

Welcome to Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



Announcements

We are concluding our New Year Series entitled, “**20/20: A Vision for Spiritual Growth**” where we are looking at key passages to remind us that we are *Complete* in Christ, *Called* to Christ and *Changed* into the image of Christ.

Next week, we will start a new sermon series entitled “**The Main Thing.**” This series will focus on keeping Jesus and his kingdom at the center of our daily living. Join us and invite your friends and loved ones.



How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together. To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



Stay for Fellowship & Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

* The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

Get in touch with us:

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LIVING WORD NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

20/20

A VISION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

CHANGED: CALLED TO FRUITFULNESS

Matthew 13:3-9

Pastor Nic Sy | January 26, 2020 | 10AM & 1PM Service

sermon notes



SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of January 26-February 1, 2020



Sermon quick review

As you recall this week's sermon entitled "Changed: Called to Fruitfulness," what was the most compelling or memorable point that stood out or confused or challenged you?

Or

Briefly share (1) a spiritual LESSON that you learned from the sermon, (2) an application from your last week's NEXT STEPS or (3) a PRAISE report from the past week.

Connecting

Share stories about your favourite and worst teachers.

Group discussion

Read Matthew 13:3-20; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15.

1. From Jesus' interpretation of the parable, what do the following represent: (a) seed, (b) sower; (c) soil; (d) seeds on the road/path; (e) seeds on the rocky places; (f) seeds on the thorns; (g) good soil.
2. Jesus tells of a farmer who is sowing seed in his field. Is there anything striking about how he is scattering the seed? What does this say about God? And what does this say about how we should share our faith?
3. How would you picture a person where the seeds fall on the path? Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. What is the Bible's perspective on those who don't believe in God? What are the ways that our hearts become hardened? As a Christian, how can you work to soften your heart so that you are able to respond to God's Word?
4. *Share.* The rocky soil receives the seed with joy but the plant withers when trials and tribulations come. How have your recent trials brought you closer to, or pushed you away from God? How have these affected your faith?
5. The seed that fell on thorns were choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures. What are some of these thorns that we face in the world today? Of these three areas, which is your most difficult struggle? Why?

6. How does Luke 8:15 describe the good soil? What is the role of patience and perseverance in producing a good crop?
7. *Share & Discuss.* How do you pay attention to God and his Word? What is keeping you from being like the good soil? How can you cultivate the soil of your heart to be productive in 2020? How can your group purpose together to do the things necessary to be productive soil this year? Will you make 2020 a year of responding to the Lord's invitation to live for Him? What will that look like in your daily life?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**
This week, pray to ask God to reveal areas in your life that are not necessarily good soil. Ask that he work in you to improve the condition of your heart.
 - I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
 - I will carve out time with God in the meditation of his Word and prayer and will intentionally cultivate the soil of my heart in order to hear him.
 - I will seek for opportunities to sow the seed this week to my unbelieving friends.
 - I will be aware of distractions in my life (e.g. social media, television, _____).
 - I will replace some of these and spend time with God.
 - I will surrender _____ this area to the Lord.
 - I will _____.

Closing the session.

(Group facilitators: Before closing, read through the "Personal Reflections & Action.")

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that God reveal areas in your life that are not necessarily good soil and ask that he work in you to improve the condition of your heart.
- Pray for a freshness and passion for Christ and his Word.
- Pray for those who are going through personal struggles.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

Reflection. (Taken from our 5-Day Devotional)

We sometimes wish that faith and trials were mutually exclusive, but the Bible refutes that idea. "Trials ... have come so that your faith ... may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor."

Trials are sometimes self-inflicted. For example, risky behavior often leads to sad consequences. Sometimes trials are imposed on us when someone wishes to hurt or abuse us. Other trials seem unavoidable. Terminal cancer and cerebral palsy testify that our world is groaning under the weight of sin. When it comes to trials, the only question is when and in what way they will arrive.

In response, we can choose bitterness or endurance. Bitterness makes trials more painful. The way of obedience involves endurance that surrenders to God's eternal grace. Why?

For one thing, trials point to God's ultimate goal. The Bible compares times of trial to a birthing process (Romans 8:22-24) that will celebrate new life and result in deliverance from all the effects of evil. In addition, like an excellent jeweler, the Lord will bring his most treasured possessions to journey through the crucibles of fire so that he and his truth will be his children's priority.

We do not like trials. But one of the greatest miracles is that God uses them so that we can grow, live, and hope in him.

