

CONNECTING TO CROSSROADS

Crossroads is *a place where God and people meet*. Wherever you are at in your faith journey, we are glad that you have joined us. On Sundays we come together as a larger community to express our worship to God as we also listen to what he has to say to us through the Bible. During the week we gather in smaller groups at various times and places to care for one another as we share life and faith together. Between these times, we represent God among the people with whom we live in our homes, neighbourhoods, and workplaces.

We pray that you will experience the presence of God and the care of God's people as we spend time together. May the decisions you make today help you reflect more and more the character of God and the person God has made you to be. If you would like information on how to get more connected with our community, please talk to an usher.

CONNECTING TO CHRIST

How does a person become a Christian?

- By *believing* that Jesus, God's son, died for your sins and rose again
- By *acknowledging* your need, *accepting* God's forgiveness, *turning* away from your sins, and *heading* in Christ's direction
- By *making* Jesus the Saviour and Lord of your life
- By *publicly* declaring your commitment to Christ

You can do this by praying like this:

*"Oh God, I acknowledge that I have sinned against you. I am sorry for my sins and am willing to turn away from them. I now receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord of my life. From this moment on I will live for him.
In Jesus' name, amen."*

And then tell someone about it. Tell a pastor or one or two close friends. It will help seal this act of faith in your mind and heart and help you know how to take some of the first steps of faith after.



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WELCOME TO
CROSSROADS MB CHURCH
AUGUST 14, 2022

THE BEST SUPERPOWER IN THE WORLD



*“Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.”
Psalm 80:19*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome	
Worship in Song	
Congregational Prayer	Marvin Dyck
Children’s Feature	
Scripture Reading	<i>Mark 6:7-13; 30-56</i>
Message	<i>The Best Superpower in the World</i> Marvin Dyck
Worship in Song	
The Lord’s Prayer & Announcements	

**After this mornings’ service,
you are invited outside on the front lawn of the church
for snacks and visiting.**

**Please note that Crossroads Sunday worship services
now live, recorded and posted on-line.*

**Crossroads strives to be a scent-reduced environment*

CROSSROADS INFORMATION

Information for this Sunday morning, August 14 at 10:00am:

You are invited to participate in Crossroads service either on-line or in-person.

In-person—We welcome you to 231 Kitson at 10:00am Masks suggested.

On-line—Crossroads worship service will be livestreamed at 10:00am and can also be viewed anytime on Youtube.com. Search for ‘CrossroadsMB Wpg’.

Our Daily Bread! free devotional booklets for Sept/Oct/Nov are now available on the counter in the foyer.

The donation basket can be found on Sunday morning on the foyer counter.

Options for donating Electronically: Through Canada Helps—see link on the church website: crossroadsmb.ca

The Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC), is seeking a full-time Receptionist/Facilities Coordinator for all ministry partner agencies at 1310 Taylor Avenue in Winnipeg. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please send a resume with a cover letter explaining why you think you would be a good candidate for this role to, contact Bertha at 204-669-6575. More details on the foyer bulletin board.

Save the date! The annual We Are All Treaty People Celebration will take place at the Forks on Sunday, September 18. Come out for a family friendly afternoon event with music and performances, food, Indigenous arts, crafts and more!

We’re hiring! MCC Canada has an opening in HR – Compensation & Benefits. For more information about this position and to apply, visit mccmb.ca/openings.

e MCC Thrift Shop is looking for a full-time manager to guide the day-to-day operations of the shop. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to mcc.org by August 26.

The Best Superpower in the World

Mark 6:7-13, 30-56

A. Background

1. Jesus' message

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:14-15

“...the term ‘has drawn nigh’ in such passages as...Mark 1:15...is best translated simply ‘has come.’

“...the reality of God’s rule...is present in action and available with and through the person of Jesus. That is Jesus’ gospel.” Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy* Harper-Collins 1997, 28

By words and actions, Jesus taught what it meant that He had brought God’s rule:

Your job is to turn your life around and do what Jesus tells you to do. 1:15-17

Where you’ve failed, Jesus has the power to forgive you (Mk 2:1-12).

Where you’re in pain, Jesus wants to heal you. (repeated stories chapters 1-3)

Where evil forces control your mind, Jesus wants to set you free. (1:23-26)

Jesus wants to make you part of His family (3:34-5)”

2. The story of the sower, the seed and the 4 soils

a) Jesus is the farmer who is sowing the seed

b) Jesus sends the word (His Good News 1:14) into people’s lives like seed 4:14-20

c) The 4 soils are 4 kinds of people’s lives

i) seed along the path – Satan snatches the seed away – people not interested in following Jesus

ii) Seed sown on rocky places – received with joy but without root, fall away when there’s trouble – people who quit

iii) Seed sown among thorns – distraction by worry, deceitfulness of wealth, desire for other things chokes the word

iv) Seed sown on good soil – they hear the word, accept it, produce a crop – 30, 60 or 100 times what was sown.

“We were built to count, as water is made to run downhill. We are placed in a specific context to count in ways no one else does. That is our destiny.” Dallas Willard, 15

“[S]ome seeds, because the conditions are right, contribute to the final harvest. *This harvest will exceed all expectation*....The main message of the sower parable seems to be that a glorious final kingdom harvest is promised, even if there are setbacks along the way...Is Jesus’ reference to an impossibly large harvest a way of saying, ‘Only God can possibly bring about that kind of result!’ and therefore also a reminder that God’s kingdom is a gift, not something we achieve?” Geddert, *Believers Church Bible Commentary: Mark* Herald 2001, 93-94 “The main message [of this parable] is clear: *Some people hear the Word, but because their hearts are not fully receptive to the Word, they do not bear fruit in the end. Only those who truly accept the Word ultimately bear fruit.* Harder 107 in Geddert 99

B. Question: How can my life make that awesome difference? I don’t feel very powerful

The disciples got power to do Jesus’ deeds from Jesus as they followed Him 6:7-12

“They told the people what Jesus had told them....To repent means to change one’s mind and then to fit one’s actions to this change....It is bound to hurt, for it involves the bitter realization that the way we were following is wrong.” Barclay, *Daily Study Bible: Mark* Welch 1975, 144.

“What Jesus did in his own power as commissioned by God, the disciples did in his power....They declared that it was God’s intention to apply salvation to man in his wholeness.” Lane, *New International Commentary on the New Testament: Mark* Eerdmans 1974, 209

C. What does life look like when you follow Jesus?

1. You are allowed to rest 6:31

2. Sometimes compassion calls us to put off that rest 6:32-34

“...Jesus...changed his plan at 6:31-34 to accommodate the needy crowds....

“...Mark portrays a flexible Jesus, responding spontaneously to the needs at hand.... [In 6:53-56] Jesus allows the pressing needs of the crowd to set the agenda.” Geddert 152, 154

3. You may find Jesus lightening your load 6:34

“...the Lord, doubtless as weary as the disciples and seeing the same crowds as they, *was moved with compassion* (34). But note that He preached Himself; He did not call upon His wearied disciples to join in the task now.” A. Cole, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Mark* Eerdmans 1977, 113, 115

4. Look to Jesus to supply your needs for the task He's given you. Tap into His superpower by bringing to Him what you have and let Him multiply it 6:37-43

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 6:41-43 “Of the Twelve, each disciple had gathered a basketful of pieces, and we may be sure that this was to be their food for the next day.” A. Cole 115.

5. But don't put off the rest too long! Healthy boundaries are necessary 6:45-6

“In infancy, the very existence of the child depends upon the mother’s ability to transcend her own patterns of thought, feeling, and physical need....But she...learns not only that it is impossible to sustain [that relationship perpetually] but that the attempt to do so can be deadly. The moments, hours and days of self-giving must be balanced by moments, hours, and days of withdrawal into, and enrichment of, her individual selfhood if she is to remain a whole person. She learns, too, that a woman can give too much of herself, so that nothing remains of her own uniqueness; she can become merely an emptiness, almost a zero, without value to herself, to her fellow men, or, perhaps, even to God.” Saiving, ‘The Human Situation: A Feminine View’ in *Woman Spirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion* Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskoro, ed. Harper San Francisco, 1979, 37. See Genesis 2:2-3.

6. Make prayer an important part of your coping strategy

“Mark communicates a sense of urgency in what follows the feeding of the crowd. *Immediately* Jesus compelled both the disciples and the crowd to leave, while he went alone to commune with his Heavenly Father (6:45-46). The sense of urgency undoubtedly had to do with his need to speak with the Father.” V.B. Cole, “Mark” in *Africa Bible Commentary* Zondervan 2006, 1208

Message Outline Continued on Next Page...

Message Outline Continued

7. Some people's needs will simply have to wait

“Mark reports the chronology of the events clearly suggesting that a whole night passes *after* Jesus knows his disciples are struggling but *before* he comes out to themIn the evening (6:00-9:00 p.m....), Jesus sees his disciples struggling on the lake. *Early in the morning* (literally, *about the fourth watch*, 3:00-6:00 a.m.), Jesus comes walking on the water. Jesus does not look up from prayer, discover his disciples in need, and immediately come to their aid. Instead, he deliberately waits an entire night before making a move to help them. The disciples spend the night fighting the wind and waves; Jesus spends it praying....”

“...Earlier in the Gospel (1:35-39), Jesus has tried to escape the crowds clamoring for healings. He needs time for public preaching and for private prayer.” Geddert, 151. See also Matthew 14:1-14; John 6:14-15.

8. Jesus may not take away your struggles when you want Him to, but He is aware of your struggle. He's watching. Remember His care in the past 6:47-48

⁴⁷ Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. Mark 6:47-52

“The disciples imagined that the feeding miracle guaranteed them their master's miracle-working power whenever they had a need. But that was a misunderstanding. Jesus has the power to work miraculously, but he does not exercise it freely and immediately whenever life presents discomforts, challenges or dangers. That lesson the disciples had not yet learned. No wonder they misunderstood the sea-crossing episode. It was designed to teach the same lesson!” Geddert, “The meaning of the feedings in Mark's Gospel,” *Double Take*, Kindred 2007, 60-61

No temptation^[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[b] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Geddert, “We prayed for healing...but she died,” *Double Take* Kindred, 2007, 187-192.

“They don't know what story they are writing with God. They have to hold on to hope and see there is a bigger picture unfolding. They have to hang on to what God is doing amid their pain and suffering.” Macartney, “Ukrainian Evangelicals coping amid war” *Faith Today* May/June 2022, 39

9. How do you know when to respond in compassion and when to set up boundaries? The way Jesus did: In prayer, in conversation with support group