask Him to reveal His truth to you and help you live it out.

Day 1: Read James 1 and answer these questions.

How do we have access to greater wisdom? (5-7)

In what area of your life do you need wisdom? (Be specific. Narrow your response to an issue or two that you really need to lay before the Lord.)

How can we discipline our emotions so that our actions represent Christ? (19-21) Pray and ask God to grant you wisdom in your decisions and discipline in your actions.

Daily Practice Week 1 - Teaching (cont.)

Day 2: Read James 2

How can I check my attitude to be sure I am treating everyone with the respect they deserve? (8, 12)

Ephesians 2:8-9 states: "For you have been saved by grace, through faith, not by works, so that no one may boast."
James 2:14-18 challenges the believer that faith without action is dead.
In your daily life, what is the greater struggle? Why?

A: To accept that you have been saved by grace through faith? OR
B: That you must support your professed faith with service to others?

What is your opportunity for growth?

Day 3: Read James 3

What is at risk when you do not exercise discipline with your words? (5-6)

What is the "wisdom" of the world? (15-16)

What attributes does the wisdom that comes from heaven possess? (17-18)

Daily Practice Week 1 - Teaching (cont.)

Day 4: Read James 4

What is the cause of fights and quarrels? (1-2)

What is the solution to our prideful, selfish behavior? (6-10)

Day 5: Read James 5

James has very practical advice in this chapter.
What attitude produces peace and holiness in the face of suffering? (7-8)

What is the simple way we can promote peace in community with others in our big and our small oaths or promises? (12)

When should we worship? (13)

When should we pray? (13-14)

Why should we pray? (16)

Why should we help others turn from their sin? (19-20)

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The
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Aug. 30 - Sept. 5, 2026

Week 2 - Worship

Ice Breaker

What is your favorite worship song? When do you feel most worshipful?

Review

What are your key takeaways from this week's Daily Practice?

Watch Videos

- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Pastor Jason Herbig

Discussion Questions

The
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Group Discussion Questions

1. What practice is our focus this week?
2. What were the main points of the sermon?
3. How is this practice promoted in Scripture? (Read aloud and discuss.)
4. How does this practice glorify God?
5. How does engaging with this practice make us more holy?
6. What does this practice require of us? What feels easy to you? What feels challenging to you?
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Daily Practice
Week 2 - Worship

Verse of the Week

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

Introduction

This week's focus is the practice of worship. When we worship God, we place Him at the center of our attention, giving Him the glory He deserves.

One of the most familiar expressions of worship is through music. Those gifted in music lead us in glorifying God through song. Even if we aren't musical ourselves, we're blessed by joining together with all of creation—in heaven and on earth—to praise our Creator.

But worship isn't limited to music. Throughout Scripture, we see God's people worship Him in many different ways through their obedience. This week, we'll read about the construction of the Tabernacle and the detailed instructions God gave His people. As they faithfully obeyed His commands, they worshipped Him through their work. As we study these passages, we'll be challenged to worship God not only through song, but also through our obedience in everyday life.

Day 1: Read John 4:20-25

According to the words of Jesus, how can we be true worshippers? (23)

Day 2: Read Exodus 35:4-9

How were the people instructed and invited to participate in the worship of God?

How can we continue this practice of worship?

Daily Practice Week 2 - Worship (cont.)

Day 3: Read Exodus 35:10-19

Many craftsmen were needed to contribute to the construction of the Tabernacle and its contents. What types of craftsmen are acknowledged in these verses?

Are you gifted in any of these crafts? How can you continue the tradition of worshipping God with your gifts?

Day 4: Read Exodus 35:20-29

Bringing a gift and being a blessing to the Lord only requires a willing heart. What gift have you been given that can be used to the glory of God?

Day 5: Read Exodus 36:1-7

When we are obedient, the Lord provides in abundance. What was the order that the Lord, through Moses, gave in verses 6-7?

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Sept. 6 - 12, 2026

Week 3 - Evangelism

Ice Breaker

How did you first learn about Jesus?
If you want to go deeper, tell about a time you shared Jesus with someone.

Review

What are your key takeaways from this week's Daily Practice?

Watch Videos

- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Heather Gain, Director of Communications and Outreach

Discussion Questions

The
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Group Discussion Questions

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Daily Practice
Week 3 - Evangelism

Verse of the Week

What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight. What is whispered in your ear, shout from the rooftops. Matthew 10:27

Introduction

This week's focus is evangelism. Evangelism is the practice of sharing the gospel. While some people are uniquely gifted and called to vocational ministry, the privilege and responsibility of sharing the good news of Jesus belongs to every believer.

This week's memory verse is Rooftop's namesake and the verse upon which our church was founded. We believe every follower of Jesus should be equipped and ready to share the hope and blessings of a relationship with Him with the people in their everyday lives. As we faithfully reach the people around us, God uses us to reach the world.

Each day this week, pray for someone in your life who needs to know Jesus. If no one comes to mind, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal someone He wants you to pray for—and perhaps even someone He wants you to share the gospel with.

Day 1: Read Matthew 28:16-20

These words are Jesus' final instructions to His disciples. What does He instruct them to do?

How did you first hear the gospel?

Daily Practice Week 3 - Evangelism (cont.)

Day 2: Tell your story.

Write out the story of how you became a Christian. Try to keep it to about 250 words, the amount of time it would take you to tell your story to a stranger on an elevator ride (The Elevator Pitch).

Day 3: How is God working in your life now?

Displaying the fruit of the Holy Spirit's work is the best way to draw people to Jesus. How would you describe to someone what God is doing in your life now?

Day 4: Read Colossians 4:2-4

Now that you've written your testimony, share your story with someone today. If you've been praying for someone this week, reach out to them. If you're not sure what to say, simply tell them you've been praying for them and would like to share a part of your story.

Remember, your responsibility is simply to share what Jesus has done in your life. How someone responds is the work of the Holy Spirit. They may not be ready to follow Jesus today, but your conversation could be the beginning of something God continues to grow.

Who did you share with? How did it go?

Daily Practice Week 3 - Evangelism (cont.)

Day 5: Sharing the Gospel to all the nations

We are not just responsible for helping those in our immediate circle to hear about Jesus. The Great Commission tells us to go into all the world and share. What are some ways we can participate in the ministry of sharing the gospel around the world? How can we participate in the ministries of...

Vocational (Full-time) missionaries:

Short-term missions:

Local ministries:

How are you being led to contribute?

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Sept. 13 - 19, 2026

Week 4 - Community

Ice Breaker

What do you like to do when you hang out with a friend?

Review

What are your key takeaways from this week's Daily Practice?

Watch Videos

- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Pastorial Intern Ariel Stephens

Discussion Questions

The
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Group Discussion Questions

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2. What were the main points of the sermon?
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Daily Practice
Week 4 - Communinty

Verse of the Week

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Introduction

This week's focus is the practice of community. The Bible often describes God's people as a family. The idea of family can bring up many emotions—hopefully more positive than negative. After all, families are made up of imperfect people.

As followers of Jesus, we're invited into another kind of family: a community of believers who encourage one another, share life together, care for one another, and learn to resolve conflict in a way that honors Christ. Through this kind of biblical community, we grow in our faith and become more like Jesus.

Above all, we're called to love one another.

Day 1: Spend time together

Make plans as a small group to do something together. It could be a meal, a game night, meet up at the park...

Day 2: Read Romans 12:9-10

Write a note to encourage a member of your small group in their faith or share how they've inspired you. Ideally, you would choose another group member to encourage. If you have extra time, feel free to encourage your leader, an elder, or a staff member, as well.

Day 3: Read James 5:16

In what way can and should you be more vulnerable with your small group? Is there something you've been holding back (A deep hurt? A pattern of sin?) that you should share in order to solicit prayer and support as you lean into your own discipleship?

Daily Practice Week 4 - Community (cont.)

Day 4: Read Matthew 7:1-5, Ephesians 4:1-3, and James 1:19-20

These verses pertain to conflict. Conflict is the enemy of biblical community. Whether they are a believer or not, is there anyone in your life to whom you owe an apology? If the Spirit lays it on your heart to apologize to someone, you know what to do...

Day 5: Read James 2:1-12

Who do you have a hard time accepting and seeing as a precious child of God? Pray that He will soften your heart.

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Sept. 20 - 26, 2026

Week 5 - Service

Ice Breaker

What is your preferred outlet for service?

Review

What are your key takeaways from this week's Daily Practice?

Watch Videos

- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Pastor Josh Nix

Discussion Questions

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Group Discussion Questions

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Daily Practice
Week 5 - Service

Verse of the Week

Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9-10

Introduction

This week's focus is the practice of service. The way we serve others demonstrates what we truly believe. As we read in James 2, faith without action is dead. When our faith is genuine, it naturally leads us to love and serve others.

This week, we'll put our faith into action. Following the example of Jesus, we're here not to be served, but to serve.

Day 1: Leviticus 27:30-34, 2 Chronicles 31:4, Matthew 6:21

What is a tithe?

What are the purposes of tithing?

How does the concept of tithing relate to the topic of service?

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Yesterday, we learned about tithing. How does "tithing" differ from "giving?"

According to these verses, how should we give?

Daily Practice Week 5 - Service (cont.)

What do we have that we can give? (The answers to this can and should be obvious, as well as creative.) Which of these is most difficult for you to give?

Day 3: Show the love of Jesus today.

Who, in your life, could you serve in some way?

If you are not able to serve in the obvious way, what are you able to do for them? What can you do today?

Did you do it, yet? If not now, when?

Day 4: Read Romans 12:3-8

Each believer has been given gifts. These are ways to serve that meet the needs of others. Giving is important, but does not have to be hard. You were made in God's image and your purpose is to bring Him glory. What can you do to serve the Lord by serving others?

Are you actively serving at Rooftop? If yes, how are you serving?
If no, are you serving in another ministry?

If no, how can you use the gifts God has given you so that you can contribute to His work, for your blessing?

Day 5: Time for service

Option A: Your small group can build community by serving together. What is a service project that you can offer to others in your group to perform together?

Option B: You are the recipient of others' service. How can you encourage someone in your life that has served you?

Daily Practice
Week 6 - Prayer

Verse of the Week

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Introduction

This week's focus is the practice of prayer. Prayer is a gift God has given us so we can communicate with Him. It also requires us to intentionally set aside time and attention to be with Him. More than simply speaking to God, prayer is the practice of spending quality time in His presence. It means setting aside distractions and choosing to be fully present with Him.

For some, this comes naturally. For others, it takes intentional practice. The good news is that prayer is a discipline we can grow in, and God faithfully meets us as we spend time with Him.

This week, we'll set aside time to meditate, practice fasting, and read several of Jesus' prayers recorded in the Gospel of John.

Day 1: Read John 17:1-3

Who was the author of this prayer?

What is the purpose of the prayer?

What can we learn about prayer by reading these words?

Day 2: Meditation

Scripture helps us understand how to pray deeply and effectively using behavioral practices such as meditation and fasting. Meditation is described in the Psalms most simply in this verse: "Be still and know that I am God." Meditation is an opportunity to reside with God, be aware of who He is, and listen.

Read Psalm 46:1, 10

Take at least 5 minutes to be still in God's presence today.

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The
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Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2026

Week 6 - Prayer

Ice Breaker

What is something you believe about prayer?

Review

What are your key takeaways from this week's Daily Practice?

Watch Videos

- Worship with the Rooftop Worship Team
- Bonus Lesson with Pastor Matt Herndon

Discussion Questions

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Daily Practice Week 6 - Prayer (cont.)

Day 3: Read John 17:6-19

Who was the author of this prayer?

What is the purpose of the prayer?

What can we learn about prayer by reading these words?

Day 4: Fasting

Fasting is another spiritual discipline that helps us connect with God. We intentionally give up something that normally demands our time and attention so we can devote that time to prayer. Traditionally, fasting means abstaining from food for a set period of time, such as a meal or a day. Jesus Himself fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. For some people, however, fasting from a phone, social media, or another distraction may provide the space needed to slow down, rest, and focus on the Lord.

Read Matthew 6:16–18.

Today, fast for one meal and spend the time you would normally use to prepare and eat food in prayer. If you're unable to fast from food, set aside your phone or another screen for the day and use that time to pray instead.

Day 5: Read John 17:20-26

Who was the author of this prayer?

What is the purpose of the prayer?

What can we learn about prayer by reading these words?