

L I F E I N C I R C L E S



Proverbs 3:5-6

*⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Ezekiel 37:1-6

¹ The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!' ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

SACRED PATHWAYS: How God wired you for connection with him.

(To explore and discover yours, check out Page 17 of your 'Life in Circles' booklet.)

Philippians 3:12b-14

I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

How is Holy Spirit inviting you to 'Press On' in this next season?

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.*
- 2) *Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.*
- 3) *Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.*

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: As you reflect back on our Life in Circles journey, what are you celebrating? Where have you experienced God at work in you, in your closer-in circles, in the Heritage family?

:: *Share something about this weekend’s conversation that you resonated with. How does knowing that others are experiencing similar things as you encourage you in this unprecedented season?*

:: *Re-read Proverbs 3:5-6. In what way(s) is Holy Spirit inviting you to greater spaces of trust in the spaces where you can’t quite see the future or make sense of what you see today?*

:: *Take a moment to read Ezekiel 37:1-14. What are the implications of this passage in the spaces that we feel are dead—broken beyond the hope of restoration? What area(s) of your life are you asking God to bring to life?*

:: What new rhythms of mind-body-spirit health are you exploring or implementing as a result of our Life in Circles journey?

:: Share how Holy Spirit is inviting you to ‘press on’ in this next season. Invite someone you trust to walk alongside, pray and hold you accountable in this area in the days ahead.

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Beth Cossin, Jeremiah Gómez, Justin Barnes – July 18-19, 2020
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