

**Saturday**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

*Matthew 28:19-20*

**Pray for the ministry:** Pray for those who spread God’s love through missions outside our walls – in our community, in this country, and throughout the world.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** Pray that our “missionaries” can touch the lives of those they serve, and that others will be inspired to join them in their good work.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** Commit yourself to supporting missions through your participation, your prayers, and your gifts.

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**Follow Nehemiah’s Example**

Read Nehemiah during this week as a way to seek God’s direction for your participation in the campaign. You are encouraged to follow the example of Nehemiah set in chapter 1. Nehemiah first saw the need. The need in Jerusalem led him to weep. How often have you wept over the opportunities for the broken lives that surround Linglestown Life and need the restoration power of Jesus Christ? Second, Nehemiah fasted. I encourage you to take a day to fast prior to making your commitment to the Campaign. Fasting is a biblical practice that regularly precede great moves of God. Finally, Nehemiah prayed. Once Nehemiah followed this pattern he acted in accordance with the leading of God. My prayer is that we follow Nehemiah’s example!

**Commitment Sunday – May 17**

After much prayer, and having gone through the struggle to discern the will of God, you will be asked to make a faith commitment to the ENTER THE DREAM – EMBRACE GOD’S DESIRE mission expansion project. As an act of worship on this Sunday, you will be given the opportunity to present a Covenant Card.

On the Covenant Card you will be asked to indicate the amount you wish to give toward the project over the next three years. You can plan to give a one time gift, or indicate a desire to give weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annually. This gift should reflect your commitment above and beyond your regular tithes/offerings.

Please be in prayer prior to Commitment Sunday so that God can work through you to enable Linglestown Life to Embrace God’s Desire!



**Prayer Guide**

May 4 – 9

**Enter the Dream... Ministering to the Community**

Imagine the scene... Jesus is gathered with a small group of followers beside our church on the hill, looking over the Square. With a sweeping gesture of His hand, He says “Some think there are still four months until harvest, but I say, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35) The followers squint their eyes, straining to see what Jesus sees, but they recognize no gleaming fields of grain. Only brick and mortar, wood and shingles, roads of asphalt and streams of vehicles. With puzzled expressions they turn to Him. Knowing their hearts, He says, “I’m not talking about a physical harvest of grain, but a spiritual harvest of people.” Patiently, He continues, “Dear ones, you must look above and beyond the distractions to see the people. It is to them that I came to give life and give it abundantly.”

Of course, this scenario did not literally occur anywhere near our church. But the pattern for it did happen nearly two thousand years ago; for when Jesus had this kind of conversation with some of His disciples, He was establishing an enduring principle. There is really no difference between those believers of the first century and we of this century. Just as He wanted them to see the spiritual harvest, He wants us to do the same today. And, just as they needed to look above and beyond, so do we.

As we look above and beyond, we see thousands of people all around us who need the message of salvation. Some, like overly-ripened grain, are falling away, never to be redeemed. Many, many more are waiting to be harvested by loving laborers. In the next decade, the demographic experts say that our community will continue to explode with thousands of new residents. Who will reach out to these precious souls with the good news of Jesus?

We must take on this challenge. We must invite them in “from the highways and hedges.” We must open our hearts to receive them with love and acceptance. But we have a difficulty that must be overcome: more laborers are needed for this harvest. Our home is not big enough. We must have more space for more people. We must add on to our house in order to welcome more souls into God’s Kingdom. How can we do this? First, by seeing this as a challenge and not a problem. This demands the right spiritual vision. We must look above and beyond. In the months ahead, together, we are going to trust God to give us the insight — and the foresight — to do great things for His sake.

Today and this week, contemplate our church's position in our community. Pray for the vision to reach out to our community, both inside and outside our renewed home.

### *Monday*

Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers.

*3 John 5*

**Pray for the ministry:** Pray that through the extension of hospitality to others, the lives of our visitors and our congregants are truly changed so that God's good purposes can be accomplished through them.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** Pray that we would aid in the development of a new generation of "Lifers," loyal disciples of Christ committed for "Life" to completing God's purposes, here at Linglestown Life, in our community, and throughout the world.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** Commit yourself to sharing God's love with those you encounter inside and outside of our church.

### *Tuesday*

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another;

*Hebrews 10:23-25*

**Pray for the ministry:** That the small groups at Linglestown Life would be places of healthy community, modeling Christian love.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** That small group leaders will find new ways and means to reach out to invite and welcome new attendees into small groups. That the many people already in small groups will also be sacrificial in inviting and welcoming new attendees.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** That people will step up to lead small groups so more can be part of this transforming ministry. That we can create welcoming spaces where small groups can meet.

### *Wednesday*

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. *James 1:5*

**Pray for the ministry:** Pray for the Nursery School staff, that they can convey the gospel message, show love to the children and their parents. Pray that their lessons will be clear and their daily interactions will be a model of Christian virtue. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be present as they plan and execute their lessons.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** Pray for God to send us the students that He has in mind for our school. Pray that we will reach these students and their families for Christ.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** Pray that you can support the Nursery School's ministry of education, of spreading the word of God through our community, and bringing families into the church, through your prayers, your service, and your financial commitment to expanding and improving our facilities.

### *Thursday*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

*Ephesians 3:20*

**Pray for the ministry:** Pray for the church staff who minister in the café. May their personal relationships with the parents and children be nurturing and spiritually uplifting. Pray that they will answer spiritual questions that our parents have.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** Pray for God to inspire others to start ministries that meet physical and spiritual needs in our community, bringing the message of God's love to those who need to hear it.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** Pray that you can use your time and talents to minister to those in need in our community, and that you can commit support to the construction of new spaces inspired by, and inspiring of, new and expanded ministries.

### *Friday*

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13*

**Pray for the ministry:** That the small group ministry will be invigorated with new ideas and passion for reaching people in our community for Christ.

**Pray for the future of the ministry:** That the many new people coming to Linglestown Life will find their way into meaningful community and relationship through small groups.

**Pray about your commitment to the ministry:** That you will support the ministry through your prayers, attendance, leadership.