

PRAY

1. Leaders in worship: Pastor Darrin Mechling, Brandon Ramey & the Worship Ministry
2. The Holy Spirit will move in our corporate gatherings, leading us to exalt Jesus Christ.
3. MacArthur Blvd will grow in Christ-exalting, Kingdom-advancing ministry in 2017.
4. Pray that God will move on us to be more evangelistic and, through our obedience in sharing the Gospel.

PREPARE FOR THE MESSAGE

**“Forgiveness God’s Way”**— *Genesis 45:1-15*

Pastor Darrin will lead us in God’s word this Sunday to consider God’s way of forgiveness. We will consider the story of Joseph and how he responded to the evil committed against him by his brothers. Prepare for Sunday by reading Genesis 45. For more context, go all the way back to chapter 40. What does this aspect of Joseph’s life teach us about forgiveness: what it is, what it’s not, and how it is extended? Consider God’s way of forgiveness and how it differs from the world’s understanding of forgiveness. What is it about extending forgiveness that you find most difficult?

MUSIC

PRELUDE MUSIC

**Various Hymns**

Feat: Mickey Vaughn

PRAISE & ADORATION

**The Name Of Jesus**

Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Matt Redman, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill & Chris Tomlin

**Your Love Awakens Me**

Chris Quilala & Phil Wickham

**Stronger**

Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan

ADORATION SONG

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Thomas Obediah Chisholm & William Marion Runyan

LYRICS

**The Name Of Jesus**

VERSE 1

The name of Jesus is a refuge  
A shelter from the storm, a help to those who call  
The name of Jesus is a fortress  
A saving place to run, a hope unshakabl

PRE-CHORUS

When we fall You are the Savior,  
When we call You are the answer  
There is power in Your name,  
There is power in Your name

CHORUS

In the name of Jesus  
There is life and healing  
Chains are broken in Your name  
Every knee will bow down and our hearts will cry out  
Songs of freedom in Your name, oh, in Your name

VERSE 2

Bring salvation, bring Your Kingdom  
Let all that You have made  
Bring glory to Your name

CHORUS

In the name of Jesus  
There is life and healing  
Chains are broken in Your name  
Every knee will bow down and our hearts will cry out  
Songs of freedom in Your name, oh, in Your name

**Your Love Awakens Me**

VERSE 1

There were walls between us  
By the cross you came  
And broke them down  
You broke them down  
And there were chains around us  
And by Your grace we are  
No longer bound. No longer bound

PRE-CHORUS

You called me out of the grave  
You called me into the light  
You called my name  
And then my heart came alive

CHORUS

Your love is greater Your love is stronger  
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me

VERSE 2

Feel the darkness shaking  
All the dead are coming  
Back to life. Are back to life  
Hear the song awaken  
All creation singing  
We’re alive cause You’re alive

BRIDGE

And what a love we found  
Death cant hold us down  
We shout it out  
We’re alive Cause You’re alive

## RESPOND TO THE SERMON

**Sunday, July 30 "Pursuing Christ"***Philippians 3:12-16*

**TRUTH:** A desire to know Christ is not sufficient. The desire to know Christ must be accompanied by the drive to pursue Christ. Increased intimacy with Christ and imitation of Christ require a consistent, aggressive, and passionate pursuit of Christ.

**TRUTH:** To pursue Christ, you must refuse to be satisfied. Healthy Christians are hungry Christians. They are Christians who are not satisfied with where they are spiritually. They never think they have 'arrived' spiritually. They always want more—more intimacy and more Christ-likeness. They refuse to stand still; instead they continue to pursue Christ aggressively.

**RESPONSE:** Our pursuit of Christ should be marked by consistency, passion, and aggressiveness. To what degree do these qualities describe your spiritual life? In what spiritual disciplines have you grown complacent? In what parts of your spiritual life is God calling you to go deeper (e.g. prayer, Bible reading, Christian fellowship, worship, evangelism, etc.)?

**TRUTH:** To pursue Christ, you must stop looking back. Our past can paralyze us from making progress in the

present. You must stop looking back at past failures, which the enemy will use to convince you that God cannot use you and has nothing more for you. You must stop looking back at past successes and accomplishments, which may lead you to think that you've paid your dues, and it's somebody else's turn.

**RESPONSE:** How often do you find yourself "looking back"? Do you usually allow past failures or past accomplishments to influence your present pursuit of Christ? What does not looking back mean for you?

**TRUTH:** To pursue Christ, you must run to win the prize. The "prize" is to know Christ and to be like Christ. In our final glorification, we will become fully one with Him and be made fully like Him. We are to pursue this prize in this life with great zeal. We must give our greatest effort in life to what matters most. Every day God is calling us to greater levels of intimacy and Christ-likeness, and we must receive that call every day.

**RESPONSE:** Where do you put your greatest effort in life? How would you describe your run after Christ? How is God calling you specifically through this passage, and how do you intend to respond to His call?

## FAMILY RESPONSE

**Sunday, July 30 "Pursuing Christ"***Philippians 3:12-16*

**TRUTH:** We believe with faith that Christ Jesus is our Savior. Then we follow after Him no matter what because He has saved us.

**RESPONSE:** One thing that gets in our way when we are following Jesus is confusion or forgetfulness about our identity. The Bible says that God sees the identity of Jesus when He looks at a Christian. Sometimes we get discouraged when we remember the bad things we've done because we think that is all we will ever do. Paul says, don't trip over who you were in the past; instead, live in the truth of who you are now—new in Jesus.

**RESPONSE:** We can also get off track when we think our identity comes from the good things we've done in the past. Sometimes we think we've already done enough so we can stop following after Jesus and just keep believing in Him. But Paul teaches us that when we trust and follow Jesus we have a goal to keep racing toward every day. Talking to your kids about how you respond to Jesus in both of these ways will help them develop a right understanding of their own need to respond to Jesus.