

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 has been both meaningful and memorable.

Here are some activities going on with us!

☐ Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Check-up

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their **Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar** levels to avail of our free check-up, happening **every after Sunday service!**

☐ How can we pray for you?

It is a privilege to pray for you! You may send your **prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.

☐ Discover life with our Small Groups.

Looking for deeper connections and a closer walk with God? Our **small groups** are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!

☐ Stay for fellowship and refreshments.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection!** It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!

Schedules for Services:

English Service:

Morning 10:00 AM
Afternoon 01:00 PM

Cebuano Service:

Afternoon 04:00 PM

2nd Floor,
Northgate Center.
across Gaisano Country Mall
Banilad, Cebu City.

ways to give TITHES and LOVE GIFTS

BPI Checking
Acct no: 0421-0041-16

Paypal
@livingwordnra
GCash Account
0912-130-6148

EMAIL ADDRESS
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FACEBOOK PAGE
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**GET IN TOUCH
WITH US!**

Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

WARNING LABELS FOR DISCIPLES

The Road to the Cross: Following the Suffering King (Mark Series)
Pastor Nic Sy | October 5, 2025 | Mark 9:38-50

SERMON NOTES

The greatest threat to following Jesus doesn't always come from outside the church; it often comes from inside our own hearts.

I. DON'T SHUT OTHERS OUT (vv 38-41)

The moment loyalty to our group replaces loyalty to Jesus, we've missed the kingdom.

What matters isn't how big the act is, but who you're doing it for.

Exclusion may feel like protecting our turf, but in reality it weakens our testimony.

In God's kingdom, even the smallest act counts. So start small, but start somewhere.

II. DON'T LEAD OTHERS ASTRAY (vv 42-48)

It's deadly serious to damage the faith of the vulnerable.

You can harm others by your sin, but you can also destroy yourself by tolerating it.

If anything in your life drags you into sin, deal with it decisively.

Hell is real, sin is lethal, and discipleship is serious.

These warning are meant to drive us to the grace of Jesus.

III. LIVE DISTINCTLY (vv 49-50)

Discipleship involves both preservation and purification.

A disciple without distinction is like salt without flavor; it is useless.

Disciples aren't called to be impressive. They're called to be salty.



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

OUR MISSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
For the week of October 6–12, 2025
“WARNING LABELS FOR DISCIPLES”

Getting Started

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you were to eat the same meal for 30 days, what would you choose?

Group Discussion

Read Mark 9:38–50.

1. In verses 38–41, why do you think the disciples were so threatened by this outsider’s ministry? In what ways do we sometimes confuse “following Jesus” with “following *our particular way* of following Jesus”? Can you think of a time when you celebrated another church or Christian’s ministry success even though they did things very differently than you? What made that possible?
2. Jesus says in verse 40, “For the one who is not against us is for us,” yet in Matthew 12:30 he says, “Whoever is not with me is against me.” How do we reconcile these two statements? When should we draw clear boundaries about who is “for us” and when should we be more inclusive? Have you seen Christians get this balance wrong, either by being too exclusive or too inclusive?
3. In verse 42, Jesus talks about causing “little ones” to stumble. Who are the “little ones” in your life (i.e. people who might be watching your faith and learning what Christianity looks like from your example)? What’s one specific area where your example (e.g. social media presence, work habits, entertainment choices, how you talk about other Christians, etc.) might be giving others permission to compromise?
4. In verses 43–48 Jesus speaks of cutting off a hand or foot or tearing out an eye if it causes you to sin. Why do you think Jesus used such radical language? What is he really teaching us about how seriously we should deal with sin? If you had to name one thing in your life that regularly pulls you away from God, what would it be? How would “cutting it off” look practically in your situation?

5. Jesus warns about hell using words like “unquenchable fire” and quoting Isaiah 66:24. Why do you think Jesus talks about hell here in connection with stumbling and sin? How does understanding the reality of judgment change the way we view our everyday choices? Does thinking about eternity make you more alert of your influence on others? Why or why not?

6. Jesus warns that salt can lose its saltiness and become useless. What are some ways Christians today become spiritually ineffective and becoming indistinguishable from the culture around us? Read Matthew 5:13–16 together. How does Jesus describe “salty” Christians in the Sermon on the Mount? What would it look like for you personally to be more “salty” in your workplace, neighborhood, or family this week?

7. Across this whole passage, which of Jesus’ warnings most urgent for you right now, and why? How might this warning shape the way you treat people, the way you deal with sin, or the way you approach your witness this week?

Next Steps

The warnings of Jesus only make sense when we remember the grace of Jesus.

- **Include Widely:** I will open my circle and celebrate others who serve Christ, even if they’re not part of my group.
- **Guard Carefully:** I will take responsibility for my influence and remove what leads me or others into sin.
- **Live Distinctly:** I will embrace a salty, Christ-shaped life that preserves, purifies, and brings peace.
- **Trust Grace Fully:** I will rely on Jesus’ grace, not my effort, to empower me to live this way.

Closing the Session

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

- Pray for openness to include others, humility to recognize your influence, courage to cut off sin, and distinctiveness to reflect Christ to the world.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

October 6	Mark 9:38–41
October 7	Esther 2:15–18
October 8	Numbers 11:24–30
October 9	Matthew 18:1–6
October 10	Matthew 5:13–16
October 11	Psalms 78:40–55
October 12	Psalms 78:56–64