

# We're so glad you're here today!

Is this your first time here? Welcome! Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you a special welcome gift. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. The Westwood Kids team is happy to help you get them connected. For more info on the great things happening here, check out [westwoodcc.org](http://westwoodcc.org).

## Baptism Celebration Today

Today many in our midst have decided to publicly declare their faith in Christ through baptism. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration.

Bush Lake and Chanhassen Campuses: 12:30–1:30pm  
Minnetonka Campus: 11:30am–12:30pm



## Join us for a Road Trip

Next Sunday we begin a new message series called Road Trip. Together we'll travel through the landscapes found in the Bible and discover their meaning. Join us for the journey!

## CONNECTING THE DOTS WHAT DO I DO WHEN GOD FEELS DISTANT?

When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there. <sup>46</sup>Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup>"Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." <sup>49</sup>The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." <sup>50</sup>"Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. <sup>51</sup>While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup>When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." <sup>53</sup>Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So, he and his whole household believed. <sup>54</sup>This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee." John 4:45–54 NIV

1. \_\_\_\_\_ blockades our vision of God's work. John 4:45–49
  
2. We will see God's \_\_\_\_\_ when we take Jesus at his word. John 4:49–54
  
3. You've got to \_\_\_\_\_ it to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

## Bible Reading Plan

Join us in reading the Bible together. The Bible Reading Plan is a way to incorporate reading the Bible into your week. Each day read a passage and take a few moments to reflect. These verses are chosen by our staff and designed to complement the Sunday message.

Reflection questions:  
What does it say?  
What does it mean?  
How can I live this out today?

- Matthew 8:5-9
- Matthew 8:10-13
- John 4:43-48
- John 4:49-54
- Mark 7:24-30



## You make ministry happen

Thank you for your financial giving! It allows the ministries at Westwood to continue throughout the year. In addition to our giving envelopes, here are some convenient ways you can give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving:



**Online:** A convenient and secure way to give is through our website. You can give a one-time or recurring gift.



**Westwood App:** Text westwoodapp to 77977 to get a response with a link to download the app.



**Giving Kiosks:** Small giving kiosks are located on the Chanhassen campus at the Info Spots.



**Text To Give:** Text the keyword "westwoodbsl", "westwoodchn" or "westwoodmtk" to 77977.

## Connecting the Dots

### What Do I Do When God Feels Distant?

June 23, 2019

1. In our lives, we make plans for big and small moments in our lives. Sometimes these are well thought out plans that are detailed to be prepared for whatever would come our way in those moments. But as we know things don't always go as planned. Discuss with your group a time that things didn't go as you planned.
2. When our lives become too much and our circumstances and difficult, we turn to God in prayer. We can pour out our hearts and ask God for help, healing, wisdom or presence in those moments. But there are times when God feels distant as we pray. How has this happened in your life?
3. Read John 4:43-54 as a group. In this passage, a royal official is looking for healing for his son who was sick. What does this passage teach us about God, His character and his plan?
4. As we look at why God can seem distant, Pastor Zac said, "it's a posturing that keeps us from seeing God's presence in our lives" and that when we see God as a cosmic vending machine that our view of God gets distorted. Reflect on this as a group.
5. We experience God's presence and provision when we take Jesus at His word, when we believe. The royal official believed in the word from Jesus and took a step in faith and was baptized. We are invited to do the same, to believe in Jesus and what he says. Is there a step that you personally need to take to the deeper end of the pool, trusting in Jesus and His word?
6. Our thoughts can so be shaped by what we focus on. When we choose to focus on the negative things around us, our eyes can be blurred from seeing God at work in our lives and the world around us. How can you personally make changes in your life in order to focus on God in order to have eyes to see how He is at work?
7. When God feels distant in times of hardship and uncertainty, we can turn to the Bible and the attributes of God to remind us that God has not abandoned you. Read **Psalm 34:17-18**, **1 Peter 5:10** and **Psalm 16:9-11**. Choose to memorize one as a group.
8. When we take Jesus at His word, we believe that he wants something greater for us. This can change how we pray, trusting that God has our best intentions in mind. How can believing this change your prayers personally and as a group? Discuss and PRAY!