



Jesus Is
Part 5 – Jesus is Greater
Pastor Ted Cunningham

Good morning, Woodland Hills family. Oh, do we miss you; we miss you in this place. We want to stay connected to you during this time. We love your comments and all that online, but we would love to see pictures. Some of you are going, “I’m not ready for pictures,” so take pictures of the kids while watching and worshipping today. And then today is a great time to post your pictures. Post them in the comments, post them online, hashtag or tag Woodland Hills Family Church, especially during Fam Jam.

We hope you stick around for the Fam Jam After Party. Kids, you are going to love it. We do have some pictures though to get started here. Look at this one. They’re standing, they’re anxious, and there are snacks. I hope you have good snacks during this time. What about the next one? There is someone a little bit more comfortable. See, you don’t have to show your face. You don’t have to get dressed. How about the next one? Even the baby at the front and again, snacks. We are a snacking church.

How about one more? Ah, that is Hanalee, who turns five years old tomorrow, so I thought let’s get a couple thousand people from Woodland Hills Family Church to wish you a happy birthday online. Comment “Happy birthday, Hanalee!” in the comments of Facebook. I’m going to do my best to sing to you. I’m going to invite everyone in your family room, you’re living room, your bedroom, your car. Wherever you’re watching this, let’s wish Hanalee, who turns five years old tomorrow, a happy birthday. Happy birthday to you. *Happy Birthday to You. Happy Birthday to You. Happy Birthday to You. Happy Birthday to You.* They better be watching, Katie, that’s all I know. Anyway, post your pictures. We would love to continue to see your smiling faces during this time.

It’s completely empty in here. We have Matt running a camera. We have a few tech folks and friends and family gathered around, but there are about five people gathered in here right now. We are keeping with the guidelines, practicing hygiene and social distancing practices, although I do prefer the term *physical distancing* because this is an issue of proximity, not an issue of anything social, so stay connected to people any way you can, online, over the phone, over text, during this time.

At this point in the service, I usually say, “Hey, here at Woodland Hills, we take an offering...” And we do. We continue to take an offering. Last week, your generosity during this time was overwhelming. Many people sent checks in, many people gave online. We want to give you a few options for giving. Many of you already give online. A good percentage of our church family gives online on a regular Sunday to Sunday basis. If you’ve never given online, we have a brand-new way to give online. You can hit the button, “Give online now.” You can actually use your bank account or a check to give and set that up, if you’d like to give. Or, you can do it the snail mail way and mail it to the church if you’d like.

I know some of you are holding onto it because you are going to be bringing your first check to the church when we meet again. We just remind you of 2 Corinthians 9. We are to give as we have been determining in our heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, but we're to give with a cheerful heart and we're to give generously.

So, as you give, as you practice cheerful and generous giving this morning, I'm going to start us off, before the message today, in prayer. There is a lot to pray for. I want to call people by name. This has been very important for us. We can be very general in our prayer, and I know the Lord hears that, but I want to call out names that represent people today and I encourage you to do the same. As I pray here and as you're praying wherever you're gathered today, as I mention medical community or missionaries or mayors, employees, employers, business owners, I want to encourage you to actually call out names of people you know in that field. Join me for a word of prayer.

Father, as we come to you this morning, we come as a church family. We are spread out around this community through Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas, but I know we have many friends joining us from around the country and around the world as well. We are in a different time, but a time that is testing us all, revealing much in all of us. We, as a family, want to take time to pray for people who are fighting COVID-19, who are in medical facilities and laboratories all around the world, trying to find something to fight against this, and vaccines. I start by praying for them. We are praying against this virus in the name of Jesus, in the good name of Jesus, in the authority of that name and through the power of his blood.

I'm praying right now for our medical community. I think about Tiffany and Lindsey; these are folks, these are family of Woodland Hills. So many doctors and so many nurses and so many on staff in hospitals around this area and around the nation. As we think even of New York, I pray for wisdom and discernment there in their leaders and protection of their medical community. And in Seattle and in places like Louisiana and in Chicago and Atlanta and Dallas and Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. We could just list city after city, Lord, but we just pray for our medical community.

And our first responders during this time, we are grateful for all of them, grateful for Chris, grateful for Jim, grateful for so many people who are answering the call. I'm grateful for our grocery store clerks. Every person out there can say amen right now, Father, for the fact that we are still able to go and get groceries. We are grateful for that. I pray for employees right now that are dealing with uncertainty and doubts. I pray for employers who are trying to figure out if they can go another week with payroll and when they need to let their folks know that some things are going to change. Business owners in our community... just the uncertainty.

Lord, you know I get emotional almost every time during prayer because I think of all the names. I could list off a lot of names right now of people who are just in tears right now thinking about their 100 employees or their 50 employees. Some have just a couple of employees and some are self-employed, and it's just their income that is gone. They're looking forward to April, they're looking forward to May, they're looking forward to June, yet not knowing. Would you comfort them during this time?

I pray for our mayors, I think of Mayor Ed, I think of all our aldermen and women. I think of governors. I think of our governor. I think of governors in Arkansas and Louisiana and New York. I think of our congress and our senate and our president. Would you give them wisdom as they lead us as a nation?

Give our citizens wisdom and discernment. We have a lot of opinions with no knowledge, experience, or training in how to deal with this, so the best we can do is what we're doing right now and that's praying.

I think of our missionaries. I pray for each one of our missionaries from the Dodsons in Africa to missionaries who come off the field during this time. From Indonesia to Haiti to Africa and around the world, as we continue to give our tithes and offerings, that they can be comforted in knowing that we're in a position as a church where support continues to go on and for that we are grateful.

I think of the ministries of Woodland Hills. I'm grateful for the generosity of this church. I'm grateful that we are able to continue to meet the needs of students in Stone and Taney Counties and counties outside of Stone and Taney, into Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri that students are being fed during this time of being off school.

I just pray now as a church family, representing Woodland Hills church family, but knowing the voices are going out and names are being called out and people crying out to you right now. In a time of so uncertainty, this we know, Jesus is greater. That's what we're talking about today. You are greater than our fears, our pain, our trials, our loss. You are greater than loneliness for that one who is home right now alone. You are greater than sickness, greater than uncertainty, greater than doubts, and you are greater than COVID-19, and that we rest in. Today we celebrate as we talk about what it means that Jesus is greater. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus, and everyone agreed and said... Amen.

I brought a laugh track today. I don't know if I'm going to need it, but trust me, I'll use it if I have to. They are laughing back there though and that helps. I don't know what y'all have been doing, but Amy and I have been decluttering. I say we because last Friday, so over a week ago... Don't worry, I'm not going to go through the bag, but I will be selling some stuff. I thought now was a good time for an online... Don't make me do it, but I'm gonna... [plays laugh track]. Anyway, she gave me a empty garbage bag.

Here's what I'm encouraging couples to do during this time. Some of you have developed a honey-do-list this long which is overwhelming. If you could ask your spouse, ask your parent, ask your sibling, "What's one thing I can do for you today?" I've been trying to practice that in our home. So, Amy, "What's one thing can I do?" Her love language is decluttering, Marie Kondo, tidying up; it's her passion. She handed me an empty garbage bag two Fridays ago and said, "Will you take this into the closet (our master closet) and put twenty items in there you no longer need?" I didn't do it that day. I found something else though. I did do other stuff around the yard.

The next day, she said, "Hey have you gotten me those 25 items?" "No, I thought we were at 20, but no I didn't." I didn't do it that day. The next day she asked me, "Have you had a chance to get me those 30 items?" I didn't do it, but the next day I did and in this bag are 35 items that I took out of our closet. Now this, for Amy, is a big deal because what this is doing is freeing her. This is what decluttering does

to her. It is releasing, it is getting rid of stuff. I can tell you, this isolation, this shut down, this loss that people are experiencing right now, in many ways, is a cleansing, it's a freeing up of stuff that we've been holding onto.

I've been telling people that the virus did not cause what's coming out of you because it was already in you. The virus bumped into you, the virus bumped into me and what's coming out of me, what's coming out of you was in there long before we ever heard of COVID-19. It's one of the things I've been studying this week. From West Virginia to Los Angeles and then to Salt Lake City, domestic abuse cases or calls are up 30%. I don't want you to hear that if you are in a peaceful home and you've had a good marriage... It's not that you're going to snap tomorrow and deal with domestic abuse. That's not it. What it's done is take people who are already dealing with power and control abusers and it's just intensifying. That's because what's coming out of them was already in them.

That's why Brad Wilcox at the University of Virginia had a great article in the Wall Street Journal yesterday. He said this is going to cause the divorce rate to plummet as it did after the Great Depression. Why is domestic abuse on the rise but then divorce on the decline? It's because what's coming out of you right now was already in you. I just want to encourage us, as we talk about *Jesus is Greater*, to let what's coming out... Let's process it, let's work through it, let's deal with it because whatever it is we're going to talk about today, whatever we're going to deal with, Jesus is greater.

I want to share with you some of the things I've been wrestling with because I know you have been as well. I've tried to respond quicker to messages and emails like never before. Here's what I'll start with as we talk about this. **I'm grateful for technology and livestreaming.** I'm grateful that we're able to stay connected like this, **but I still prefer face to face.** I hear a lot of pastors right now talking about how this is the new way, and if you go back to the old way, it's kind of like Sears telling Amazon they're not relevant anymore. I think it's not an either/or and I don't want to refer to what the church was three weeks ago as a business that may be going out of business. I'm grateful for the technology, will continue to leverage technology, but man, I gotta tell you, I cannot wait to be back with you face to face.

1 Thessalonians... To kind of give you the backdrop of this book, if you read these five chapters, the tone changes throughout because Paul has a longing to be with the Thessalonians again. He left and he was accused of trying to fatten his wallet. And now the believers in Thessalonica are under persecution. He writes back to them. They are young believers and the tone starts off at the beginning in 1 Thessalonians as a seasoned pastor encouraging young believers, but as these five chapters progress, it changes from young believers growing in the Lord to there are some more things you need to learn, there's some growth here that needs to take place.

We read in Verse 9 this rhetorical question that Paul asks. ***9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.*** The picture we have here is these young believers are like tender plants and they have a root system, and this root system is withstanding, it's holding up against the persecution that they're going through, but Paul knows the roots need to go deeper. There are some things that are lacking that they need to be taught, they need to be trained in, and they need to go deeper, so when things get even more intense, they're

prepared for it. Paul is saying, “I want to be there in person when that happens. I want to be there to help you, I want to be there to encourage you.”

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. The desire is to be in their presence. ***12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else...*** Which he has already been praised for, but he is telling them to continue to love one another. ***...just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.*** And then he begins to go into Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, speaking of the Second Coming of the Lord.

So, this is the tension that I’ve been dealing with and maybe you’ve been dealing with it as well. I’m longing to see you again... This is hard. Amy and I have worked through this this week because I didn’t want to become this doomsday person. ***I’m longing to see you again, but I’m longing for heaven more.*** I hope you understand that tension and the heart behind that. I’m longing to see you again. I want to see you again. I know you want to see each other again, but I hope right now that you are longing for heaven. I hope you're thinking about heaven. I hope you're thinking about the return of the Lord and desiring the return of the Lord. Our last part in this series is called *Jesus is Coming Again*. I joked with the teaching team – Wouldn’t it be great that on that Sunday, Jesus is Coming Again; he comes on that day; that is the day of the Lords return?

Paul wrestled with this same tension. In Philippians, we read... and this is as clear as tension can be stated in the scripture. ***21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body...*** Or here among you. ***...this will mean fruitful labor for me.*** I mean, I’ll be profitable. I’ll do stuff if I continue to go on. ***Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two...*** That’s the very definition of tension. I am torn between the two: to stay here and minister to you, for us to minister to each other, or to go and be with the Lord.

I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far... Longing to be with you, but longing for heaven more. ***24 ...but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*** So even when Paul is talking about staying in the body, he’s saying, “That’s not for me; that’s for you; there is a benefit to you.”

As he told the Thessalonians, I can help you put down these deep roots. I know you’re longing to see brothers and sisters in Christ again, but I hope that with this trial that we’re going through, what’s coming out of you right now as you process this and as you deal with this as you go through this trial, you remember what we read in James 1. ***2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.***

This week I've heard some pastors with great intentions share with their congregation, "We will be back in this room again." We just came out of series called *Promises not Promises* and again, I'm just processing how I'm dealing with this a little bit with you today. I love the heart of the pastor who says that, but I can't promise that. Likely, yes, we'll be back in this room, but I can't promise that we'll be back in this room. We're told in scripture that our life is a vapor. Life is uncertain. It's not a guarantee that we'll meet back in this room again.

But I do have a promise for you and here's the promise. Follower of Jesus, we will see each other again. That's a promise I can clearly give you. I can't promise we'll be in this room again, but I can promise we will see each other again, here or in heaven. This is why you have to get serious about what we're talking about. This is why if you've been playing the games, if you've been attending and faith has not been something you've taken seriously, this is the time. Right now, I know I long to be with you, but I long for heaven more, here's the last tension I think we're all dealing with.

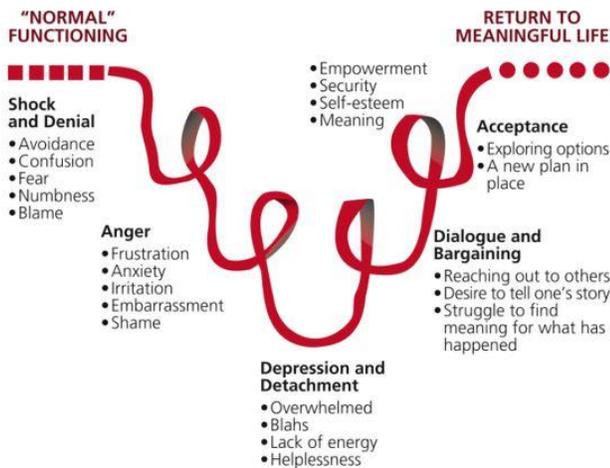
We're wrestling with fears while staying grounded in truth. I heard somebody last week ask, "I'm fearful, I'm scared, does that mean I'm a bad Christian?" When I heard that... I hate that somebody put that out there to you like that.

I called Ryan Pannell who's a therapist. He's been at our church since the beginning. He was our church counselor for years. Now he's at Focus on the Family with the Hope Restored Marriage Intensive. Ryan says something that I love. He says, "Our emotions are like our children. We should listen to them, we should care for them, but we should not allow them to make major decisions for our family." The reason I love that word picture and that word picture sticks with me is because that's what some of us need to be doing right now. We need to be listening to what's coming out of the closet. We need to be listening to the stuff that we're eventually going to let go of.

We need to be listening to that. We need to be processing things emotionally. But I want to help us all because we're all dealing with it emotionally in different ways. We have different types of fears related to this. I just want to be clear. Just like grief – and many of us are experiencing grief right now – there is a loss in meeting together, there's a loss of jobs, there's loss of income. So, you're processing this emotionally. I want you to understand this about grief, about loss. It's very important how we teach how to mourn with those who are mourning.

There is not a direct path or a precise timeline through grief. It's not exact. Here's what we want it to look like though. We want it to be this straight line. These are the stages of grief. Something happens to you like a sudden death in your family. There is shock, there is denial trying to process how it's happening. It can turn to anger and depression and then you don't want to talk to anybody, but eventually you start opening up again, and you start talking about it, and at some point, there will be acceptance. You'll be moving on with a new normal or a new way of life. If we're not careful, we think it's all on this straight line. We think shock should take a week, then denial should take a week, then anger should take a week, then depression should take a week, then dialogue should take a week, and then you should move on. But that is not how grief works. There is not a direct path or a direct line and a precise timeline.

Stages of the Grief Cycle



Grief looks more like this. Again, there is shock and denial, anger, depression and detachment, dialogue and bargaining, acceptance, and then returning to meaningful life. But we have to be patient with one another. I'll have them include this in the notes for those that want to dig into it a little bit more. But when someone is mourning, or someone is in grief or someone is experiencing loss... I see this all the time.

There are really two extremes we go to, as people are mourning. Here are two things we don't need to say to people who are grieving. Two things we don't need to push people toward.

With the first one, we'll often say, "You haven't mourned enough." I have friends who have gone through deep grief with a spouse who is dying of cancer. I'm thinking of a dear friend right now who after his wife died, many people online, not knowing the whole situation, were telling him, "You're not mourning enough." But what they didn't understand was his wife had battled cancer for so long that all of the heavy mourning was done with her. The two of them grieved together. They mourned together that by the time she passed and by the time of the funeral, the heavy mourning – again, it's not that straight line – had passed.

Adult children have to be very careful with how they talk to a mom or a dad when grieving, telling mom and dad they haven't grieved enough, because to the other side of this, to the other extreme, "You should be over this by now." We see this a lot in couples that are grieving at different paces with the loss of a child. I know of a couple right now. They lost a child to a tragic accident and they're grieving at different paces, and they are at different stages in the grief cycle. One doesn't need to say to the other, "You should be over this by now," just because your past that stage.

When I go to the hospital, I don't sit down with some who just lost a family member and give them a lesson on death. That's not the time. I just practice the ministry of presence. Right now is not the time for me to be talking to someone who lost their income two weeks ago... I have many friends in entertainment, I have a lot of comedian friends who their schedules have been cleared through June and that was their income. This isn't the time for me to sit down on the phone with them and give them the Dave Ramsey step of you should have an emergency fund. I want to grieve with them. I want to mourn with them.

I'll say there are many lessons to learn. I'm learning a lot. There is a lot coming out of me right now that I'm writing down. But not all lessons need to be taught right now. I think what we were planning on speaking on the rest of the year is probably all going to be set aside. We'll get back to it. But once we are out of this and once people are back to work... again, not a guarantee, but we're praying for that, we're hoping for that, we're seeking that, we're asking the Lord for that. Once we're out, there are going to be so many great lessons. I encourage you. This would be a good time to journal those, but maybe not go

at your spouse with them, maybe not go at a parent with them. Talk to your children as you process through this.

If you have your bibles, I'm going to encourage you to turn to Ephesians 1 because I want us to see this today. His power is great, and his love is great, and that's what's going to get us through this time. Ephesians 1 – ***18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...*** This is in the past. You were called and it is a great hope to give you some of the definitions behind this. Hope is the believers' absolute certainty of victory in God. That is the hope that Paul is talking about in Ephesians. ***...the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people...*** This is speaking of the final redemption from the presence of sin.

So, there's the past, there's the future, but then he talks about this power, this great power that we have, and it has been given to Christ for us. ***19 ...and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*** This great power... Again, this power is this living force available to us right now through this time that we are going through. ***20 That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked...*** Jesus is the name that is above every name. ***...not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.***

When we talk about God's great power, here's what we need to be comforted in during this time. Two things: **God's sovereignty and God's omnipotence** that is in Christ Jesus. Sovereignty defined, if you want a theological definition, is *the right of God to do as he wishes with His creation*. We use the word *sovereign* when we say he is still on the throne, he's still in charge, he's 100% in control of all of this.

But it's important when you talk about sovereignty to also talk about omnipotence. That's because omnipotence is *God has unlimited power over his creation*. It's one thing to say someone is over all, but if the one over all doesn't have all the power, then we have a problem. But the reason we don't have a problem is because God is over all and he has all the power. Kids, I'm going to say that two more times, so you get it. God is over all and he has all the power. God is over all and he has all the power. These two go together: sovereignty and omnipotence.

A.W. Tozer put it this way: *"Sovereignty and omnipotence must go together. One cannot exist without the other. To reign, God must have power, and to reign sovereignly, He must have all power. And that is what omnipotent means, having all power."*

Pastor John Piper gives this definition that gives us strength, encouragement, and peace for today. *"The omnipotence of God means eternal, unshakable refuge in the everlasting glory of God no matter what happens on this earth."* His power is great. Christ has power over the church. He has power over all authorities.

I was thinking about it this week. Our leaders right now... In my opinion, which doesn't mean much when it comes to how this crisis is being handled... I'm watching our president and vice president and

Governor Cuomo. Here's when I knew some big things were happening when I heard Governor Cuomo thank President Trump and when I heard President Trump thank Governor Cuomo, I'm thinking big things are happening. I thought it was incredible.

These are people in power in our nation and they don't have all the answers. You understand they don't have all the power. This is why we are putting our best efforts forward, but we serve the one who is over all and has all the power. His power is great.

His love is greater. His love is greater than all of your fears, pain, trial, loss, loneliness, sickness, uncertainty, doubts, and I'll add this one: He is greater than your sin. When you get to Ephesians 2, we read, **1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...** So, believer, I want you to read this text right now as what you were, who you were before Christ. For those who have not placed faith in Jesus, this is who you are now. You were dead in your transgressions in sin **2 ...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world...** That's what someone not in Christ does, they follow the ways and the systems of this world. **...and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.**

This is the summation of the sin nature that we do our own thing, we want to be boss, we want to be in charge, we want all the power and control over our life, we're going to do what we want. "There are many ways that seem right to man, but in the end, lead to destruction." **Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.** "For the wages of sin is death."

Watch what he does, the gift of God's eternal life and it's this great love. **4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**

Understand today that salvation never originates in the efforts of people. Salvation is a gift of God, the faith to receive Christ is a gift of God. **9 ...not by works, so that no one can boast.** It doesn't originate with you, it doesn't originate with me. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. If it was something that you were able to do, then you would brag about it. It's nothing you can do. **10 For we are God's handiwork, Craftmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** His power is greater and over all. His love is greater than all of our sins. His power is greater than all of our fears, doubts, and uncertainty, and his love is greater than all of our sins.

In times like this, one of the reasons I tend to go back to the hymns... And I love all the music that's coming out, and I think a lot of great music is going to come out of this time around the world. But, the hymn writers... I was always taught that the hymn writers had an eye here on earth and an eye on heaven. That's what kept them grounded. As another pastor friend of mine likes to say, "Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good." That's the tension that Paul was talking about today.

If you've never placed faith in Jesus, we want to end each week with giving you the opportunity to do that. I've heard from people that churches that don't have the ability to livestream... And pastors are doing the best they can with Facetime, but I heard from some last week who drove to their church parking lot where they were unable to have a livestream, and they watched this livestream. Many right now are questioning and many are seeking and I'm grateful.

I've been watching the news this week. A couple of times an hour, the gospel message by Franklin Graham has been placed online. I'm praising my Father in heaven knowing that for many who have never placed faith in Jesus, this is going to be the time of your salvation. I want to end with this hymn and as I do, I want you to consider where you are in Christ. Are you trusting in Christ? We can wrestle with our fears. We are going to wrestle with our fears. We're going to have moments that we're scared. We're going to have moments that are tense. But like the lament psalms always come back to a confession of trust, that confession of faith in Christ, follower of Jesus, come back to that place, wrestle with your fears. Listen, find out what's going on. What's coming out is a good thing to process right now. But we ultimately trust in Christ because we know he is greater than all that we are dealing with right now. This song... This is the second time I'm going to sing in a service, but I love this hymn.

*Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Father, for this morning, right now, I want to start by praying a prayer that anyone watching right now can pray to make Christ their Savior. They can pray to receive Christ the Savior. If that's you and you've never trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, would you just pray, in your own words, after me?

Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. I know I've been going my own way, choosing my own path, but today, I turn from that. I repent of my way. I repent of following the world's way. I repent of following Satan's way, of following the systems of this world. I repent of my sin. I ask that you forgive me and today I confess Jesus is Lord. I believe he has been raised from the dead, I believe my sins are forgiven, and I believe that he is my Savior.

If you prayed that prayer today, I pray right now for you as a new believer. What a time to learn and grow in your faith. You can join in the rest of this prayer as I pray for the believers of this church and of our community.

Father, thank you again for the technology. I thank you for each person in this room right now that has been here three weeks in a row now, making this work. We are all... I speak on behalf of the Woodland Hills family. We are grateful for them, grateful for what you continue to do through them. How important their gifts and talent and knowledge and expertise are during this time.

I pray for our church family. Help us be generous during this time. It's a time where I know many churches are pulling back and conserving, not knowing how long this will last. May we be overflowing in love toward one another and overflowing in love with our community. May we be giving. I feel we're

not even close to relating to what the writers of scripture went through for their faith and in ministry. But, boy, a lot of the scripture is making more and more sense to us today. We're feeling more of what we've read for years. May we continue to just press into you, lean into you, read your Word like we've never read it before, pray like we've never prayed before, and we pray all of this in the name of Jesus, and everyone agreed and said... Amen.