

# Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

## Jesus: Our Redeemer

Through seminary right now, I am taking a class surveying the Old Testament. We were reading the story of Ruth, and I came across a verse that struck me. "Then Naomi said, 'Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is resolved today.'" Ruth 3:18

Naomi was a woman who suffered greatly. She had lost her husband and both of her sons. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, is committed to caring for Naomi and went to work in a field belonging to a man named Boaz. This verse comes after Boaz has decided to marry Ruth and redeem Naomi's bloodline and story. In that time, unmarried women without children were the lowest in society. Ruth and Naomi needed Boaz so they could live. In the Old Testament, Boaz was known as a Guardian-Redeemer.

In this moment, Ruth is nervous. How will they survive if this doesn't work? Without a redeemer, unspeakable things would likely happen to her. Naomi's sentiment that Boaz certainly will not rest until it is finished reminds me of Jesus.

As we turn our minds to Easter and the promise of an empty grave. I can't help but remember how Jesus did not rest until it was resolved.

Over 2000 years ago, the perfect Son of God died on a cross, was buried for three days, and then rose from the grave. While he was in the tomb, he defeated death and hell to give us a promise of new life, hope for tomorrow!

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He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town. When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?" Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

**Ruth 3:15-18**

The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

**Ruth 4:14-15**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

**John 3:16-18**





But that's not the whole story. What makes Boaz a good Guardian-Redeemer is his care for Ruth before he knew he could marry her. As we read Ruth, we continue to find Boaz provides for her. He gives her food, cares for and protects her. He doesn't wait to care for Ruth until she becomes his wife. He begins caring for her much sooner than that.

Jesus does this for us as well. In Ephesians 5, we learn that the Church is the Bride of Christ. He cares for us before we are ever his. Before we commit our lives to him, he provides, cares for and protects us.

Do you know the love of Christ, your Guardian-Redeemer? 1 John 4 paints a picture of God's love as shown through Christ. "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19. Before we ever knew him, he loved us.

God, our creator, has loved and continues to love us since we were knit together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13). We strayed from that love, and God sent his only son to die on a cross so we could live in perfect union with him again (Romans 5:6-9). Now, everyone who accepts this invitation, to be redeemed through Christ, gets to live with the Holy Spirit inside of them. This is eternal life. This is heaven on earth. This is the Gospel.

It doesn't stop there, though. If we truly believe this and have any love for those around us, we would and should work to make Christ's love known to those around us. We should invite them to accept Christ's invitation, so they too can be justified and redeemed through faith by grace alone. So, with whom will you share the Gospel? Who around you needs to know their Guardian-Redeemer?

v. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her; v.29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church; v. 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.'

**Ephesians 5:25, 29, 32**

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**Psalms 139:13**

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

**Romans 5:6-9**

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**Romans 8:16-17**

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Matthew 28:18-20**



## Bible in a Year Plan

Check out Tara-Leigh Cobble's *The Bible Recap* for more info and reflection questions.

**Date: Scripture:**

April 1 Judges 6+7

April 2 Judges 8+9

April 3 Judges 10-12

April 4 Judges 13-15

April 5 Judges 16-18

April 6 Judges 19-21

April 7 Ruth 1-4

April 8 1 Samuel 1-3

April 9 1 Samuel 4-8

April 10 1 Samuel 9-12

April 11 1 Samuel 13-14

April 12 1 Samuel 15-17

April 13 1 Samuel 18-20, Psalms 11 + 59

April 14 1 Samuel 21-24

April 15 Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52

**Date: Scripture:**

April 16 Psalms 56, 120, 140-142

April 17 1 Samuel 25-27

April 18 Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63

April 19 1 Samuel 28-31, Psalm 18

April 20 Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130

April 21 2 Samuel 1-4

April 22 Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21

April 23 1 Chronicles 1-2

April 24 Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87

April 25 1 Chronicles 3-5

April 26 Psalms 73, 77-78

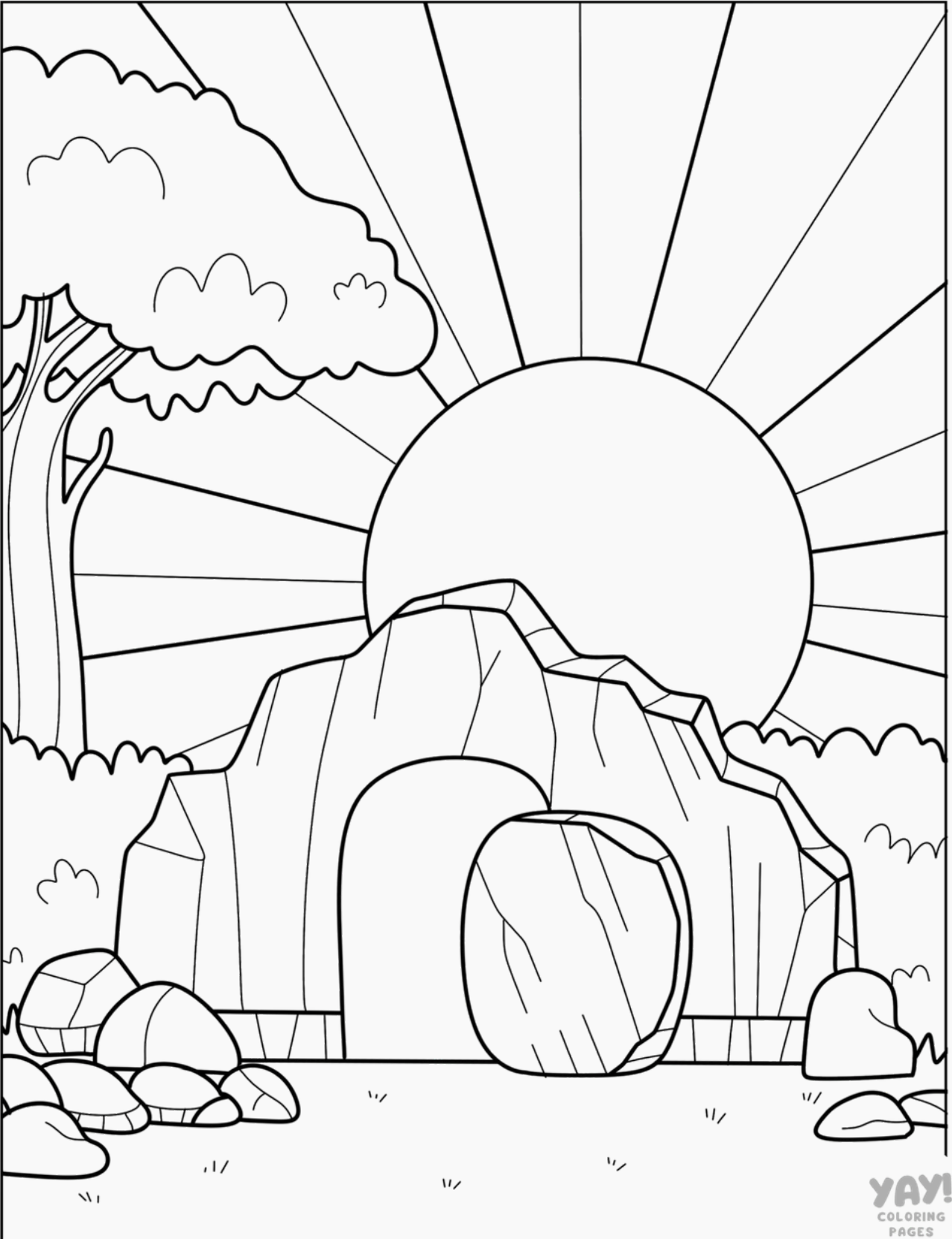
April 27 1 Chronicles 6

April 28 Psalms 81, 88, 92-93

April 29 1 Chronicles 7-10

April 30 Psalms 102-104

# Generations



## Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude

### What is Solitude?

Solitude, simply put, is being alone with God. When we practice solitude, we make time to step away from the busy routine of life to be with Jesus. Solitude is often coupled with other spiritual disciplines because it allows us to truly focus on our Lord. When we remove distractions, noise, and things that pull us in every direction, we can hear God's voice. We come to know his character, heart, and plan for our life. Knowing our Father allows us to live His will and become true followers of Him.

### Why Should You Practice Solitude?

My favorite author, John Mark Comer, says, "Distraction is one of the greatest threats to spiritual health in the modern world." He goes on to remind us of Jesus' invitation to be alone with Him. I'm reminded of a scripture we studied together last month, Luke 10:41-42. Mary's better choice, or good portion, was to sit with Jesus at his feet. Additionally in Luke 5, Jesus himself withdrew to lonely or desolate places to pray. Jesus understood the importance of removing distraction and listening to God.

### How Can You Practice Solitude?

Solitude, as we have said, is the art of withdrawing from distractions. It reads as a simple task, but you and I both know it couldn't be anymore complex. In our digital world, it is harder now than ever to withdraw. Many of us find it harder to sleep at night, eat dinner with our families, and focus on a Sunday morning because of the numerous distractions at our finger tips. This means we must make a conscious effort to withdraw.

For me, this looks like silencing my notifications, taking off my headphones, getting out my journal, and just sitting. Sometimes I bow. Sometimes I kneel. Sometimes I weep. To me, solitude is a chance to sit in an intimate moment with God and allow him to speak to my heart.

In my Old Testament class, we also have been learning about Psalms. One of the things I love about Psalms is their ability to speak into our current emotions and state of mind. They walk us through many of David's moments with God. We get insight into his pain, anger, joy, and numerous other emotions. Sometimes, before I sit in silence and solitude, I read a Psalm aloud. It's an invitation for God to move and correct my heart posture, attitude and actions. It's an invitation to withdraw, and an invitation for God to enter.

### Scriptures to Study:

- **Luke 5:15-16**
  - Jesus withdraws from the crowd "to lonely places". This serves as an example of how we should practice solitude.
- **Matthew 6:5-6**
  - Jesus teaches us to enter into our rooms, close the door and pray. This is a practical example of how solitude interacts with prayer.
- **Psalms 1, 23, 46**
  - These Psalms serve as a reminder that God is with us, regardless of our circumstance. These may serve as invitations for your heart posture to withdraw and prayer for God to draw near.



## April Events around the Region

Please note all times are listed in EST unless otherwise stated.

Date	Event	Location	Time
April 2	Bethel Pastors	Jeffersontown FBC 10600 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY	11:30 AM
April 3	Region Office Closed	Good Friday	
April 6	NE Central Pastors and Spouses	Culver's 6386 S. Scatterfield Rd., Anderson	6:00 PM
April 7	Monticello and Tippecanoe Pastors	Country Cafe 705 Sagamore Pkwy W., West Lafayette	10:00 AM
April 7	Youth Leader Zoom		7:00 PM
April 8	Pastor/Staff Indians Game	Victory Field 501 W. Maryland St., Indianapolis	11:05 AM
April 9	Judson Pastors	Olive Garden 4015 S. LaFountain, Kokomo	12:00 PM
April 9	Long Run Pastors	Mo's Steakhouse 7 Ogle Industrial Park Dr. Vevay	6:00 PM
April 11	Charis Fundraiser Luncheon	Riverside Avenue Baptist Church 3700 W. Riverside Ave., Muncie	12:00 PM
April 12	FUSE Youth/Seconds Combo Event	Indian Creek Baptist Camp 1770 Avoca Eureka Rd., Bedford	3:00 PM
April 13	Laughery Pastors	Versailles Baptist Church 228 S. Washington St., Versailles	10:00 AM
April 13	Coffee Creek Pastors	Denny's 175 S. Honeyrun Pkwy. Scottsburg	1:00 PM
April 14	Pastor/Staff Zoom Wabash Leadership Program - Grants		10:00 AM
April 15	Region Staff Meeting	via Zoom	10:00 AM
April 15	Logansport Pastors	Streamliner Restaurant 201 E. 9 <sup>th</sup> St., Rochester	11:30 AM
April 16	Region Board Meeting	Zoom	9:30 AM
April 19	FUSE Youth Event	Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp 3127 W. CR 800 S., Greensburg	3:00 PM
April 20-22	Great Lakes Leadership Retreat	Cedar Lake Ministries 13701 Lauerman St., Cedar Lake	
April 22	North Pastors Lunch (Pastor Lester Jeffries, convener)	Vinatelli's 615 Annette Dr., Markle	12:00 PM
April 24 - 25	American Baptist Women's State Officers Retreat	The Seasons Lodge 560 SR 46, Nashville	Fri 5:00 PM Sat 9:30 AM
April 28 & May 5	Healthy Boundaries Course	Zoom	7:00 PM
April 30	Madison Pastors	Hinkle's Sandwich Shop 204 W Main St., Madison	9:00AM



## Looking Ahead

Save the date for these upcoming events!

### Youth Leader Zooms

April 7, August 4 and October 6 at 7:00 PM

Contact Kristi Jones for more info.

### Great Lakes Leadership Retreat

April 20-22

Cedar Lake Ministries

(13701 Lauerman St. Cedar Lake, IN)

### Gen Z and Preaching

June 22-26

Green Lake Conference Center

(W2511 SR 23 Green Lake, WI)

### Holy Spirit Renewal Ministries Conference

June 27-July 1

Green Lake Conference Center

(W2511 SR 23 Green Lake, WI)

### International Ministries World Missions Conference

July 29-31

Rosen Plaza Hotel

(9700 International Dr. Orlando, FL)

### Creativity in Preaching Lab

August 17-21

Green Lake Conference Center

(W2511 SR 23 Green Lake, WI)

### Region Biennial

October 2-3

Greater Hope Christian Church

1228 Lodge Ave. Evansville, IN

FUSE STUDENT GATHERINGS	
04.12.26	FUSE/Seconds Combo @ Indian Creek Baptist Camp 3-5:30pm (South West)
04.19.26	FUSE @ Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp 3-6pm (South East)
05.03.26	FUSE @ First Baptist Church Rochester 3:30-5pm (followed by dinner and Region Wide Worship service from 5p-7p) (North)
09.20.26	FUSE @ Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp 3:00-5pm (followed by dinner and Region Wide Worship from 5-7pm) (South East)
10.11.26	FUSE @ Liberty Baptist Church (Tipton, IN) 3:30-5:30pm (North)
10.25.26	FUSE @ First Baptist Church Bloomfield 3:30-6pm (South West)



# Save the Dates

2026 Region Biennial

October 2-3

Greater Hope

Christian Church

1228 Lodge Ave. Evansville, IN



All ABC-IN/KY Churches Invited!

Hosted by Rochester First Baptist Church

1000 Main St. Rochester, IN

Visit our Facebook page for more info.



Sunday, May 3, 2026

5:00 PM (EST) Pitch-In Dinner &

6:00 PM Worship



[www.ABC-MI.org/GreatLakesLeadershipRetreat](http://www.ABC-MI.org/GreatLakesLeadershipRetreat)

Deadline to register is April 6!

# Generations

# LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER



**FOR CHARIS STUDENT MINISTRY**

**APRIL 11TH, 2026 @12:00 PM**



COME HEAR ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING  
ON THE CAMPUS OF BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY THROUGH OUR MINISTRY.

**MEALS PROVIDED.  
RSVP USING THE LINK.**

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(361) 237-7075  
daniel@charismuncie.org

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/1P37PH9RZBXSHFAD6](https://forms.gle/1P37PH9RZBXSHFAD6)



## Thank You to Our Supporters

We are grateful to these sister churches who have given to the Region Offering in the month of February to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note that fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Avoca Missionary Baptist Church  
Bear Creek Baptist Church  
Brushy Fork Baptist Church  
Dabney Baptist Church  
Deer Creek Baptist Church  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
of Jeffersonville  
First Baptist Church of Austin  
First Baptist Church of Bedford  
First Baptist Church of Bicknell  
First Baptist Church of Bloomfield  
First Baptist Church of Camden  
First Baptist Church of Columbus  
First Baptist Church of Decatur  
First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne  
First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville  
First Baptist Church of Madison  
First Baptist Church of Milan  
First Baptist Church of Monticello  
First Baptist Church of Peru  
First Baptist Church of Plainfield  
First Baptist Church of Rochester

Greencastle First Baptist Church  
Hayden Baptist Church  
Hebron Baptist Church  
Hope First Baptist Church  
Judson Baptist Church  
Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church  
Lancaster Baptist Church  
Lebanon Baptist Church  
Muncie First Baptist Church  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Oak Grove Baptist Church  
Oakdale Baptist Church  
Sardinia Baptist Church  
Tampico Baptist Church  
Tea Creek Baptist Church  
Tell City First Baptist Church  
Westport Baptist Church  
Zion Baptist Church