

## St. Paul's 2026 Stewardship Campaign

# **Be Thou My Vision**

An invitation to discern and embrace God's Vision for our congregation and our lives.

Week 1: Give Me the Faith of A Mustard Seed!

#### Part I

Take a few minutes to place yourself in God's presence. Still and open your heart. Slowly read the following Scripture out loud.

Word of God: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup> and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Who were the people who taught you about Jesus? Who were the saints around you who walked with you in faith when life was falling apart?
Re-write verse 5 fusing the names of those who inspired you to faith in Christ.
<sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.
Now re-read all of our scripture for the day replacing verse 5 with your verse - faith story.
What thoughts would you like to capture from your prayer today:

### Closing prayer:

Good and gracious God, you come among us through your Son Jesus inviting us into an intimate relationship with you.

Today we give thank for those faithful witnesses who have taught us about you, and who have encouraged us to trust in you through the challenges of life. We thank you for all

who have been the witness of faith for us.

Lord, as we journey through these next weeks, renew our faith, and prepare us to receive your vision for our lives and for our congregation that we may faithfully serve you for the building up of the world you love. Amen.

#### Part II

Take a few minutes to place yourself in God's presence. Still and open your heart. Slowly read the following Scripture out loud.

Word of God: Luke 18: 35-43

<sup>35</sup> As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth<sup>[a]</sup> is passing by." <sup>38</sup> Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup> Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>40</sup> Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." <sup>43</sup> Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

If Jesus sat down beside you today and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" What would you say? Spend some time with this question. Write your answer:

Read this story out loud twice. Then put the text down and just imagine yourself in the story. You are the person calling out to Jesus. When he stops and asks what you want or need, tell him! You don't have to stick to the script. This is about trusting Jesus to meet you in your prayer.

Write about your prayer experience:

## **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, Jesus,
you call to us and ask,
"What do you want me
to do for you?"
Give us the faith
to respond honestly,
and to trust
that you hear us,
care for us,
and abide with us always.

Help us to understand that sometimes "no" or "not yet" are loving answers.

Give us ears to hear your voice, and eyes and hearts open to see your presence and action in our lives. Amen.

#### Day III

Take a few minutes to place yourself in God's presence. Still and open your heart. Slowly read the following Scripture out loud.

Word of God: Luke 7:1-10

7 After Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly and who was ill and close to death. <sup>3</sup>When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, <sup>5</sup> for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." <sup>6</sup>And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; <sup>7</sup> therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." <sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and, turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." <sup>10</sup>When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

What stand out about the centurion's faith to you?

When have you trusted, relied on Jesus?

One of the striking things about this Gospel story is that is said the centurion "heard about Jesus." That's all it took for him to believe, trust, seek out, have faith!

What have you heard about Jesus?

If you were going to tell a stranger who had never you say?	er heard of Jesus about Jesus what would
For a moment, imagine that you are a follower on the street at the moment when he learns the you say to him?	
Write what that conversation would look and so	ound like?
Read your conversation with the centurion out of Jesus and the centurion again.	loud and then continue and read the story
What would you like to remember from your pro	ayer today:
Closing Prayer:	Help us to trust in you when we don't know where to turn.
God of life and healing,	Help us to be aware of your presence
you call us to be witnesses	when we feel lost or in pain.
to your goodness,	
your care,	Give us the wisdom and grace
and your abiding presence.	to share our faith with those
	who are in need of your grace,
	mercy, love and presence. Amen.