Guy Smith: Father, God we give you all the praise and all the glory and all the credit, and all the thanks for people made new by the blood of the cross. That it didn't matter how dirty they were, it didn't matter how ... if their ... if their sins were just little white lies or if their sins were on the far other side of that spectrum. You died on the cross for their sins and now they are made new and they are washed clean, it's gone. Your blood shed red so that we could be made white. We praise You Lord and we ask that You will just continue to guide and lead all that we do, to be led by the Holy Spirit and centralized on Jesus Christ alone for salvation. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Well today I want to offer a bit of vision, a bit of what are we doing, a bit of what is church about, a bit of what of ... what is One Life Church about, because your story might be like mine, your story might be different than mine. But if you grew up in America, if you've lived in America most of your life, you will notice that we are a very Christianized nation. So if you drive across the landscape of the country, you could be in ... you could be in the middle of nowhere, in Texas or South Dakota and find in every community pretty much, probably 99% of the communities in this country, you'll find a church. If not a church on every street corner, a church of every different flavor. But then you could also be in the middle of Manhattan or in the middle of downtown Miami or L.A. and find a church, another flavor of Christianity. So in our culture, in America if you grew up in church, you went to church a lot as a kid, you have an opinion of what church is about, you have an idea of what church is supposed to be and what we're supposed to do.

If you did not grow up in a church and you still grew up in America, you have an opinion of what church is supposed to be and what church is supposed to be about. And if it's not coming straight to your mind, it probably is something that you could find in there. So I'll offer you this, I grew up in church from the very beginning. I mean I was still in my mom's belly and ... and we're going to church, we're dedicated as babies. Church was what we did. And ... As growing up in church ... Let me ... Here's ... Here's what it kind of looked like, we had a lot of fun at church. So I grew up as a kid and I started out playing in the nursery, and then all the way up through. The same kids by and large that I played in the nursery with, went with me all the way up through everything that was offered at church. So we ... we did nursery together, we did kids classes together, we did ... we did junior high classes together, we did youth together, we did VBS together. And while we're doing all of these things, we're having a lot of fun.

And I remember we do things like ... I remember one year in VBS, when I was in elementary school we ... we made these little cardboard boxes. You know you decorate the box however you want to and I ... For some reason, I wasn't feeling very creative that day, so I looked across the table and I saw what my one friend was doing with his box. And I decided to copy him, and I don't think my mom was probably real ... really pleased when I carried it home because what I created with my box, my blank slate could be anything I wanted it to be, I made it an open at your own risk box of bombs. And it was like bombs and rockets and everything's exploding. I don't even know what happened to that box, but that was just kind of what we did. And ... And I know the pastor's wife had ... she made these massive cupcakes and I just loved it. Like I'm going to church and get some massive cupcakes, it's fun and it's delicious.

And then I ... I grew up and I got to youth, and the same kids by and large that were in nursery were in youth. And we're going on trips to all these different states and then we get it into big church and I'd ... And that was fun, while I sat there with the bulletin and I filled in all the Os and Ds and the Ps with the pen. You guys do that? Probably doing that right now, you're like "When will this be over? I'm running ... trying to pace it with the sermon. I get all the Os filled out before ... or right at the same time as this sermon ends." But ... But here's my point, church was a lot of fun for me. That was like our place, that was ... We did all the fun stuff, we hung out there, that was kind of like our group, our club. And there was one thing that was consistent going on there amidst the fun as you might imagine, there was bible. There was a lot of teaching about the bible, there was a lot of singing, there was a lot of talking about the bible.

And while we had all this fun and we're doing this, their putting the bible part in there and ... and ... and still with the bible the question is then asked "Okay, so what is the point of church? Why are we doing church?" Is it about the fun? Is it about the bible? Is it about the singing? What's it really all about? Is it about raising kids that are gonna be moral and ethical and conform to society norms? You know what is happening at church? Are we just worshiping or just teaching, or is it all of the above? See this baptistry is a perfect representation of what church is all about. We're all about seeing life change, we're all about the old be gone and the new to come. We're all about every life being made different by Jesus Christ. So 2000 years ago as the church was getting started by Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and God the Father and the apostles that were called to start the church, the believers were put on mission. The church was put on mission. And here's what I want to offer you today briefly before we head out for lunch, I want to talk about Jesus mission ... What was Jesus' mission, what is the church's mission that He left for us and then what is our mission as a church and how does that relate, how does that fit in.

So Jesus' mission, if you've read much of scripture and much of the gospel as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, you will find Jesus teaching and ... and ... and telling people why He's there, why he came. And we see really cool things like ... like there's this one chapter in Luke 15 where Jesus just ... you know kind of just like rips off three parables. He's just like ... Not rips off like stole, like they're original, but He just like powerhouses through them. He's got lost sheep. A lost sheep is found and heaven rejoices, and then a lost coin and heaven rejoices, and then the prodigal son comes home and heaven rejoices. And what's happening here? What's happening here is ... is exactly what Zacchaeus found out all the way over in Luke chapter 19, four chapters later. See if you remember Zacchaeus he was a despised chief tax collector. Roman Empire times when they were ruling over Israel, they ... anybody who signed on to work for the Roman Empire to steal ... to collect taxes, could then also ask for as many taxes as they want and he was the chief of them. And they said "You give ..." The Roman Empire's like "You give us what we want, and if ... anything you can get is ... that's just icing on the cake. So have it." So this was common practice.

Jesus comes to town and He's real popular and people are following Him around, and Zacchaeus is ... The scripture actually says he was short in stature. He's just this little man and he can't see over the crowd. He can't see through the crowd, so he climbs this sycamore tree and ... so that he can get a vision of Jesus. And Jesus seeing his faith, He says "Zacchaeus, I'm coming to your house today. I'm gonna come eat at your house." And everybody that was there grumbled and they're all upset because they said "What, him? He's a sinner. In fact he's a notorious sinner. Like he's ... he walks around with this title. Like we know that he's a sinner. He's not secret white lie sinner. He's ... He's legit, like my career is sinful." And so everybody grumbles about that. But one of the other things that Jesus said was "It's not the healthy who need a doctor, it's the sick." So as this is happening with Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus repents of his sin and says "I'm gonna give back four times of anything that I stole." And when he comes to faith in Christ, he becomes a happy, joyful set-free man.

And in this scene while they're sitting around the table, Jesus and a bunch of notorious sinners, while the ... while the righteous people, the self-righteous people are outside grumbling about Him even being in there. And Zacchaeus repents ... Jesus right in front of all these happy people, He announces His intention for coming into the world. Do you remember what it was? He announces what He's all about using the same argument that He had said multiple times. So in Luke 19 says ... He says ... 19:10 "For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." Just in case you're wondering why I'm here, it is to seek and to save the lost. I am not ... Guy Smith is not in the business of saving the world, Jesus has already done that. We're proclaiming what He has done. That's not our mission as a church, our mission is to proclaim what He has done. So when He announced that He has come to call sinners to repentance, He's doing a couple things.

First thing He's doing is the phraseology of this and the original language of this, is that He is speaking here to the entire human race as a group of lost people. He's balling everybody together, that everybody, the whole world at the fall of man when sin entered into the world whenever ... whenever Eve was tempted to eat that [inaudible 00:10:06] apple. She invited sin into the world and the world has now lost its way, and chosen to turn from God and follow the things of the evil one. So what's happening as we follow our own flesh in this moment whenever sin enters the world, we're all lost people. What does it mean to be lost? To be lost means that we are hopeless, we've got no out, we've got no answer. We are on a direct path towards hell. We are lost people. Lost people are like a traveler who gets turned around. You left for vacation and you had a map and you knew where you were going, or you had a GPS and you knew where you were going or you had an app on your phone and you knew where you going, and you trusted this thing to tell you where to go. But then all of a sudden, you make a wrong turn and everything is recalculating, recalculating, I'm just completely lost and I can't find my way.

Sometimes I think the GPS instead of recalculating, it should just say "You're lost. You're lost. You're lost." The entire world ... the entire lost world, those who don't know Jesus, are absolutely living in this constant state of recalculating. It's ... I've got ... I'm going in all these directions, but nothing is leading me to where I'm supposed to be. Lost people are like prisoners with ... with just no hope of parole, no chance of getting out. They're living in this cold dark cell waiting for final destruction. And day after day, it's just a little bit more, a little bit more. And just so often, such little awareness of how hopeless and depraved our state is, in the life of the lost. We're like prisoners before we have Jesus. Lost people have a disease and the disease has one cure, and that cure is the blood shed by Jesus Christ on Calvary 2000 years ago. That's the only cure. The entire world without Jesus is lost, lost. And this is important, it's not something we should glaze over all the time. It's ... It's important. Jesus came to save us from our sins because ... He took the wrath because our sins, the wages of our sin is a ticket to hell. And He came to seek us out and to save us, the lost, who were on our way to hell, and we celebrate today victory in that.

Victory in the baptism waters of eight people that have proclaimed faith in Christ that aren’t going to hell. This is ... This is why celebrate, the angels rejoiced because they're not ... they're not lost anymore, they're coming to heaven. Hey, we got eight more people that are gonna come and be with us for eternity. That's a celebration. So the whole world, Jesus came to save the whole world, the whole world was lost. Second thing I want to point out with that is the ... the graciousness of the design. That God sent His only son to come and seek us and save us. That's a great thing to remember this Thanksgiving, is that I was lost. And Jesus made the long journey from heaven to earth, to walk among us, to seek us out, those who were wondering and those who were astray to bring us back, even though we had no way out. We had no answer, we had no help, no ability to ... to ... to ... to ... to really ... to ... to ... to ... to remedy this recalculating where we're stuck in, until Jesus came and saved us and set us free and set us back on a path of righteousness. God sent Jesus to seek you. Wrap your mind around that for a minute.

It's not just hey, Jesus came and did this and if you're in. Hey, if you like it or you've decided oh, hey I don't want to believe in that or something like that. It's not like okay, I'll take it. No, Jesus came for you, seeking you. Would have come just for you because He knows the number of hairs on your head, He loves you that much. Jesus had a mission, to seek and to save the lost, and if you have not been made new by the blood of the cross in repentance, you are lost and He's still seeking you, and He still wants to see you and I be saved. Jesus had a mission. The church has a mission that Jesus gave us before He ascended into heaven. So between the cross and ascending into heaven, Jesus spent 40 days walking around with his many followers, not just the inner 12. But talking to all of the followers, and He continued to teach them and prepare them for when He would physically leave again. And He said "I'm gonna send you the Holy Spirit to guide you." So we don't actually have physical Jesus. We don't ... We have the spirit of the ... We have the Holy Spirit.

And one of the final things that Jesus said of which we have recorded and we know of as the Great Commission. Commission, I call it the co-mission. We're on mission together to do what Christ has called us to do, in our church mission, our individual mission, all of these things are wrapped up in the Great Commission. In Matthew 28:19-20, it says "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." That's what we just did today, we baptized in the name of the Trinity. "Teaching those new disciples to obey the commands I have given you. And be sure of this, I am with you even to the end of the age." So our resurrected Lord, Jesus calls upon His followers. Calls upon His followers to go make disciples, make new followers of Me. And while you're doing that, you're preaching my gospel message. You're preaching that I came to seek and save the lost, that I didn't come to condemn, I didn't come to ... to hold you down. I came to set you free from all of this bondage. So when we look at this, it's about making disciples. The mission of the church at large is about bringing people into the faith. It's about calling individual people, those who are lost and say "Hey man, you're lost. Let's look at what Jesus did so you don't have to be lost anymore."

It's about calling them to commit to Jesus as master and Lord and repent of their sins. And then we baptize the disciples like we did today. And then after that happens, we teach the disciples to obey, we teach the followers to obey. To continue ... It's one of the things we do at church, this is kind of what we're doing right now. That we continually teach the followers of Jesus, whether you've been a follower for 10 minutes or 10 years or 10 decades, it doesn't matter. We're constantly growing and being taught what it looks like to serve Jesus more, what it looks like to be more like Christ. To be more like my Savior. There are many things that the bible teaches us to do in church and to do outside of church as born again believers. I mean we're called to assemble to worship, we're called to ... When we do that, we're called to teach and we're called to preach and work out of scripture. And we're called to love God and to love our neighbors and to serve the poor. And to care for widows and orphans and we're called to bear each other's burdens in this community and in the local and in ... in the capital [inaudible 00:17:25] church. And all of those fulfill the Great Commission that we're in this together.

Now let me share with you One Life Church's mission as relates to this, and piggybacks off this, because last thing I would ever want to do is attend a church that had a mission statement that didn't line up with scripture. I mean I don't know if you consider those things, but I think that's important and I think most churches that's important. So I'm not bashing other churches when I say that. But I've been praying for mission for this ... and for the sake of clarity in what we do, that everything we do is wrapped around our mission, and that lines up with the mission of the church and that lines up with the mission that Jesus has called us to be on. For when we do long term goal setting and short term goal setting and program building, as we prioritize how to serve Christ. I want it to be something that's deep and simple. I want it to be something you can live and learn and be actionable as well and here's what we're at with our mission. This is the mission of One Life Church 'Our mission is to make and guide foll ... fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."

If I could narrow down into one sentence what we do, what I do, what Kate does, what Randy and Sue do, what our board does and what you do as regular attenders, members of our church, it is to make and guide fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. And inside of that includes all the things that the New Testament tells us to be as a church. The serving the poor, the caring for widows and orphans, the worshiping, the teaching, the making disciples, the growing disciples, all of that's in there. It's all in there. So let me ... let me hit it real quick for you backwards. Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. This is important. No Christian church should have a mission that doesn't highlight the ... the supremacy and the centrality of Jesus Christ, the one true God. The 100% God and 100% man, the only way to heaven. It is very important that our mission says "We believe the only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ." He said it Himself, so don't get mad at me. He said it Himself. So Jesus Christ had to be in there and then the next one is followers, we're followers of Jesus Christ. So this means that we are people who are going to listen to the teachings of Jesus, we're going to obey the teachings and His commandments like it said in the Great Commission, and we're gonna strive to be more like Him everyday.

That's what you do when you got a rabbi or a teacher or someone that you really want to be like. You listen to what he says and you try to imitate him and become more like him everyday so the student can become the teacher. Fully devoted. I need it fully devoted in there, we need it fully devoted in there because I want you to be all in all the time for Jesus Christ. This is not a fad, this is not a trend, this is not something ... Christianity isn't something that you try on for a while. No, this is a commitment to a lifestyle. No matter where you go, no matter what you do, I don't care where you live, I don't care what your ... what your career is, your number one identity needs to be I am a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. There are two things in your life that should never change and that is God and family. These are the two things that aren't going anywhere for most of us. Family's got your back, God's got your back. So no matter where you live, no matter what you do, these two things are consistent and you can rest on that and have peace in that. And say my life, no matter what happens, no matter how hard it gets, no matter what changes, I'm a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, on the hilltops and in the valleys.

I'm with him 'cause I know he's with me. The word make ... Jump over God. The word make means calling individual people to commit to Jesus as master and Lord. Calling the lost, calling people who don't know Jesus from ... from ... from point zero to ... to begin to walk with Christ in repentance to then be baptized and show their faith in that way. Make disciples, we don't make ... You notice in the Great Commission it doesn't say "All right, go save some people." No, it doesn't say that. It says "Make disciples." I'll take care of them believing, I'll take care of changing their life and you make them into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. And that's what we offer, that's what we try to do, that's what we do when we come together as church, that's what we do when we do our programs. That's what we do when we do anything that we do, is about helping people ... helping make people followers of Jesus Christ.

And I needed the word guide in there, and the word guide is so important to me because that's the next level. Because ... You know ... You know sometimes ... sometimes pastors or churches will get this reputation of "Well all you want to do is get people saved, but then I keep coming to your church and it's like well everything is so watered down. Everything's so from the beginning and you never help me go deeper. You only ... You only preach get saved, get saved, get saved, but what do I do now? What happens now? I got saved and baptized 20 years ago. And now every time I come to church, they just tell me to get saved. What do I do next?" Well yeah, you gotta work out your salvation and yeah, we gotta preach get saved because ... because if one non-believer comes stumbling into church, why would you not share the gospel with them? And if you're a true believer, you should want that. But for you, you've been a Christian for long, you want a little bit more meat, you want a little bit more guidance, you want a little bit more depth to be offered to you.

And that's why we have to different levels of classes, that's why we have to have ... You know sometimes in my sermon I'll ... I'll ... I'll like ... tell you how the bible works, I'll tell you where the book of the bible, I'll give you some basics and some of you guys are like "I read that like 30 times last year." But there are people here that don't know where that's at and that's okay. But for those of you who are there, that are mature, have been a Christian for a long time, my prayer is that you join at the word guide. Join me with the word guide and say "Wow, we're making new disciples. There's eight people just got baptized today, that are ready to go to the next level with their faith." What an opportunity to love on some new believers and help usher them in to maturity. So the word guide, this is shepherding. This is ... my title ... my ... my ... my title pastor is shepherding. It's shepherding.

It's ... It's loving and supporting and protecting, and ... and assisting and assuring and praying with and ... and praying for. And asking God to mature each of you, and ... And asking God to help us grow together and carry each other's burdens and asking God to give us more faith and greater faith and deeper faith and ... and strength for the day and faith to get through the trial. The prayer board ... I always pray for God to set the prayer board a part, to consecrate that in full surrender and say "Lord, I'm not always gonna look at what's on the prayer board and pray it." But ... But I can't tell you how many times I'll driving in my car or praying in my office ... [inaudible 00:25:12] say ... say "God, I don't feel like walking down to the prayer wall, You know what's on there. Right? So just take what's on the prayer wall and lift it up." Together we are guiding and as a church, I want to help guide you in maturity, it's important. So this covers ... If you don't think this mission is for you, I'm telling you it covers every level of faith.

We're not just a get saved church, we're a get saved and get to work church. Get saved and get deeper church. So you and I are both action takers and action receivers in this mission of the church. 'Cause I am a church member because I seek to serve the body of believers. Church membership is not like country club where I pay my dues, I get what I paid for. Church membership is I am about serving, it's what can I give to the church that's gonna make the church better. And I am a church member because I know that the body will help me carry burdens and this mission shapes all that we do. Jesus calls us to repentance. He made the perfect sacrifice on the cross, but without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. And it doesn't matter how dirty you are, you can become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. You can be made clean. You can walk with someone who is on that journey. Our mission is to make and guide fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This is what we do. Thank you for being a part of it.

I want you to join me in a word of prayer. Father God we thank You so much for Your love. We thank You for Your forgiveness, we thank You that You sent Jesus to die in our place. But before He did that, You sent Him to seek out and to save the lost. We love You Jesus and we praise You. Thank You for Your bloodshed on the cross on Calvary 2000 years ago, and that when You went to that cross, You were thinking about us. You had us on Your mind. You said "I'm shedding my blood because I want so and so to be saved 2000 years from now." Our sin was there. Thank You Jesus for taking that wrath. Thank You for offering us hope. Thank You for helping us to stop recalculating, and get on the righteous path You called us to. In Jesus' name, Amen.