

DRAFT

THE KING & HIS KINGDOM PEOPLE

CONVERSATION STARTER



Weekday Church



Weekday Church



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NAME + CONTACT INFORMATION

LEADER'S NAME + CONTACT INFORMATION



BEST PRACTICES FOR CONVERSATION GROUPS

- Do your best to read a portion of the passage and guidebook each day.
- Try to meet together once a week for a conversation.
 - When and where will you meet?

- Take the time to pray for those in your Conversation Group. There is a page at the end of the guidebook to record prayer requests.
- Be thinking about who you know that might be interested in joining the conversation.
- Be thinking about how you can live as salt and light during the weekdays.
- No certificates or credits will be earned. Do your best. This is your life. We are trying to create an unstoppable pattern of a thriving weekday faith. Offer yourself lots of grace, stick with it, and trust God.

CONVERSATION NOTES





WHAT MAKES CONVERSATION STARTERS UNIQUE?

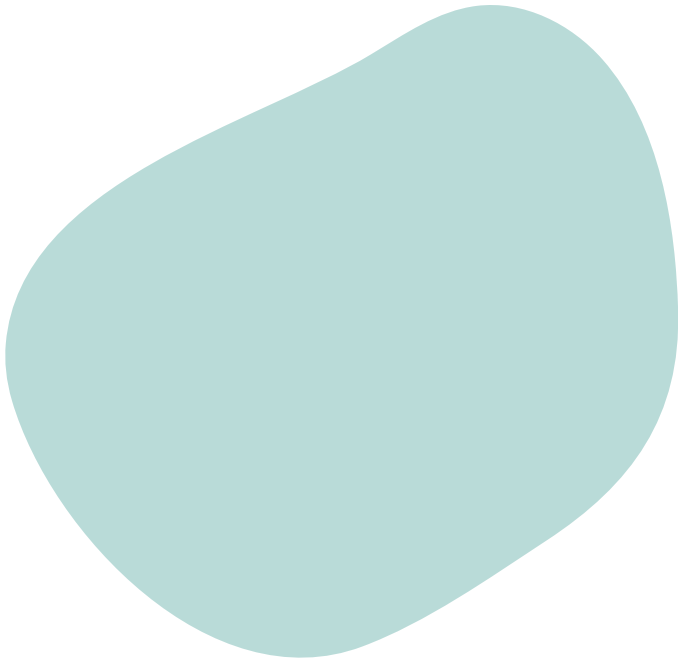
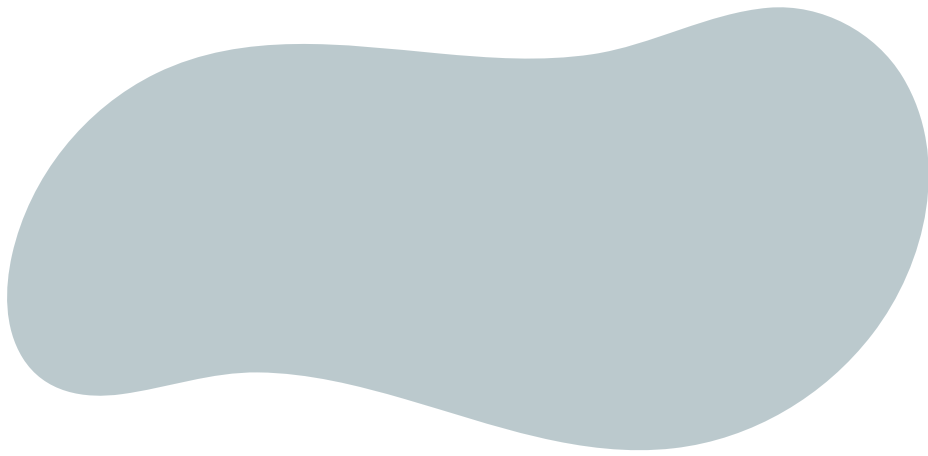
Objective

The most important endeavor in all of life is to enjoy a vibrant spiritual life. When our spiritual lives are heading in the right direction all of life goes better. While our challenges will not be erased, spiritual vitality provides needed direction and fulfillment.

Approach

- The content is Bible-based, yet scripture will not be embedded in the curriculum. We want to help you learn both from the Bible and about the Bible. Bibles can also include helpful items like maps, timelines, and other verses for reference. All of which can transform the Bible from an ancient book that is challenging to engage into a dynamic collection of stories you embrace.
- The content intends to be accessible to all regardless of spiritual background with unlimited growth expansion as you mature. Everyone starts in a different place yet we are all headed in the same direction. One story in the Bible can contain inspiration and direction that lasts a lifetime.
- For centuries the Bible stories were passed from one generation to the next by having important conversations in the home and among peers. There would be holidays and festivals established to retell important parts of faith history. It would take thousands of years until the printing press was invented and the Bible would become mass produced. The content you experience is intended for one on one or one with a few type conversations with those you know and trust.
- Conversations Groups are intended to self-multiply as you are inspired in your faith desiring to share with those you know and trust. The path toward God and with God is best experienced with those closest to us. Jesus found twelve friends then they shared their experience over many decades across the ancient world as their lives travelled to different places. Ultimately the story of Jesus has made it to us so we keep the tradition alive by sharing it with others.
- Conversation Groups are intended to help you be fruitful by living as salt and light during the weekdays. (We will encourage you to rest over the weekend and serve your local church.) Being busy is different than being productive. Just as we long for inner peace and contentment, humans also long to live fulfilling lives. Every weekday we traffic with people and by people who need encouragement. Sometimes just a simple word is needed, other times an act of service is most appropriate. You might even feel compelled to serve alongside others through a local nonprofit cause. Giving is receiving. It is a powerful expression that not only helps others, but expands personal joy.

CONVERSATION NOTES





OUTCOMES

WE HOPE YOU LEARN
FROM THE BIBLE.

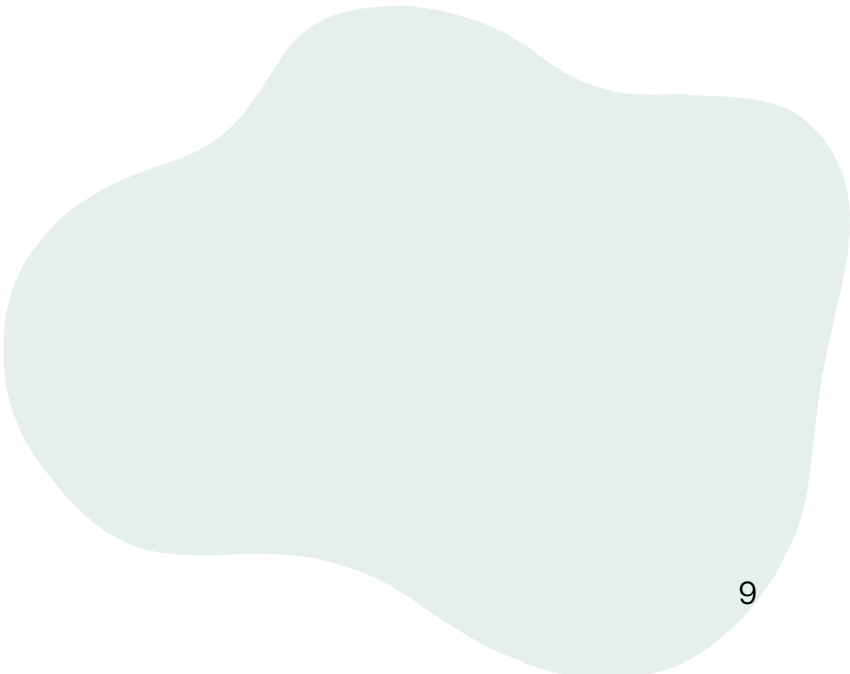
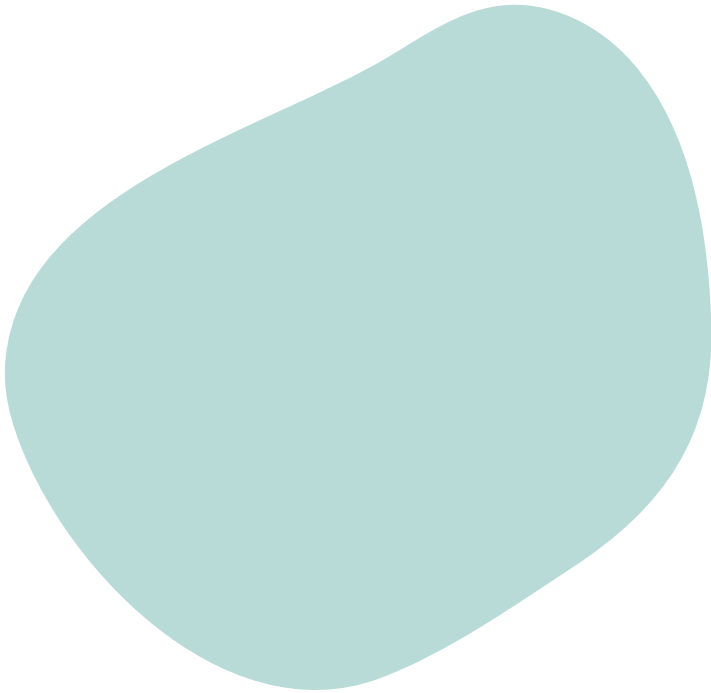
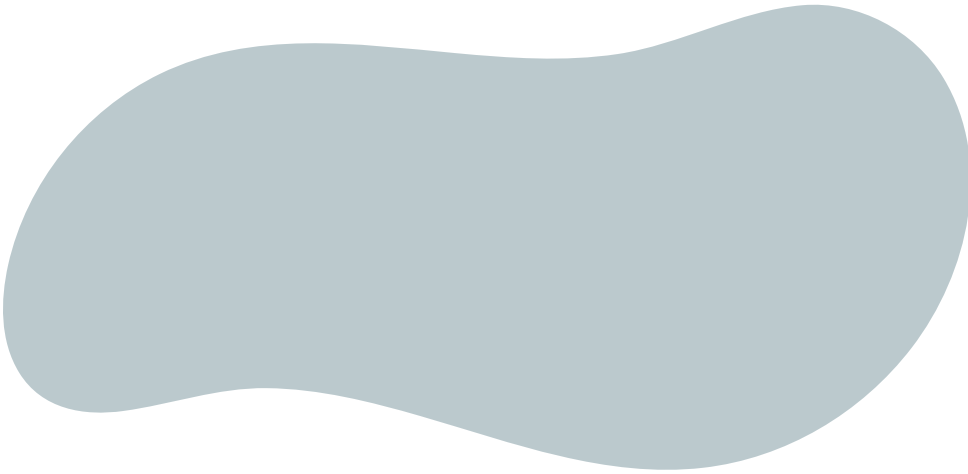
WE HOPE YOU LEARN
ABOUT THE BIBLE.

WE HOPE YOU FEEL
CONFIDENT AND
RESPONSIBLE TO CHASE
A VIBRANT SPIRITUAL
LIFE.

WE HOPE YOU FEEL
INSPIRED TO LIVE DURING
YOUR WEEKDAYS AS SALT
AND LIGHT.

WE HOPE YOU FEEL
INSPIRED TO INVITE
OTHERS TO LEARN
WITH YOU IN THE
FUTURE.

CONVERSATION NOTES





LET'S GET STARTED

THE KING & HIS KINGDOM PEOPLE

CONVERSATION STARTER

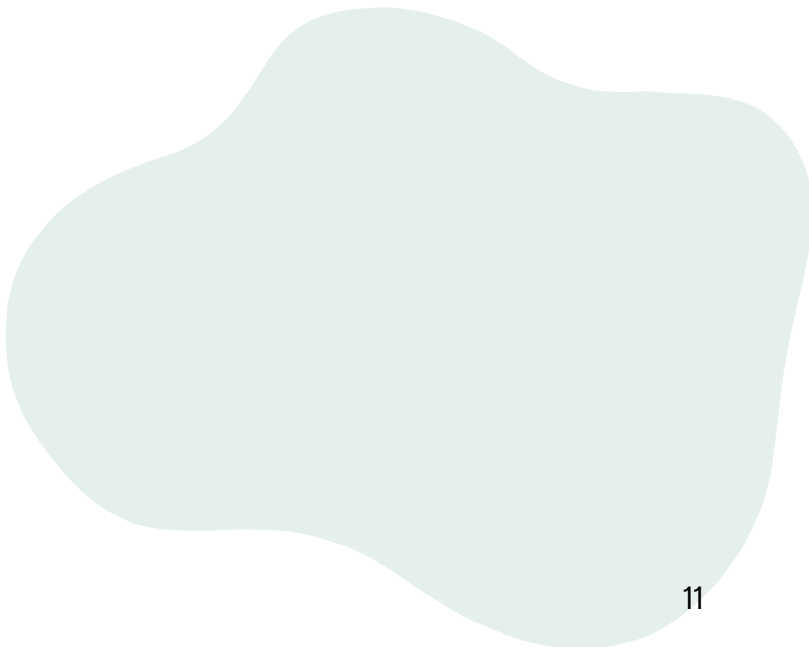
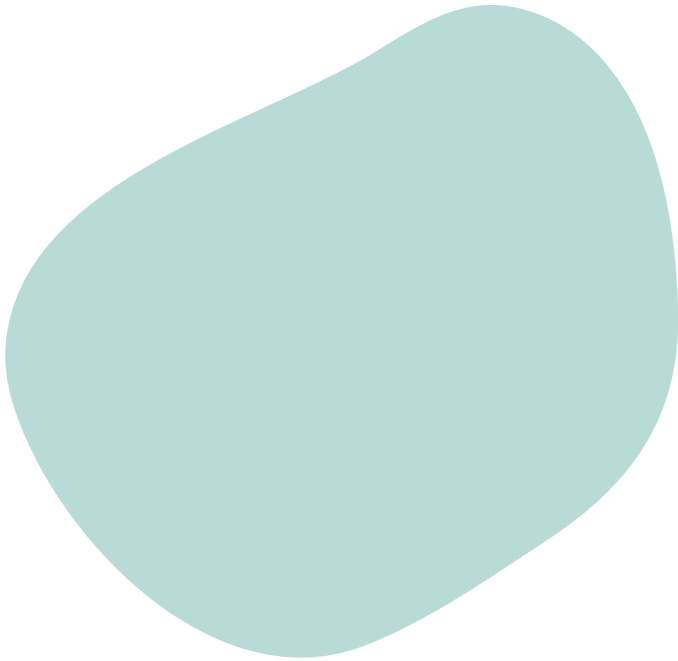
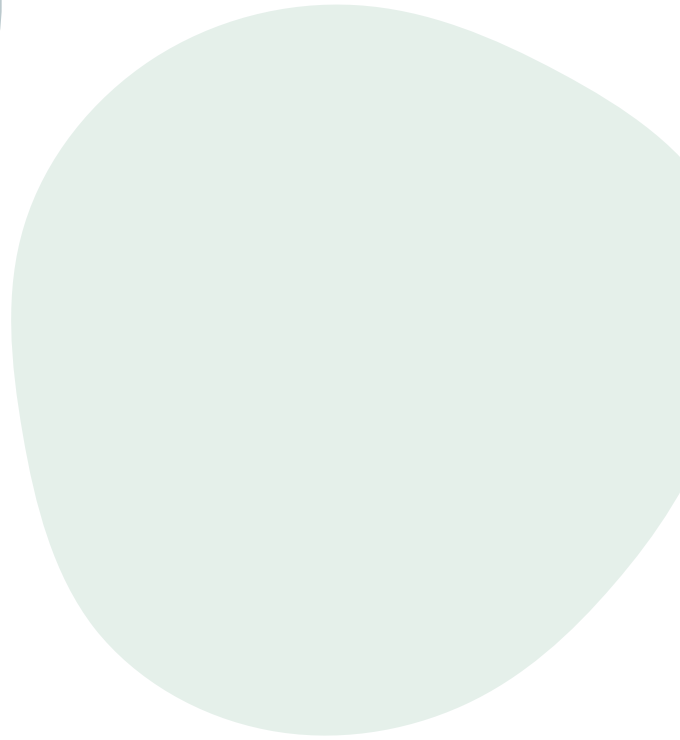
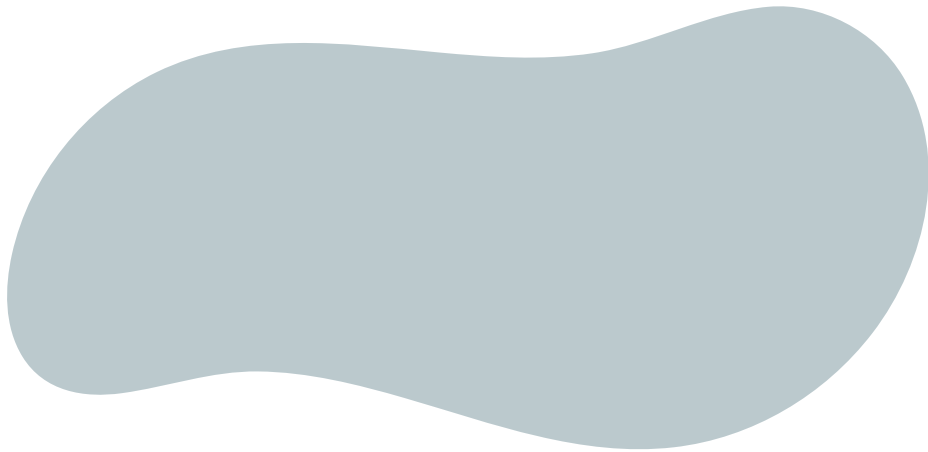
This study introduces one of the most foundational concepts in the Bible. God is King over his kingdom people. However, the journey through the Bible will reveal the human struggle to embrace this important principle of how a faith relationship with God is intended to function. While it might be common to think of Jesus as Savior, Lord, Son of God, even friend. The role of King can feel anciently distant.

In the Old Testament God begins his relationship with his people as King. They may not realize this is happening, but God seeks to instruct them in this way. Then, the people of Israel decide they want to become the nation of Israel by establishing a king just like all the other nations. They wanted a human king, a real man with a physical body. This seemed like the most secure path forward.

Yet, the prophet Samuel sees it as abandoning God as King. God agrees and warns the people of the dangers this trading of authority will bring upon their lives. As it turns out God is right. Here are some important facts to understand as we read about King God and his kingdom people.

1. God's desire is to have a people of faith who follow him as King. This is his Plan A for our lives.
2. Kings have kingdoms. This means they lead with power and authority. The King protects, provides, instructs, even demands. It is a word called dominion which is not a democracy. This is his rightful place as God which is best for his people.
3. God's people live with a physical human king leading them for only 300-400 years of their history. Men like Saul, David, and Solomon are the most widely known doing a pretty good job. However, the bulk of the kings fail. God's people not being led by him is Plan B. It starts well, but ends in disaster.
4. These failing kings result in a civil war which divides Israel into two smaller kingdoms making them vulnerable to their enemies. Ultimately, Assyria and Babylon conquer the divided Israel which is referred to as Israel and Judah. They take captive the people, burn the temple, ending the reign of Israel's king and kingdom. This is how the story in the Old Testament concludes.
5. The New Testament begins with Rome as the dominant world power ruling in the region of the world formerly known as Israel. This is where Jesus lives.
6. Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of God is near. He will be revealed as the Savior King as well as the future coming King at the time of his second return. However, from his first day until his last day on earth, his kingly reign is strongly rejected by all. It is actually the reason he is crucified.
7. The bulk of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, God is the acting King of his people. His authority and dominion is unstopable, but humans struggle to embrace it.
8. As you near the end of this guidebook, you might find yourself wishing you had marked in your Bible the words king and kingdom as they are being used in reference to God or Jesus. Feel free to leverage this helpful hint from the outset of your journey.

CONVERSATION NOTES



01

LESSON 1

GOD'S PLAN A FOR OUR LIVES

DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14



OVERVIEW

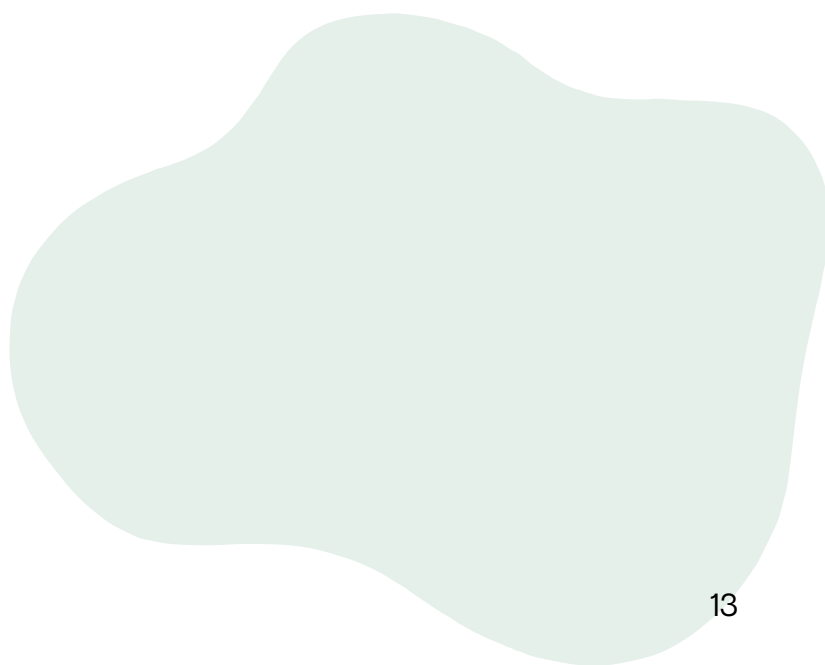
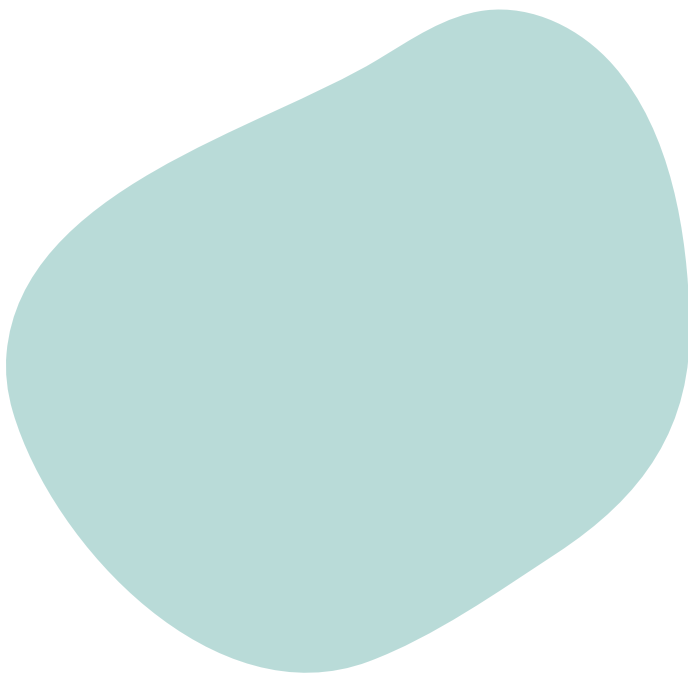
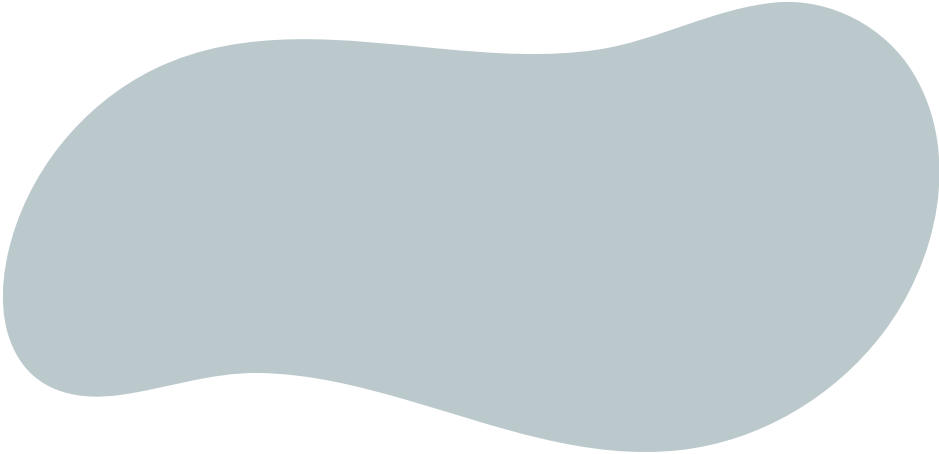
Do you want to have the best life you can possibly have on earth? I think we would all say a resounding “YES!” There is only one way to achieve our best lives. We must experience the best spiritual life possible on this side of heaven. This leads to the real question, do you want to have the best spiritual life you can possibly experience? I want to pause for just a moment so you can ponder this idea. If we desire the best life possible, which is only experienced on the other side of a dynamic spiritual life, we are going to need to invest in our spiritual relationship with God as our life priority. This isn’t a selfish pursuit, but a very generous act to all those around us.

This lesson series will begin by unpacking God’s Plan A for every person on earth. Namely, to see him as King actively living by his kingdom rule.

In the near future, we will read about the day God’s people pivoted to Plan B—rejecting him as King and desiring a physical king named Saul. But before we get there, let’s spend some time unpacking God’s Plan A as the King leading his kingdom activity in our lives.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 will be our focal passage. It is not going to unpack the easy life of faith, but rather the obedient life of faith with an abundance of blessings. God’s design is for every one of us to see him as King with an organized kingdom that is constantly advancing in our lives and through our lives. From Genesis to Revelation, the idea of God’s kingly rule is clear. The Bible ends with a vision of his throne. Everyday he is King. Everyday his kingdom is active. Everyday we have a chance to follow, be blessed, and play a part in his heavenly work on earth. I am not making this stuff up, God said it himself in Deuteronomy 28. Let’s simply take him at his word to see what happens.

CONVERSATION NOTES



As you read this passage you will discover:

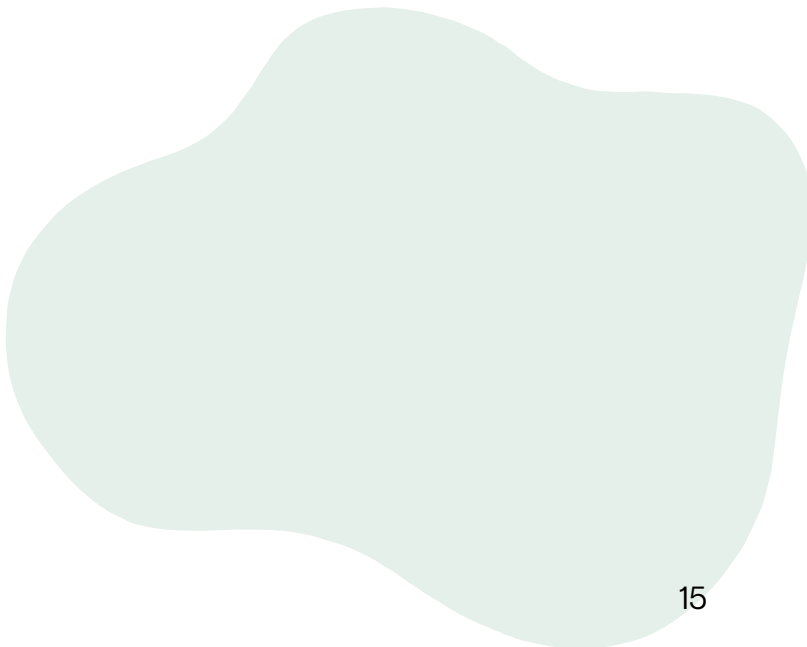
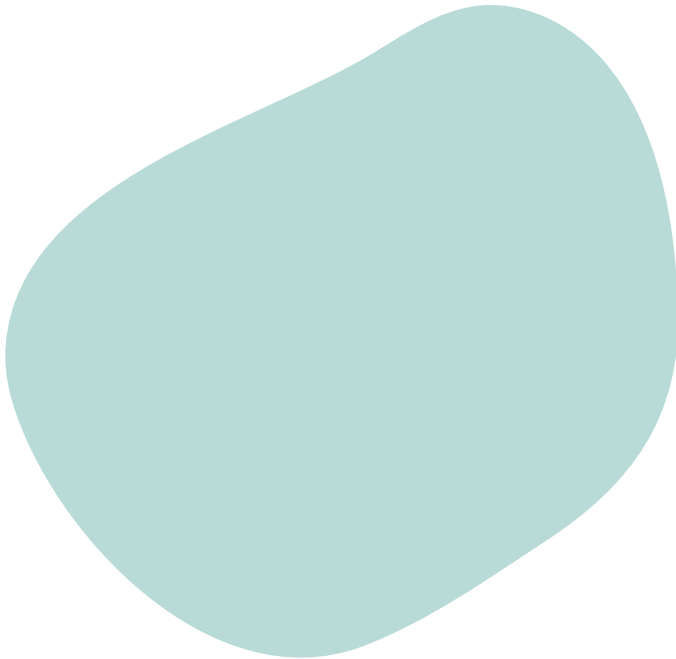
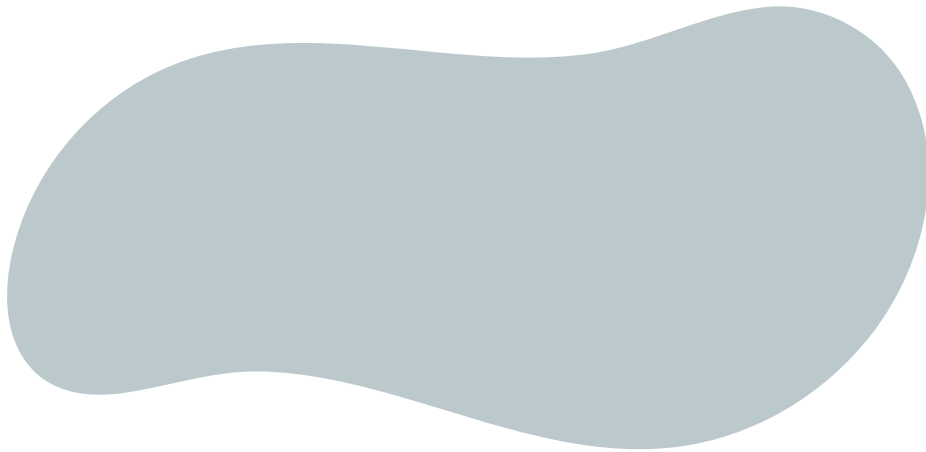
(1) **Kingdom Faith** - In the modern world, we might be more comfortable with phrases like principles, instructions, or teachings. However, every King creates edicts with the expectation of compliance. Commands are very different from requests or suggestions. The King is making more than a request. He is stating a fact of his kingdom. Obedience is critical. Kings reign supreme with complete dominion and authority.

(2) **Kingdom Finances** - This passage is extremely detailed when it comes to God's blessings over many aspects of our lives. It addresses our travel, along with our work. I am really inspired as it speaks of our present gathered resources for day-to-day usage while also providing for our future. There is a big difference between what is stored in a pantry and what is stored in a barn. When you consider the principle of multiplication through loan interest—the limitless abundance of the King's storehouse, the vastness of the sky, and the harvest produced when rain falls on a single seed—the possibilities become astonishing.

(3) **Kingdom Family** - Who doesn't want their family, marriage, kids, and extended family to experience the blessings of God? Of course, we all do. Just imagine kids being raised in a family where they personally witness again and again the principles and promises of the King in action. Our first calling is to advance the kingdom in our homes, then through our homes. It is easy to be impressed by the ministry pastors have from the stage each Sunday as they influence thousands of people every year. However, they are not in our homes or at our work. These are our ministry domains. The kingdom is advanced through the networks of God's people everyday as we live the way of the King.

Take the time to seriously ponder the kingly rule of God over the universe. He is working his purposes in his people and through his people right now. Nothing has ever been able to stop the eternal mission of the King—not the serpent in the Garden of Eden, nor the cross at Calvary. If we want to live our best life, we must first pursue the best spiritual life. This, in turn, is the result of obedience to the King.

CONVERSATION NOTES



01

LESSON 1

GOD'S PLAN A FOR OUR LIVES DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14



OUTLINE

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

This is King God establishing a covenant with his people. It is conditional on their following it. However, the blessings of obedience are too vast to mention. God's covenant contains both commands and promises. When we follow God's wisdom, blessings we can not manufacture occur. Yet, when we disobey his life wisdom the blessings do not arrive. All of us intuitively know that good choices lead to great results while bad choices do not. This covenant is the same principle.

Deuteronomy 28:3-6

The list of blessings range from travel to work to home. The basic economy was agriculture and God's people were on the move surrounded by foreign powers. They would be traveling, farming, ranching, selling, trading, and consuming resources. God's favor would be on everything and everyone.

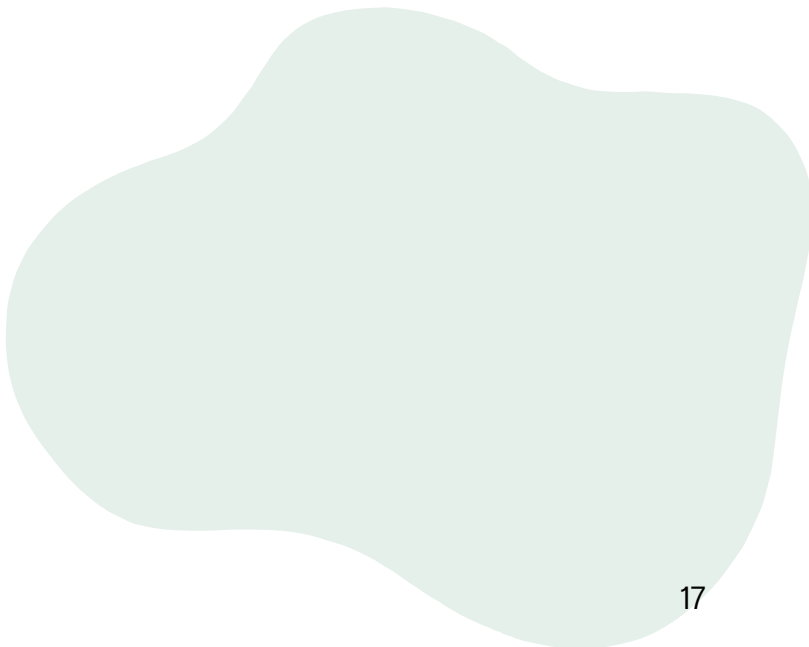
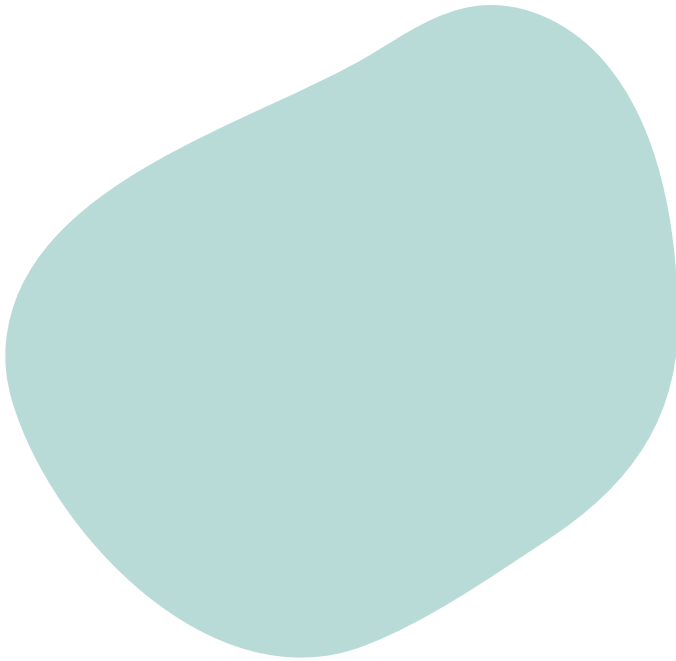
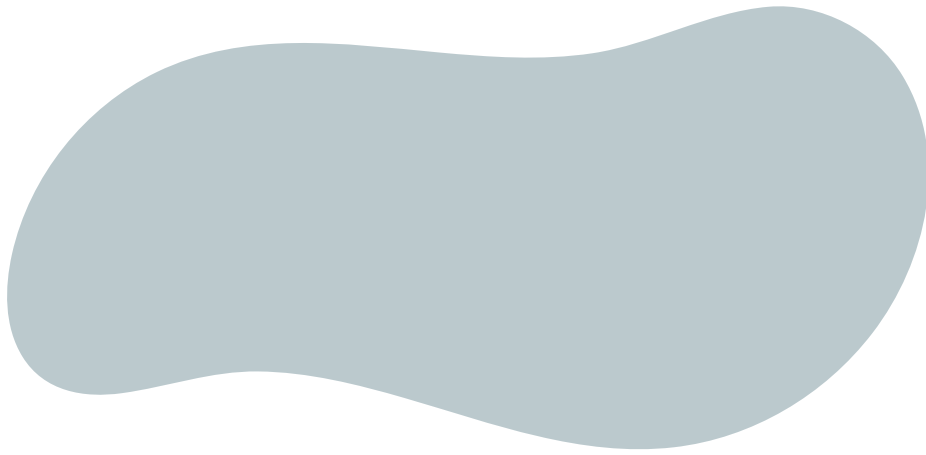
Deuteronomy 28:7-8

As enemies were encountered, and they would be, God's blessing of protection would be extended. Following God obediently doesn't promise a life of ease. It does promise blessings when we endure obediently. These two verses speak of resources available to provide for their future needs (stored in a barn) as well as the security that comes from owning land he will give them.

Deuteronomy 28:9-14

Their future would be unbelievably bright. This journey they were on would end in a land of promise where they would flourish. This unique relationship with God as their covenant King would be recognized by all nations as a message of hope. The best life is on the other side of our best spiritual life and the best spiritual life was in a covenant relationship with God as King.

CONVERSATION NOTES



01

LESSON 1

GOD'S PLAN A FOR OUR LIVES

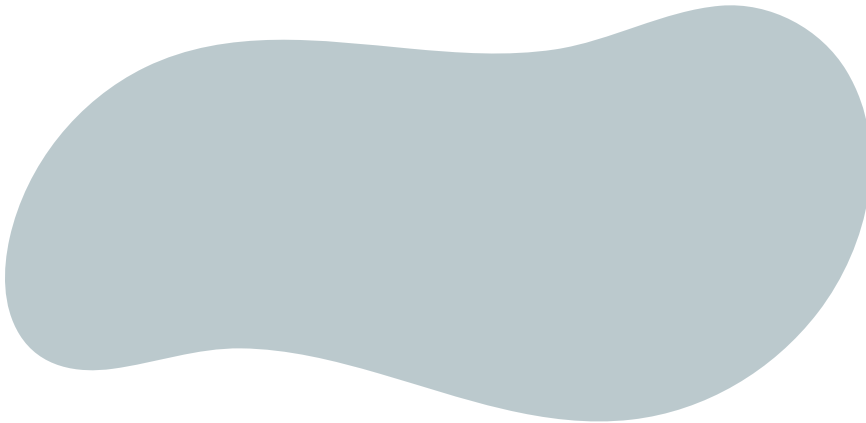
DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14



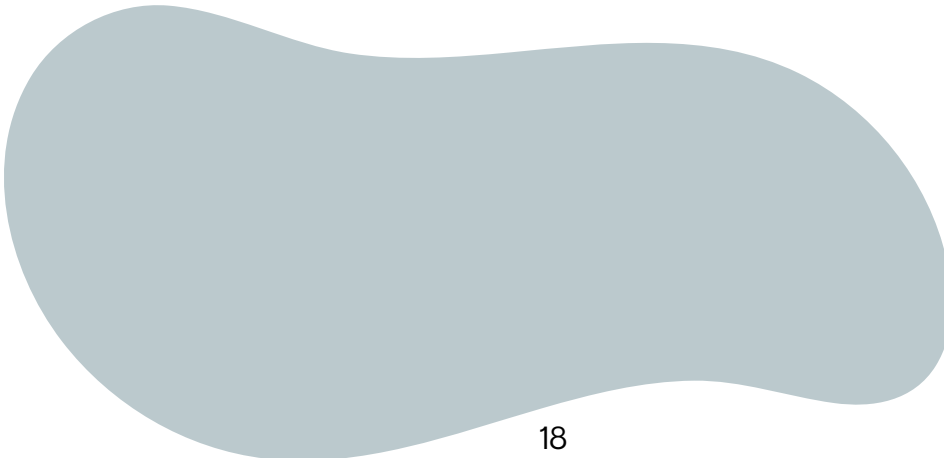
OUTCOME

1. What inspired you from the reading?
2. What challenged or confused you from the reading?
3. What in the reading reminded you of something you have previously read in the Bible?
4. Did you find an interesting map or history timeline fact?
5. What in the reading reminded you of something you have experienced in life?
6. What lesson will you take from the reading into your current weekday?

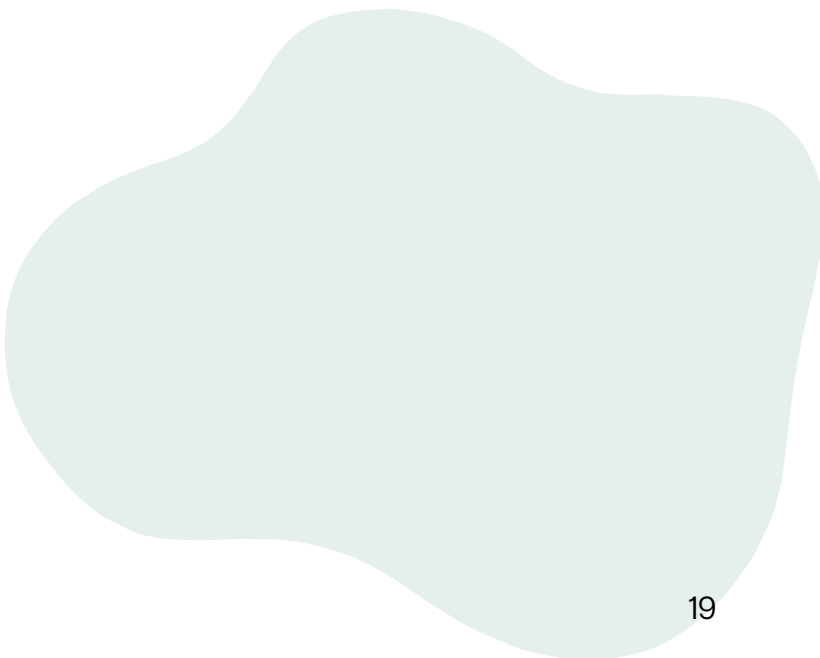
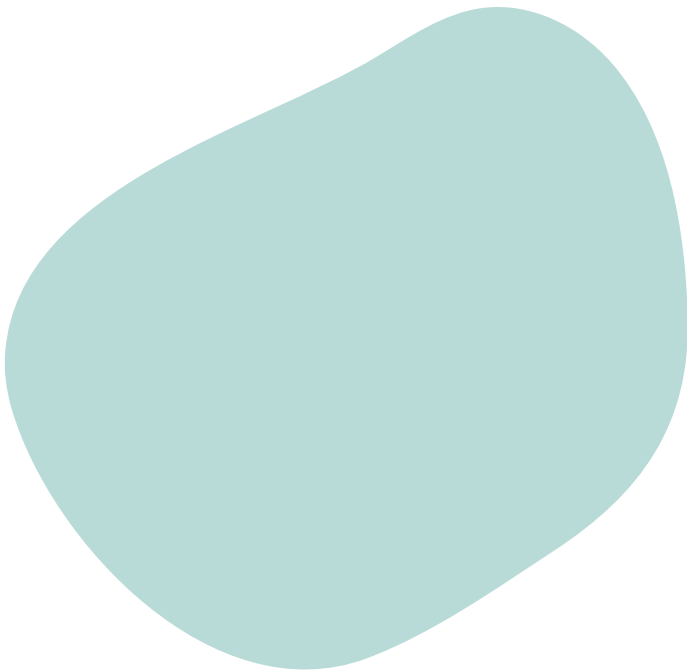
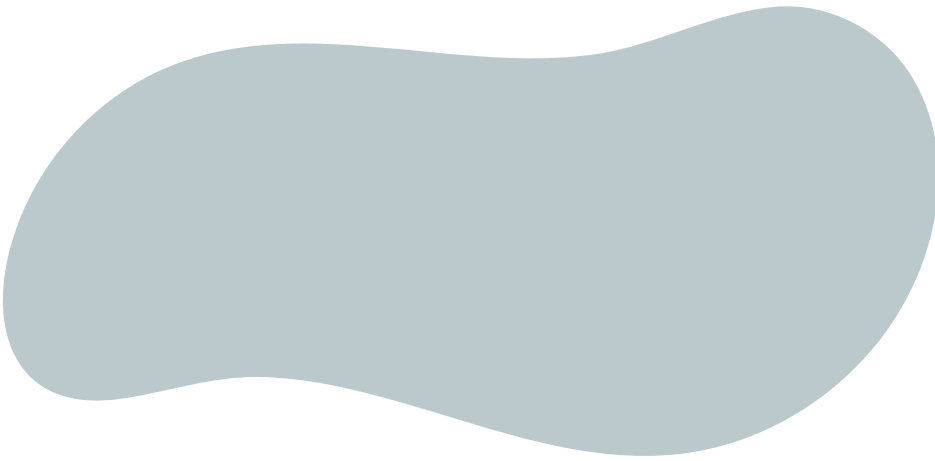
Let's think about people we might want to start a conversation with in the future because we think they would enjoy it and find it helpful.

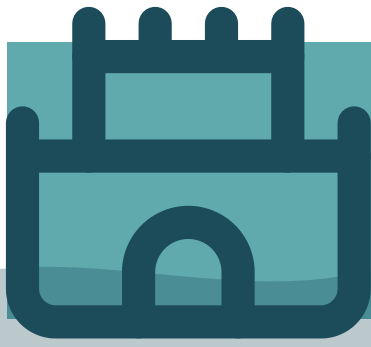


Let's think about how we can live as salt and light in our everyday lives.



CONVERSATION NOTES





REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS AS YOU CONCLUDE THIS STUDY

What is your one big takeaway from this lesson series?

Do you think you are ready to start a conversation with someone you know and trust that would be interested in this lesson?

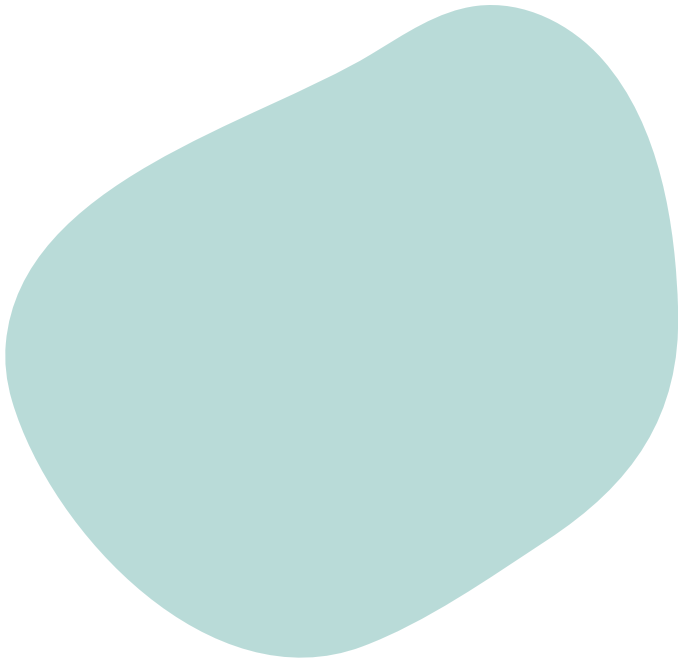
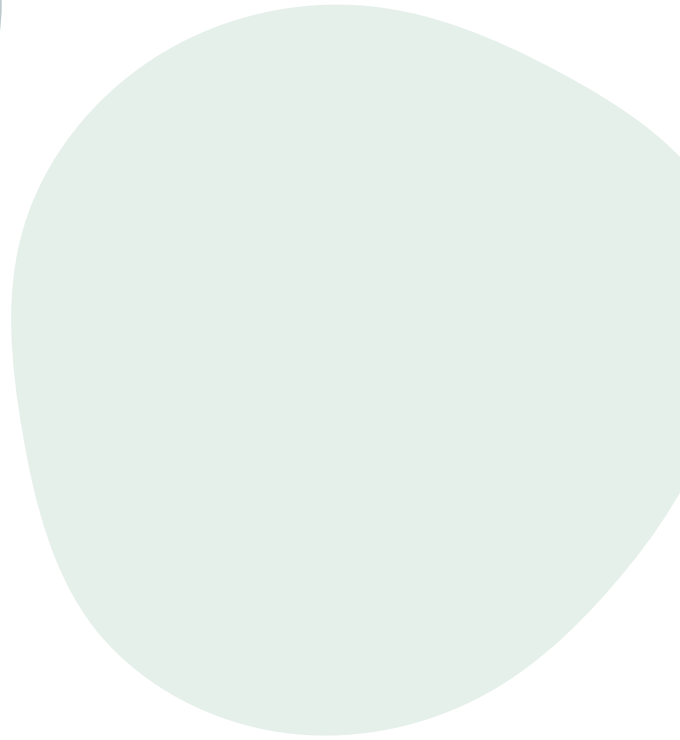
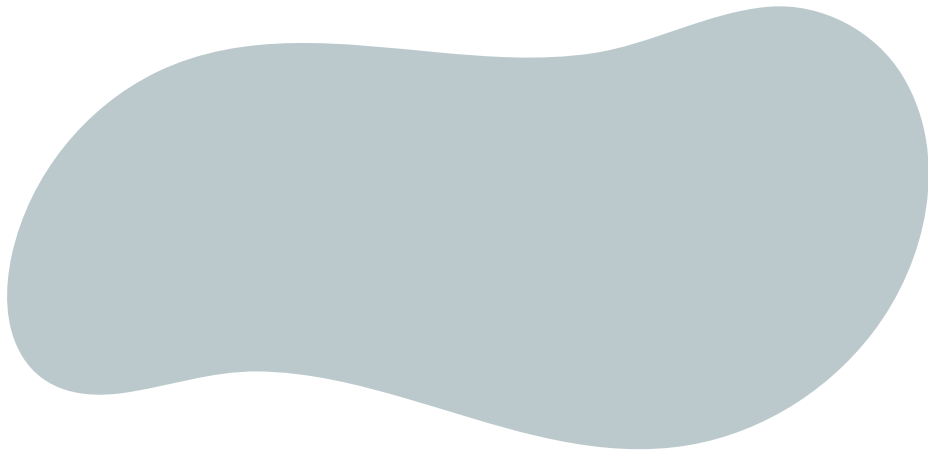
Do you want to walk through another lesson?

Do you think you are ready to explore living as salt and light in a way that is in your wheelhouse of passion, experiences, and strengths?

PRAYER REQUESTS

A series of horizontal lines for writing prayer requests. The lines are arranged in a continuous column down the page. There are four large, semi-transparent colored shapes overlaid on the page: a blue shape at the top left, a teal shape on the middle left, a light green shape on the middle right, and a light orange shape on the bottom right. These shapes partially obscure the writing lines.

CONVERSATION NOTES





TODD MCMICHEN

AUTHOR

Todd McMichen brings over four decades of faith-based leadership from local church work to national nonprofits. He holds a B.A. in Religion and Biblical Languages from Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida as well as a Masters in Divinity from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Theresa, live in Birmingham, AL enjoying their kids and grandkids.

LET'S TALK

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Weekday Church

