

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!

☐ “Marking the Miles, Pressing on Purpose”

Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness in our church's 10th Anniversary!

One Combined Service at 10:00 AM.

Please note: there will be no 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM services on this day as we all gather together in one worship service.

Worship Celebration at 2:30PM.

An afternoon of praise, highlighting our church's journey and testimony of God's grace through the years.

Volunteers Appreciation Night

A special night dedicated to honor and thank all our volunteers and ministry servants. (For volunteers only.)

Let's come together as one family to mark this milestone and look forward to the mission ahead!

☐ How can we pray for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. 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!

☐ 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!**

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
livingwordnra@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE
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TEXT ONLY NUMBER
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**GET IN TOUCH
WITH US!**

Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The Road to the Cross: Following the Suffering King (Mark Series)

Pastor Nic Sy | October 12, 2025 | Mark 10:1-12

SERMON NOTES

The heart of the matter is always the matter of the heart.

I. A HARD HEART DISREGARDS WHAT GOD DESIGNED.

God didn't make two halves to compete, he made two reflections to complete his image.

Sin divides what God designed to complement.

Jesus isn't raising the standard to crush us, he raises it to call us back.

II. A HARD HEART DEFENDS ITS OWN WAY.

A hard heart doesn't ask, "How can I love?" It asks, "How can I win?"

A hard heart keeps a record of rights. A soft heart keeps a record of wrongs... and then wipes it clean with grace.

Where is the inner attorney showing up in your life this week?

III. A HARD HEART DISPOSES WHAT GOD DECLARES SACRED.

When we see people as projects or problems, we dispose of them. When we see them as persons, we develop them.

The world operates on a disposable economy. But the Kingdom of God operates on a resurrection economy.



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 13–19, 2025
“THE HEART OF THE MATTER”

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.

Think about something you own that you use regularly but have never really learned to use correctly (e.g. a kitchen gadget, a phone feature, a car function, etc.). What made you finally realize you were doing it wrong?

Group Discussion

Read Mark 10:1-12.

1. Looking at Mark 10:6–9, Jesus redirects the conversation from the Law of Moses (Deut 24:1–4) to God’s original design (Gen 1:27; 2:18–25). How would you describe the difference in tone and purpose between the “law” discussed in verse 4 and the “design” Jesus points to? In your own words, why is it so significant that Jesus takes the conversation back to “the beginning”?
2. Can you think of an area in your life, whether in relationships, work, faith, or habits, where you settled for God’s concession when you could be pursuing his design? Why do you think we’re so quick to settle for less than God’s best?
3. Jesus says Moses permitted divorce “because of your hardness of heart” (v.5). What does “hardness of heart” look like in everyday life, not just in marriage, but in how we treat friends, coworkers, or even strangers? How is hardness different from setting healthy boundaries? And how might repeated disappointment, fear, or unmet expectations slowly harden our hearts without us even noticing?
4. The Pharisees were focused on what was “lawful” (v.2) i.e. what they were allowed to do. How does that mindset show up in our relationships today (e.g., “I have a right to be happy,” “They owe me an apology”)? Compare this with Paul’s description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (especially “love does not insist on its own way.”) Have you ever chosen to release a “right” in order to extend grace? What made that possible?

5. What does it mean that Jesus uses the word “joined” rather than “married” or “committed”? What’s the difference between being joined to someone and simply being in a relationship with them? How does understanding that God is the one doing the joining change the way you think about your most important relationships?

6. Where in our culture (or even in the church) do you see the tendency to treat relationships as transactional or disposable? Is there a relationship in your own life, perhaps a challenging family member, coworker, or neighbor, that you have been tempted to “write off” or treat as a problem to be managed? How might praying for God to give you his heart for that person, change your perspective and your next interaction with them?

7. Having a soft heart applies to marriage, parenting, friendships, work, and our relationship with God. Pick one or two of these areas and think about it together as a group. What does a hard heart look like in that relationship? What does a soft heart look like?

Next Steps

The heart of the matter is always the matter of the heart.

- **Remember God’s Design:** I will remember and honor God’s design in every area of my life..
- **Relinquish Rights:** I will stop defending my own way and start depending on God’s Word..
- **Revere What’s Sacred:** I will treat every covenant, relationship, and promise as something holy and not disposable.
- **Respond to the Spirit:** I will stay sensitive to the Spirit’s voice instead of resisting his truth.

Closing the Session

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

- Pray for a heart that does not disregard God’s design, defend rights, and treat what’s sacred as disposable; instead, ask for a heart that is tender and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
- 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 13	Mark 10:1-12
October 14	Exodus 16:11-18
October 15	Luke 22:39-46
October 16	Exodus 7:13-23
October 17	Jeremiah 3:6-14
October 18	Psalms 78:65-72
October 19	1 Timothy 6:6-10