



THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED  
*Thriving* AS DISCIPLES



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# INTRODUCTION

In every generation, disciples of Jesus consistently point to their time in the Scripture and in prayer as a centerpiece of their spiritual growth. So, kudos to you for making Biblical devotions a priority for 2021! Our theme for the entire year is thriving with God. on mission. together.

After putting 2020 to bed :), a year of upheaval, forced pauses, and uncertainty, how important it will be to reflect intentionally on what it means to thrive and not just survive. God still has great things in store for each of us individually and as a church family, as we continue to embrace His mission where we live, work, and play. Over the course of 2021 we will walk through ten different series each with a slightly nuanced take on this theme of “thriving.”

I’m super excited for this series! The title is a play on words from the Broadway musical: *Hamilton*. Aaron Burr sings a song about the room where the founding fathers discerned and defined the details of our young nation. It was a pivotal room, where pivotal decisions were made. Well, there was another room—an upper room—that has proven even more pivotal for the last 2000 years. It was there, the night before Jesus was crucified, that He gathered his disciples one final time, for one final meal, and a final set of instructions. Knowing that He was about to die, and rise, and ascend to the right hand of the Father in glory, Jesus prepared them for life without Him. He prepared them to live THE LIFE of a disciple. And He made a profound promise: God, the Holy Spirit would come and dwell IN them, enabling them to THRIVE as His disciples until He came again! In 2021 we are still living in the same chapter of Redemptive History. We too are made to thrive as Jesus’ disciples! And this series will unpack some of the key ingredients. Join us!

## HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

This guide is designed to give you a brief daily devotional Monday through Friday as you prepare your heart and mind for the message each Sunday on campus or online. Each week we will focus on one chapter of John, aiming to thrive with God, on mission, together. To that end we are introducing the 1-10-1 method of reading Scripture which may become a go-to for you in years to come. Read through the chapter slowly one time. Attempt to summarize in 10 words what you are hearing. And focus on one particular takeaway that God might intend for you. You may find as you pray for Christian siblings and for those outside the faith who are inside your reach that what God is teaching you is intended for you to share with them. Let’s be a great encouragement to one another and our neighbors, co-workers and friends in 2021!





**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the “1-10-1” method of reading Scripture:**

1. Read the passage slowly “1” time.
2. Summarize the main idea of the passage in “10” words or less.
3. Ask God to lead you to “1” idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Richard Foster, in his book Celebration of Discipline, defines the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant. “When you choose to serve, you are still in charge. You serve on your terms... But when you choose to be a servant, you give up the right to be in charge. You decide to be a servant—every day, all the time.”

Tell Jesus that you want to be a servant, as He modeled. Then ask Him what brother or sister in Christ He would have you serve this week...and how. Write it below, and follow through!



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

Elsewhere, Jesus calls us to love and serve those who are far from God (e.g., Luke 6:35).

Who is “outside the faith but inside your reach” that you could serve in a tangible way this week, a humble way? Ask God to guide you. Write your answer below, and again, follow through!

**Message Notes: March 21**

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**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In verse 34, Jesus says, "...just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."**

What are the ways Jesus has shown love to you? Write them below...and then thank Him for His amazing, undeserved love for you!



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. What do we learn about Judas in verses 18-30?
2. What do we learn about Peter in verses 36-38?
3. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
4. As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him." Why did Jesus say these words now?



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

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**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Jesus said in verses 34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Who is a brother or sister in Christ that you have not loved well recently? How might God have you love them? Consider reaching out to them and confessing that, asking their forgiveness, and expressing your desire to grow in loving them as Christ has loved you.



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

Jesus said that our love for each other as His disciples would be our primary witness in the world that we follow Him. How do you think our love for each other at Hope Church can/should be a witness to our surrounding community ("Mason Plus")? How would the people in our area see our love for each other? Ask God to show you...and us, your Hope family...and then ask Him to help us live it out.

## Message Notes: March 28



**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In verse 2, Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for His disciples.**

What do you know about heaven and New Creation? What most excites you about it? Write a prayer below, thanking God for the amazing grace of the hope that we have in Him!



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. Why were the disciples troubled? What are the many ways their lives would be impacted by Jesus' death?

2. What is Jesus' overarching desire in verses 1-4?

3. What does Jesus say about His relationship with the Father in these verses?



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the "1-10-1" method of reading Scripture:**

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3. Ask God to lead you to "1" idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

1. What brother or sister in Christ would be encouraged by the words, "Jesus has prepared a place for you in glory...so that you can be with Him, and He with you!"? Consider sharing those words with them today.
2. In verse 13, Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." That's a challenging verse, as many prayers have not been answered in the way that we've asked them, but clearly Jesus is teaching that He works through prayer! What might you ask of Jesus on behalf of a brother or sister in Christ today?



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

Imagine someone said to you, "I think it's arrogant for Christians to believe that Jesus is the only way to get to God." One way we might respond is:

- Saying, "Tell me more about that..." and listening to them, making sure you understand.
- Finding places of agreement. "I see how you might think that..."
- Offering to share your thoughts. "I have a different perspective on that if you're willing to hear it." If they said, "Please do," what might you say?

**Message Notes: April 4**



**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In John 14:23, Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”**

Write a brief prayer below, thanking God for His great love for you, and that, by His grace, He has made His home in you!



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. In these passages, what does Jesus say is true about the person who loves Him? List them below. Are those things true of you? Write a brief message to God about that below.

2. What does Jesus teach about the “Helper,” the Holy Spirit, in this passage? List them below.



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the “1-10-1” method of reading Scripture:**

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3. Ask God to lead you to “1” idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Look at the list you made on Tuesday of what Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit. Take one of those things and pray it specifically for a brother or sister in Christ. Consider sending them a text to let them know that you’re praying for them. (For example, “Hey, I was reading in John 14 today about how the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. I’m praying that for you today, that He will lead and guide you into all truth as you go through your day.”)



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

In John 14:8-10, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will “convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” Take a few moments now to pray by name for someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that the Holy Spirit will convict them concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...and rescue them by His grace.

**Message Notes: April 11**

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**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In John 15:11, Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”**

Receive that in a new way today...that Jesus longs to fill you with His joy!  
Write a prayer of thanksgiving for that.



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. What does Jesus say in this passage about the person who “abides in Him”? List them below.

2. What does it mean to “abide” or “remain” in Jesus? Ask God how He might have you grow in “abiding in Him.”



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the “1-10-1” method of reading Scripture:**

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3. Ask God to lead you to “1” idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Twice in this passage, Jesus tells us why he spoke these things: “that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (v. 11), and “so that you will love one another” (v. 17). Joy and loving one another are linked. Ask God how He wants to increase your joy this week as you love your brothers and sisters in Christ in a new way. Write it below, and do it.



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

One of the things that should characterize us as followers of Jesus is our joy. People who are outside the faith should see that in us. Would people who are “outside the faith but inside your reach” describe you as a joyful person? How might the Lord want to increase your joy...in part, as a witness to the world of the life that is possible in Him?

**Message Notes: April 18**

Empty note-taking area.



**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In John 16:22, Jesus said to His disciples, “I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”**

This is true of you as well, if you are a follower of Jesus. Take a few moments to give God thanks for the wonder of this grace...that one day you will see Him, your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you!



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. What does Jesus say about “the world” in this passage? List them below.

2. What does Jesus say about the Father in this passage? List them below.



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the “1-10-1” method of reading Scripture:**

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**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Do you know a brother or sister in Christ who is facing persecution (rejection by family members, trouble at work) because of their faith in Jesus? Pray for them, that God would strengthen them. Consider sending them a message to let them know. If you don't know anyone, pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are suffering for their faith.



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

Jesus promises us that, if we follow Him, “the world” will hate us, even as it hated Him. Why is that so? Why would the world hate us for following Jesus? How do you feel about being hated by the world? Write an honest message to God about that below. Ask Him to help you be willing to be hated (for the right reasons) for the sake of His name.

**Message Notes: April 25**

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**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In John 17:3, Jesus said, “This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”**

Thank God for the amazing grace of knowing Him!



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. What does Jesus say about the Father in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Jesus say about Himself in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does Jesus say about His disciples in this passage?



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

**Do the “1-10-1” method of reading Scripture:**

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3. Ask God to lead you to “1” idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

Read verse 3 again. Eternal life is knowing God the Father, and the Son. Pray for a brother or sister in Christ, that they would grow in their knowledge of the Triune God...really know Him. Then send them a message like, “I’m praying for you today, that you would know the greatness and glory of God like you’ve never known it before!”



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

Pray the words of verse 8 for someone you know who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that the words Jesus said about the disciples would become true of them: “For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.”

**Message Notes: May 2**



**Monday**

Receive Gospel Grace

**In verse 24, Jesus expresses His desire that His disciples be with Him, and that they (we) see His glory.**

Spend some time reflecting on Jesus' desire to be with you. It's why He came! Amazing! Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for that.



**Tuesday**

Thriving with God

1. What does Jesus pray for His disciples in this passage? List them below.
2. By each one, where Jesus gives a reason for praying it ("that" or "so that..."), write the reason. (For example, in verse 11 the prayer is "keep them in your name" and the reason is "that they may be one.")



**Wednesday**

Thriving with God

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3. Ask God to lead you to “1” idea that He wants to speak to you specifically today. Prayerfully reflect on that idea.



**Thursday**

Thriving Together

In verses 20-21, Jesus prayed for *us*, those who believe in Him through the word of the apostles, that we would be one, just as He and the Father are one. What are ways that you have allowed the divisiveness of this past year to create division between you and other followers of Jesus? Confess that to God. Turn away from that heart of division, and ask God to help you love His people...that we may be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one! (And if there is a particular person who has been on the receiving end of that spirit of divisiveness in you, consider reaching out to them in humility, confessing that and asking their forgiveness.)



**Friday**

Thriving on Mission

A primary reason that Jesus prays for unity among His people is so that we might be a witness to the world (verses 21 and 23). Pray for the unity of the church in our city. Pray for unity at Hope Church. And pray for someone you love who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that our love for one another as followers of Jesus would be a witness to them of the life of Christ in us.

**Message Notes: May 9**

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