

1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

- Bully Conversion:
 - When were you ever bullied by someone who later became your friend?
 - Example: Tim got socked in the mouth by Chris St. Clair who emailed him 20 years later that he had become a Christian.
 - Example: Wildman Jeff Brown, a 9th Grader, through me in the dumpster by the music wing of Southwest Junior High after my buddy Valenti made fun of Wildman and ran. I did not get the memo to run so Wildman through me out with the trash. 30 years later we ran into each other at Starbucks, had coffee, and laughed that his whole “Wildman” thing was just an act. I reassured him that you could have fooled me. Haha
- Stranded and afraid:
 - When were you ever stranded and afraid but someone came to your rescue just in time?
- Who are the neighbors or family members who feel the most left out?
 - Example: Sad friends over the holidays at family functions.
 - Example: Public Shame. Friends caught in a sting

2. Worship: Face of Christ: Song Tim Referenced last week

Face of Christ

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/face-of-christ/7296236?i=7296230>

Chris Rice

He shares a room outside with a dozen other guys
 And the only roof he knows is that sometimes starry sky
 A tattered sleeping bag on a concrete slab is his bed
 And its too cold to talk tonight
 So I just sit with him instead and think

How did I find myself in a better place
 I can't look down on the frown on the other guys face
 Cause when I stoop down low, look him square in the eye
 I get a funny feeling, I just might be dealing
 With the face of Christ

After sixteen years in a cold, gray prison yard
 Somehow his heart is soft, but keeping simple faith is hard
 He lays his Bible open on the table next to me
 And as I hear his humble prayer
 I feel his longing to be free someday

How did I find myself in a better place

I can't look down on the frown on the other guys face
 Cause when I stoop down low, look him square in the eye
 I get a funny feeling, I just might be dealing
 With the face of Christ

See you had no choice which day you would be born
 Or the color of your skin, or what planet you'd be on
 Would your mind be strong, would your eyes be blue or brown
 Whether daddy would be rich, or if momma stuck around at all

So if you find yourself in a better place
 You can't look down on the frown on the other guys face
 You gotta stoop down low, look him square in the eye
 And get a funny feeling, cause you might be dealing

How did I find myself in a better place
 I can't look down on the frown on the other guys face
 Cause when I stoop down low, look him square in the eye
 I get a funny feeling, I just might be dealing
 With the face of Christ
 With the face of Christ, yeah
 With the face of Christ

3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Praying for our Mayor's Prayer List

Here is my question to Mayor Bill Mutz.

Bill, TimO here, I write the material for our small groups at Trinity - 26 groups of 352 folks - and during our Kingdom Centered Prayer Time for the months of November and December - Can you give a quick list of 3 to 5 things we could be praying for you and our city. Just anything on your heart of concerns you have about finishing the year well. We love our Mayor. Thanks.

Bill's Answer:

1) **Thank God for the continuing blessing of living in a community that cares about people.**

2) **Pray for additional missional multi-family housing** developers to desire to build 400 additional affordable housing units in Lakeland beyond what is currently committed within the next three years.

3) **Pray for a unity between churches that can cause them to partner and accept the City's homeless outreach efforts** and rapid re-housing of disrupted lives who desire to become reestablished and self-sufficient, particularly with children. Lighthouse Ministry has hired Luke Simmons who could make this a possibility within the next year. He will serve as an Outreach Director working between churches. City funding ceases 9/30/20.

4) **Pray for wisdom and wise purchase opportunities for the development of the Innovation District surrounding Florida Polytechnic.** This is a cusp moment which can enable Central Florida to become one of the most transformational research centers for autonomous vehicles and other related research internationally. Pray, too, for our educational institutions to be using resources wisely and effectively to facilitate these future opportunities.

5) **Pray that our wonderful churches that reflect the heart of Jesus throughout the Lakeland community increasingly and unitedly lock arms to make it possible for us to be known over time as a City that seeks foremost to honor everyone.** Grow our desire to reach into the unlevel playing fields of life while providing a hand up by mentoring, providing economic opportunities, housing, and unconditional love to all who seek it. Let them see Jesus in us all along the way. Let the world see Jesus in our City that becomes known by its tenacity for overcoming obstacles. As Believers we must not quit and or rest behind excuses or cynicism, but rather, we must pursue the Gospel through the lives of thriving Believers who accept our roles as World Changers!

6) **Finally, pray for a hedge of protection over those who protect us!** Our exceptional LPD & LFD First Responders risk their lives daily at levels we are often unaware. Give them courage and wisdom as the Enemy seeks to distract and destroy.

Thank you SO much for asking! Your practical love for others inspires me!

4. Sermon Reflection: The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 (ESV)

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Who is MY neighbor? How well am I doing at loving them, all of them?

Identifying with each character in the story

- How have you experienced being “A man who fell among robbers”?
 - What were/are the circumstances?
 - How desperate were you?

- How have you been “the Priest and Levite” who saw and passed by on the other side?
 - Who are you doing that to in your life right now?
 - How have folks done that to you in the past?
 - Who are the neighbors in your life that you think it is actually loving to look and walk by?
 - What have been so religious, wise reasons to not speak or spend time with someone?

- How have you been “Good Samaritaned” by someone? Your problem they own and care for you like they would themselves.
 - Who have you Good Samaritaned?
 - Which is harder for you to ask for help or to be a help to others at your own expense?

How is Jesus like the Good Samaritan and how we in the same spot as the man robbed and beaten?

Example: Come up with your own list

Samaritan (Jesus)	Man Robbed - US
Alien, Outsider, Enemy	Helpless
Sees, Feels, Acts	Harassed
At His expense – Becomes naked	Naked
Compassion- Life giving	As good as dead
Killed,	Lifeless

5. Mission: Communion Reflection: Do this in remembrance of me?

Pray for some of the Local Ministries and Churches in our Community:

Here is the text I sent each ministry: Name of the Director or friend in that ministry, TimO here. I am writing the discussion material for our Community Groups at Trinity, 26 groups of 352 folks, and I would like for all the groups to pray for you and your ministry during November/December about finishing the year well. Could please reply with 3 to 5 ways that we can be praying for you? Thank you.

A Woman’s Choice: Rebecca Klein, Director and Jamie Rogers, director of counseling

Rebecca

Hi Timo, thank you so much for thinking of us! I would be deeply grateful for that prayer!

So here are a few ways to pray for us:

1. For more women at risk for abortion to come to our center every day
2. For the Lord to use our new website and marketing strategies to reach those women and change our culture
3. For the Holy Spirit to be at work in the center to convict hearts to choose life and to choose Christ.
4. For protection, strength, and daily renewal for staff and volunteers in the heat of the battle
5. For the Lord to direct every step of our ministry in the new year and beyond.

Thank you, Timo, and all those who will be praying!

Jamie

1. Please pray for extra favor in discernment
2. Please pray for more abortion minded women to come to AWC
3. Please pray that i would love well! -not just for others but for myself too
4. Please pray for The Gospel of Jesus Christ to be fearlessly shared
5. Would love these scriptures prayed over AWC. Romans 12:12, Colossians 1:11-12, Galatians 6:9. Thank you, I have been with AWC for almost 8 years- No one has ever asked me to do this,

Parker Street Ministry: Tim Mitchell, Director/Founder

1. Pray that I would follow Christ not keep just asking him to join me.
2. Also I am facing some significant staff changes in the upcoming years and need the Lord's wisdom

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: Mark Wilson, Area Director

Hey Timo, thanks so much!

1. Coaches ministry- new model we are developing.
2. Current and new staff hires
3. New Student Leadership development model.
4. Continued favor in our schools with administrators and teachers.

Christ Community: Dax Gibson, Director of Community Groups

Thank you so much.

1. Pray for people to come to Christ and be equipped to lead others to him. We are praying for 100 people in 5 years.
2. Also pray that we would be at church that does life through prayer and depends on the Holy Spirit.

Redeemer Church Lakeland: Pastor Dave Martin

1. We need clarity on staffing needs. We don't want to just do what seems logical or right. We want to know that we are seeking the mind of Christ.
2. We also have a need to teach our younger families about the importance of stewardship and they need to support the work of the church

Trinity Presbyterian Church: Lakeland

- 1) as we face some staff transitions, please pray for the Lord to work His patience into our hearts AND that He would raise up the right workers for the harvest that is Trinity.
- 2) we are at a significant time in history with SO much transition, especially away from anything traditional or church-related. Please pray for our vision and courage to adapt to these changes in our culture with wisdom and faithfulness

Redeemer Church SW: Lead Pastor Jeff Skipper and Rodney Barton Director of Community Life

Jeff Skipper, Lead Pastor

1. Opportunity and wisdom for a new worship space
2. A deeper vision and desire for discipleship, and ownership by our leaders

Gospel Inc and Brian Seeley

1. Be more committed to reading and prayer.
2. Fall in love with Jesus more each day.
3. Make lots of \$\$\$ for Christmas lights!