

WEEK 3

OVERFLOW

THE FATHER'S LOVE



A man is seen from the back, looking out a window. The window looks out onto a mural of a soldier in a jungle setting. The text 'WEEK 3' is centered over the mural.

WEEK 3

HEARING THE FATHER'S
HEART FOR THE LOST
AND BROKEN

THE FATHER'S HEART IS BEATING FOR THE LOST. ARE WE LISTENING?

Does our Father's heartbeat for the lost, fill you with anguish? Are you moved with compassion for the lost in your neighbourhood? Will you respond to the Holy Spirit as He leads you to share the love of Christ with others?

A walk through one of our main cities in Australia or down the main street of any country town, will show the great need for the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we are born again, God takes our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. We cannot let our heart grow cold and hard for the lost, but must let God's love move on us to share the one true Saviour, Jesus.

People respond to the lost in many different ways. Religion responds with judgement. Complacency responds with ignorance. A child of God who is hearing the heart of their Father, will respond with anguish for the lost and this will lead them to action.

Founder of Teen Challenge and Time Square Church, David Wilkerson, shared in his sermon "*A Call to Anguish.*"

“A true prayer life begins at the place of anguish. You see, if you set your heart to pray, God's going to come and start sharing His heart with you.”

The truth is, when you come into a deep relationship with Father God, you start to hear His heartbeat. His heart beats strong for people who are separate from Him and do not know Him.

When you go about your day, does the Holy Spirit prompt you about specific people? What is He saying? What is He leading you to do?



Sometimes it's to share the Gospel. Sometimes it's to pray. Sometimes it's to share a word. Sometimes it's to share an act of kindness. Father God knows what to do at just the right time. Their right time! He knows when the harvest is ready and when people's hearts are prepared to receive the Word!

There is no one formula. Simply be led by the Holy Spirit as your Father knows what you should do, when you should share and how you should go about it.

When Jesus was on this earth, we see he was moved with compassion (Matthew 9:36). Love without action, is not love. Love is a verb, a doing word. How can we love if we don't act? This doesn't come from a sense of obligation, duty or performance but comes from a place where God's love has been poured into us and through us for the lost.

Jesus gave strong attention to the lost in His ministry. He shared three parables to express the importance of reaching those who have strayed from the Father: the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son.

In the parable of the lost coin, we see the lady who has lost her coin and searches for this one coin, calling her friends and neighbours to celebrate with her when she finds it (Luke 15:8-10).

In the parable of the lost sheep, we see the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep to find the one that has walked away (Luke 15:1-7).

In the parable of the lost son, we see the Father waiting patiently for one of his sons, his lost son, to return home (Luke 15:11-32).

Many of us have visions of seeing masses of people come to Jesus but Jesus shows us in these parables that He is about the one. We cannot reach the masses if we will not reach out for the one. He leaves the ninety-nine to find the one to bring them back to the fold.

Who is the one God is stirring in your heart?

Are you willing to search for them, to leave what you have to find them and to wait patiently for God to convict them and bring them home?

God's heart beats for those that have never met Him and for those that have rebelled against Him.

While reaching out to lost souls is critical, we also need to consider those who were with Jesus. When we read the Parable of the Lost Son, we see a son who rebelled against the Father. Someone who has been with the Father, but has hardened his heart. Some would call these people, "backslidden Christians."

When we see these people how do we respond? Are we like the older brother, judgemental and jealous of the grace that is offered to them? Or are we moved to wait for the return of these sons (and daughters), like the Father?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

Jesus' desire has always been to find and restore lost people.

Do you or someone you know have a passion for restoring second hand items?

Some people restore furniture and antiques, others restore cars or even motorcycles. In our materialistic and consumer-driven culture, we are so busy buying new things we sometimes forget there things that are older that can be restored into something beautiful again.



If you know someone who has a passion to restore old things, they primarily have two questions in mind: How can they find undervalued items that can be restored? and How can they go about restoring to become new again? While others can judge old items and think they are useless and ready for the rubbish tip, a restorer sees the potential to form something new again.

The primary assignment work of Jesus was to seek and save the lost. His assignment has not changed, he is still doing it today.

Father God is looking to the body of Christ to be conduits of love and mercy to the lost. Are we hearing his heartbeat? Will his heart move us to action?

How can say we love if we are not compelled to move with action?

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

The love of our Father will not only stir anguish for the lost, it will lead us to action. Will we act following the prompting of the Holy Spirit in us?

Here are the 3 activations for this week

ACTIVATION 1: LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BRING ANGUISH THAT LEADS TO ACTION

As the heart of the Father moves on us, let it flow through us to others.

What does a life led of the Holy Spirit look like? The book of Acts is a key to understanding what a Spirit-led life looks like. When the disciples of Jesus were baptised in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, we then see 3000 people come to faith in Jesus. Acts 1:8 is clear that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give believers power to be witnesses for Jesus.

In a highly pragmatic culture, we can lean towards planned and measured action. The Holy Spirit prompts us in the moment and we need be obedient to the Holy Spirit as He speaks and leads us. The leading of the Holy Spirit is far more spontaneous than many of us would like. Will you be obedient to the call of the Holy Spirit as we go about your day?

With human methods we could think that it might take 100 people to find the 1 lost soul who is ready for the Gospel. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, Father God will lead us to the right person at the right time.

Are you ready to be led by God to share the Gospel?

Spend some time in prayer and ask to be led of the Holy Spirit.

When you pray, listen to His heartbeat and keep listening as you go about your day.

Who is His heart beating for? Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What is His heart saying to you? Who is He highlighting?

What words is He giving you to say?

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

ACTIVATION 2: CONSIDER C.P.R FOR THOSE WHO HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM GOD

Let us be open to restoring those back to God with compassion and prayer.

What do we mean by C.P.R ? C.P.R stands for Compassion. Prayer. Restore.

While we want to keep seeing more souls come into the Kingdom, there are many who have been born again, but have walked away from their relationship with Jesus. They may have walked away from God because of a drifting faith, or for lacking proper fellowship or not going deeper in their relationship with God. In Australia, we see large numbers of young people awakening to the things of God. This is happening because they are finding who they are in Christ and are being stirred to go deeper in their relationship with God.

When people first believe and find “the real thing”, a relationship with God, they get set alight and alive for God. If they are then fed religion, they can quickly drift from God back into the world. Prayer is the key for people to come into a personal encounter with the living God to keep their flame alight.

Spend some time asking the Lord to give you compassion for the lost. Don't let your flame of compassion go out!

Spend some time praying for people who have backslidden, praying that they will have a personal encounter with the living God. We will not be moved beyond our fear, prejudice, or doubt, until our heart is filled to overflowing with His love.

Spend time actively working on helping them to experience restoration in their relationship with God. Send them a Bible verse, ask them over for a meal or continue to pray for them. It is your kindness that shows you are a true follower of Jesus.

ACTIVATION 3: START A 6x6 PRAYER FOCUS IN 2019

Become more focussed, targeted and specific when praying for the lost.

As we have shared, praying for the lost is like dynamite in the Kingdom. A friend of one of our team had left his faith in Christ and moved back into the world.

He knew his father, and his father was a diligent prayer warrior and evangelist. For years, the son didn't want anything to do with Jesus- his father could only pray and love his son. After years of being away from the Lord, the son was driving in his car by himself. All of a sudden the man's son had a direct encounter with the Lord. He said "It was like heaven come down into my car, waking me up." From that point, the son gained a renewed faith in Jesus and is now walking with God again.

There is power in persistent prayer!

If prayer is so effective, why have some of us stopped praying consistently? Our culture has trained us to expect "microwaved magic results", if something doesn't happen instantly we go "well, it didn't work".

Why don't things happen right away with God? Sometimes God is testing our faith and helping us grow. It does not mean He can't deliver on seeing people set free miraculously, clearly that still happens today! Prayer needs to be focussed and regular if we are to see fruit from it.

James 5:16 (NIV) says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

6x6 is a simple approach to focus your prayer. How it works is that you come up with a list of 6 people, you pray for each over 6 weeks. At the end of 6 weeks, you review the list and ask the Holy Spirit which names to keep on your list. For each person on the list you feel to remove, you add others onto the list.

Focussed prayer can bring breakthrough results. Will you commit to a 6x6 in 2019?

Here are the
3 activations
for this week

OVERFLOW



12

17 March 2019

Pray for the lost across the world,
that they will respond to our Father
who is drawing them to Himself.

13

18 March 2019

Pray that the Lord of the
Harvest will send out
more workers.

14

19 March 2019

Pray that the Lord will move you
with compassion for the lost.

15

20 March 2019

Pray you will discern who,
when, where Holy Spirit
leading you.



16

21 March 2019

Pray you will accurately hear what our Father wants you to say to others.

17

22 March 2019

Pray for opportunities to share your faith today.

18

23 March 2019

Pray for an increase in souls saved Australia.



Partners in Prayer
& Evangelism