

0 (0s):

All right. Welcome everybody. I'm so glad that you guys are here. My name is Matt Wolf. I'm the lead pastor here at rice church, and we're all about helping people follow Jesus. And we want to help you follow Jesus wherever you are on your journey with him. And we're all going to talk about that big journey. The quest, as we continue our series today, what I do want to make sure that you do is if you're new, go to rise, denver.com/new fill out that form. I want to get to know you. Plus we give \$5 to the Denver rescue mission to help someone who's on the streets or homeless, get a meal and back on their feet. So please do that. Also connect in a community group, choose community, okay. We want everyone to do that. And we know that we need community now more than ever. And we can do that digitally. We can do it over zoom. We can do some of our community groups may meet in person, but, but we want you to do that.

0 (42s):

Go to rice, denver.com/community groups or in the back, there is a kiosk. It's our iPad in the back. You can go back and you can sign up for a community group today because those are launching this next week. And Sawyer trap, our associate pastor, who is shredding on the electric guitar. Okay. He, he will be back there. He will tell you exactly which community group to be in which one is a good fit for you. And if you're like none of those work with my schedule, he'll say tag, you're it. You're going to start a new one, right? Because we all need community. So that's what I want to encourage you guys to do today. So we are jumping into week two of our series, the quest, I'm excited about the series. I think it's a lot of fun as a fun way to approach some of the scriptures. And I hope you guys are enjoying it as well. We started week one last week. So if you miss that, you can go to a rise, denver.com/media.

0 (1m 25s):

And on our media page, we have the sermon video. We have the sermon audio, and we have a sermon transcript of every single message. So there's no reason to miss a Sunday ever again, right, because of what we have. So make sure you go back and get that because we are talking about this quest and as the video talked about, the quest is just like this overarching story plot that kind of occurs again and again, in literature and in our movies. And it begins with the hero, the protagonist who starts out, receives a call. It goes on a journey and they have a guide to, to help them along the way, and also some companions to help them. And they do that to overcome obstacles and temptations and old in order to ultimately reach a goal. And those six different components we're looking at in this series. So last week we talked about the beginning of that journey of the call, the call.

0 (2m 7s):

There's a call to come, come and do something. And what is it to come in? What anybody follow. Right. Okay. Thank you, Ben, for yelling from the back to come in, I follow, it's a very simple call for those of us who are followers. She's just coming follow. Okay? You don't need to have the whole picture. You don't need to have it all figured out. All you need to do is just take a step. And that's what we talked about. Take a step, start your journey, answer the call. So, so today we're going to talk about some of the, the relationships you need on this journey on this quest, because we need other people, we cannot do it on our own. And that is

today. The guide next week, we're going to talk about the companions because we need at least one guide in our life to help us, because it is hard to figure things out on our own.

0 (2m 52s):

Now we know guides in the stories that we love you, perhaps you think of the Lord of the rings. There's, you know, Gandalf the great wizard or in Harry Potter. There's Dumbledore. For some reason, it's always like this older figure, right? Yeah. Or perhaps in the wizard of Oz, there's the good witch, right? The good witch Glinda who helps Dorothy figure out the path that she's supposed to take. So we see these guides in our stories and they're often someone who's kind of been there before. They have knowledge that we are lacking and they help people forward. And I have a little clip, so, so we can make sure everybody knows who these are. And one of the most famous guides in our culture let's watch this clip.

1 (3m 35s):

We'll never get it out now. So are certain, are you always with your word connect, be done? Nothing that I say master moving stones around is one thing. This is totally different. No, no different. Only different in your mind. You're bust. All right. I'll give it a try. No, try. Not do or do not. There is no try.

0 (4m 18s):

So all you need to do is go find a little green alien and you're good to go. You guys can head out for the week. No I'm getting okay. We all know that that Yoda is that representative figure of the guide that we want. Those guides in our life, who, who have been there before, they know what they're talking about and they can speak into our lives and really unlock some things within us and help unleash who we were meant to be. We need those guides. We especially need guides when we're at new things in our life or in a difficult season. That's when we realize our need for guides. The most, I remember when Melissa and I were brand new parents. And there's this thing. If you remember, if you were parents that you don't sleep very much, remember those days that you don't sleep very much when you're a new parent and with McKinley, our daughter, we, you know, we thought we knew what we were doing.

0 (5m 3s):

Every parent does, right? Until they have kids, you know, you know, I had, I had five fears about parenting and now I have five kids and no theories. That's what, you know, like what, everybody figures out that, that you don't know what you're talking about. As soon as you have your kids. And I remember that McKinley wasn't sleeping through the night at all. Like she was waking up in the middle of night and just staying up. And of course that was my shift. Cause we, we took shifts and in my shift she would just wake up and be up. So we thought, okay, on our own, figuring this out. Cause we know everything. We're like, okay, well that means we've got to, you know, turn on the lights, get out all the toys, play with McKinley's too. So she's exhausted and wants to go back to sleep. That's what you're supposed to do in the middle of the night with kids. Right? So as we're doing this, we're getting even more sleep deprived and which is causing us to have some conversations between the two of us it's rough nights, right?

0 (5m 51s):

And we're getting more sleep deprived, more angry, frustrated. And we can't figure this out. So we're trying to exhaust her even more playing even more with her at night. And it just wasn't working. Finally, Melissa got on the phone with her older brother who by this point had, had already had five

2 (6m 5s):

If kids and he said, why are you turning on the lights in the middle of the night? You know, maybe you

0 (6m 12s):

Should just keep them off and maybe she'll go back to sleep. And of course it worked right that the next night we turned it off and we were back to sleep. I mean, geez, we should have known this. Right. It's so obvious yet, as new parents, you just don't see these things. So whether you're a new parent or new and marriage or new to a job or due to retirement, you look at these things like I have no idea what I'm doing. And sometimes you can figure things out on your own. Sometimes you can. So you either need the guide to help you figure out what you can't or to help you move further, faster. That's what guides do for us in our lives. It's especially. So when things are really difficult in our lives and some of you are there, you're saying, you know, Matt, I just don't know how I'm going to get through this unemployment or this financial issue I'm going through.

0 (6m 55s):

Or my marriage is on the rocks. I just don't know what to do right now in this situation. And that's why I had guide can help so much because they've been there ahead of us that they can speak wisdom into our lives. We need guides in our lives, don't we?

2 (7m 11s):

But I don't

0 (7m 12s):

Even think that's the most important thing for me to say today. And that's not what we're going to focus on because the thing is is we all have guides, whether you realize it or not, we all have people around us who either tell us what to do, or we can look at their example. We have people on TV that are telling us how to live our lives. We have people on Instagram who are literally called influencers, because all they do is tell you what to do, right? You can't go anywhere without someone telling you how to raise your kid, how to live your life, how to do marriage, how to do school. There's people around you who will say things. Students in school you'll have another student say, Oh, don't worry about it. Everybody cheats. You can do it too. Okay. There's guides telling you things. The problem isn't that we don't have guides.

0 (7m 52s):

The problem is that we have the wrong guides. We have the wrong guide. So we're going to talk about how

do we get the right guides in our life. And really even this week, like you can't go anywhere without somebody telling you what to do. I was just watching a music video on YouTube and up at the beginning of the ad is some guy telling me how to have better apps. Right? And I don't, I don't need them to tell me that. I know that I need to do more sit-ups and eat less cheese. Okay? When your cheese to sit up, ratio is leaning towards cheese. You're not going to have washboard abs, right? I don't need a guy to tell me that, but yet there's always people telling us what to do and how to live our lives around us. So what we need to do is not just find a guide, but to find the right guides.

0 (8m 32s):

So what we're going to learn today is to let the godly be your guides, let the godly be your guides. You need people who are actually following God that have character and that they have a life worthy of imitating. You can look at them and say, wow, they're, person's godly. Not just that they're smart or have a few things figured out, but they actually have some character, their life that God is in their life. And it shows. So I want to challenge you today to let the godly be your guides. And we're going to see this from one verse in this series, we're going through the book of Hebrews. We're just kind of jumping in for six weeks into this, this book. And I hope some of you read that this week, it only takes 45 minutes on average for someone to read through this entire book.

0 (9m 16s):

So if you haven't done that, go back and do that. But today we're going to look at Hebrews 13 seven. And in this verse, we read this, remember your life leaders who spoke the word of God to you consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. It's a very simple, very simple verse, right there. There's three commands in there. Remember consider an imitate. So these leaders, and we're going to talk about who they are, these godly leaders. But the first thing we're supposed to do is remember to think about their lives because we forget so supposed to look back and maybe things we've observed in their life. Well, what did I see about them? We recall it. We bring it back to mine and then it's supposed to be considered because you're supposed to think about it and chew on it and say, how did they handle that?

0 (10m 1s):

How did they do that thing? When they were in that situation? What did they do or their life. And lastly, to imitate the faith. And we're going to talk about that a lot to say, Hey, this is how they're living their life. I want to do the same. So remember, consider and imitate. So who are these people that we're supposed to do these things for? Who are these guides in our life? Well, this passage says, it's remember your leaders. So the first thing it says, remember your leaders. So these are people going in front of you, right? They've already gone there. So no that, because they've gone on this journey, this quest, I can trust them for my next a few steps because they've been there. They know what they're doing.

0 (10m 42s):

They're our leaders. So, so who are they? Oh, a lot of people look at this first and said, because it says,

remember, and it says, they spoke the word of God to you. They assume that this is people who have died. A lot of people actually interpret it that way. And I think it's wrong. I think it's very good to look at people who had died. And maybe that's part of the people that you're supposed to look to. You're supposed to say, Hey, you know, wow, Billy Graham was, was incredible. He lived a life of integrity. I can look to his life in the past. It's good to have some dead people that you look to. CS Lewis, man. He's great. I love reading his books. I learned so much from them, right? It's good to have some dead people that we look to, but it's hard to see their life that way if they've already passed.

0 (11m 23s):

Okay. And I think it's talking about primarily the people that are still alive that are around you and you see this because in this one chapter, the author of Hebrews uses the word leaders three different times. The next time is in Hebrews 13, 17, where it says have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority because they keep watch over you. These are people who are leaders in the church who are shepherding. You watching over you. People like pastors or community, group leaders, or the elder board of our church, people in the church that you say, wow, those are followers of Jesus. And they have something about them. They have some integrity. I can, I can look to their life, their leaders who are actively alive, right? How can you submit to them if they're dead, you can't okay. The same thing occurs in verse 24, greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people.

0 (12m 6s):

Okay? If this others three times in this one chapter talking about the leaders and they're to be greeted, you can't greet the dead. Okay? At least not in our faith. Right? You don't do that. So this is talking about people who are alive. So we're supposed to look okay, who are the people around me? And one of the best places we can look is in our church and who are these leaders who have gone

2 (12m 28s):

For me, that I can watch their life, that I can learn from that they can be my guides. Now look again at our verse in verse seven,

0 (12m 38s):

It says, remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. So you should look for godly leaders who know God's word, who know the Bible, who don't just say, Hey, I've read this thing and advice column. Or I learned this in a book, but they actually say, Hey, this is what I got from God's book that they have scripture memorized or can direct you to that, that the people who are saying, Hey, what does God say about that situation? What does God say about parenting? You know? So we, we should look at the ones who speak the word of God and more about that. It says consider the outcome of their way of life. So these people are not just talking the talk,

2 (13m 13s):

But walking the walk, right?

0 (13m 17s):

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day. Have you ever heard that saying, we want to make sure that they're actually living out the things they're talking about. And that's why it helps to have people that, you know, in, in community, like the community of a church that, that you see and you can watch their lives and you can see how they parent, you can see how they go through marriage and conflicts. There, you can see how they spend their money

2 (13m 42s):

Or don't spend their money. Yeah.

0 (13m 44s):

And you can learn from these different, how do they go about career? How did they go about retirement? What can I learn from them by looking at the outcome of their way of life and its outcome? Because that probably means that they have a whole, you know, years, maybe decades of a life that you can watch and observe you, you say, wow, they have made it to the end without blowing up their family because

2 (14m 3s):

They work too much. The outcome

0 (14m 5s):

Of their life is something worth looking at and observing, considering an imitating. You know, I've always had mentors. I'll say that to you guys for at least the last 15 years, I've always had a mentor. Somebody that I'm like, I'm going to actively spend one time a month with this person. And I'll call them a couple of times in the month. If I need to, I've always had some of this person. And there's always someone that I'm looking up to. Or I think of the person in my church, in Nebraska, a guy named Don who was in his sixties and been married, you know, 30 years. And,

2 (14m 40s):

And his wife had Ms. And it was slowly but getting worse. But Dawn

0 (14m 47s):

To the gym, every single day to work out, this guy was ripped in his because he knew he would need to physically,

2 (14m 53s):

He help his wife.

0 (14m 56s):

And he was always there to care for her. I remember him driving her little electric scooter to get it right at the place that she needed so she could get out of the car and ride that electric scooter. And he always did it with a smile

2 (15m 8s):

And a great attitude. And I saw that

0 (15m 11s):

I'm having some difficult conversations with my wife, right? Because we're not sleeping enough with babies. And I'm thinking, well, how does

2 (15m 18s):

He do that? I want to be like him. I want my marriage to be like Don and Nancy's marriage. So we need these people around us and say, I want to be like that. We always need a guide and we need godly guide. So let the godly be your guides. They should speak the word of God and they should really live it. And that's why we imitate their faith. We imitate their faith. So you're little

0 (15m 44s):

Looking at their life. And you're saying, I'm going to do those things. I'm going to do what they do. I'm going to talk like, Hey talk. I'm going to treat people the way they treat people. I'm an imitate them. This is a good thing to do elsewhere. Paul teaches the same concept. And in first and second Thessalonians in first Thessalonians, he says, you know how we lived among you for your sake. We lived among you. You saw us, you became imminent.

2 (16m 6s):

<inaudible> of us. You watched our life. You imitated it. That's the same word. As that occurs in Hebrew,

0 (16m 13s):

We command you in second Thessalonians, brothers and sisters to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive

2 (16m 20s):

And does not live

0 (16m 21s):

According to the teaching you receive from us. So there's, there's going to be some Christians. There's going to be some people in church that you shouldn't

2 (16m 27s):

And imitate. Right. But for you,

0 (16m 31s):

You yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. So we've got to realize this, there are good guides and bad guides. There are people, even in the church that were like, I don't want

2 (16m 41s):

To be like that person. That's okay. If you look

0 (16m 43s):

Around and you're like, Hmm, not that person, Matt. You're telling me to be like, no way. I don't want anything to do with her. Right. That's okay. They are in progress. Just like

2 (16m 51s):

You are. But there should

0 (16m 54s):

Be people around you that you can look and say, okay,

2 (16m 56s):

I do want to live like them. I want to learn from them. And those people, the godly guides spend time with them, watch them and imitate them. Don't think, Oh,

0 (17m 9s):

I can figure this out on my own. Or, or I, I know what I'm doing. No, no, no,

2 (17m 12s):

No. Just imitate them. They'll help you go further, faster when you imitate their lives and say, I'm going to learn from this guide. That's ahead of me. I'm gonna learn from these guides that are just maybe a step or two ahead of us,

0 (17m 25s):

Because one of the most important things for a

2 (17m 27s):

Guide is that they lead by example, right? That they lead by example.

0 (17m 35s):

I, I read the books, I'm sorry. Read the book band of brothers, this list last year. And some of you read the book or seen the mini series about them by, by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg band of brothers covers a company of soldiers in world II. And it's really interesting because it shows two different types of guides to different types of leaders in these, this mini series, because there's Herbert Sobel, who was just a petty tyrant. He was the one who trained and train the whole company. And he was just a jerk. People didn't like him because he would always do, would take away their permissions. He would give them discipline for just the dumbest little things. And nobody liked him. Nobody wanted to follow him into war because he didn't know what he was doing.

0 (18m 16s):

Tactically. He couldn't read a map and he didn't have very good fitness standards for himself. People were afraid to go follow him into battle because they were afraid they were going to shoot him. Literally. That's what they'd say. They couldn't stand this guy because he didn't lead by example.

2 (18m 31s):

But it also tells about Dick winters,

0 (18m 34s):

Who, who entered the army and was a non-commissioned officer. And by the time he finished in the army, he

2 (18m 42s):

Was

0 (18m 45s):

For Lincoln on it. But he, he was he's pretty high up. He was a major before he retired and dip winters led by example, he said, I am going to be the one who's the fittest in the unit. So he would work out after everybody. He would go out on runs so that he would be by example, the fittest person in the company. He would also study his tactical manual while everybody was out on leave and having fun, he would learn and study so that he would be the best commander. So when they did enter in, there was a paratroop unit. And when they entered in to Germany during world war II, I'm sorry, into France, behind enemy lines, he led and people follow Dick winters. Even as they approached the town, there was objective to take a German occupied town in France, and they were getting attacked by machine gun fire.

0 (19m 29s):

All the men jumped and they, they fled, they ran into the ditches and were hiding as they were pinned down by this enemy. Fire, Dick winters tried to Coke. Some to, to get up. He tried to command them, get up. We've got to take our objective. We've got to take this town. Even though they're shooting at us,

2 (19m 43s):

Nobody would move. So what did he do? He got up into the middle of the road, grabbed the

0 (19m 49s):

Guys and started running. He led the charge and his soldiers followed him. And they took that objective. And that's why he's revered as one of the greatest non-commissioned officers

2 (20m 0s):

In all of world war II. After

0 (20m 3s):

The war, one of his sergeants wrote to him and they said, you know, Dick, you let us your, your best friend. And, and he said, this, I would follow you into hell.

2 (20m 13s):

Well, why? Because he led by example. That's what we need. Right? We need it.

0 (20m 20s):

People who are leading by example, and those are the people we should look to, to be our guides in their life. Is there something I can learn from? Are they someone who show the fruit of the spirit? They're humble. They're kind, they're gentle. Even though they may stand firm on the truth, they do it in a loving way.

2 (20m 38s):

Look

0 (20m 39s):

To those people who are the guides in your life that you can watch,

2 (20m 43s):

That you can follow, that you can imitate.

0 (20m 46s):

And if you know anyone like that need to spend some more time with

2 (20m 49s):

Them, you need to hang out with them, take them out to coffee, take them out to lunch, call him up. Okay. It's

0 (20m 57s):

Weird to just go up to a person and say, Hey, will you be my guide in our church? You can probably do that now. And people will understand what you're talking about, but I've tried to go up to people. You know, that I know, will you be my mentor? It's a little bit of an awkward conversation, but what you can do is call this person up and say, Hey, I got something going on. Could I talk with you?

2 (21m 14s):

What do you think? And if they

0 (21m 16s):

Give you some words of advice, even if it's not what you want to hear, ask them at the end of the conversation, Hey, could we do this again?

2 (21m 24s):

Could I call you up? When I have

0 (21m 25s):

Some issues going on in my life, or maybe we could just grab coffee, I'd love to pick your brain so that this person becomes the guide because there's someone who's living the way they should. They have a godly life. We're letting the godly be our guides. So will you do that?

2 (21m 39s):

Will you let the godly be your guides, follow their example.

0 (21m 46s):

So, so I want to look one more time at verse seven, where it does say to, to remember your leaders, remember your leader. So, so we talked about how these people are probably around you. So this is what I want to say about who these guides should. It's okay to have a guide who is dead

2 (22m 3s):

Or distant. It's okay.

0 (22m 5s):

Like, that's fine. Those are good. You can learn from people who have gone before. If they're distant, you know, it's good. You can call them up every once in a while. But what you really need is people who know you

2 (22m 17s):

And are nearby.

0 (22m 18s):

So not the two D's not dead or distant. The two ends that know you and are nearby. And you know,

2 (22m 24s):

It's kind of an ad, right?

0 (22m 26s):

So who are the people that can be your guide that know you see when someone knows you and they're not just distant. They can see some problems that you're having in your life. And sometimes they'll even like call you out on it.

2 (22m 38s):

Right? Which is a good thing.

0 (22m 41s):

You need people who know you and know your life, you know, in our stories that we love the quest stories, okay? Frodo needed Gandalf with him on the journey. You and he was there at different legs of the journey. He needed that.

2 (22m 54s):

Kate, Marty,

0 (22m 56s):

I need a doc to know the situation of what was going on so he can get them back to the future. Right? You need someone who knows you and you need someone who's nearby. And that's why we say in the churches, one of the best places that you can find these God godly guides. So not someone who's dead or distant. Someone who is,

2 (23m 13s):

Is nearby and knows you. Okay?

0 (23m 16s):

These are the types of guides we need in our lives. If we want to move forward faster. And if we want to keep

2 (23m 21s):

Moving ahead. Now,

0 (23m 23s):

Some of you are thinking, well, Matt, I've tried to find some people. I can follow the example, maybe even in the church. And I have been

2 (23m 31s):

Appointed, anybody been here like that. I remember in college, there was one guy I really respected. I was starting to learn a lot from his life and from his faith. And I found out what he was doing on the weekends. You know what I'm talking about? And I was disappointed and I was kind of

0 (23m 46s):

Like shattered some things. I'm like, Oh my gosh, I can't look to this person anymore. This is what I would say. We, all

2 (23m 51s):

Those people don't learn the

0 (23m 54s):

Things from them. It's simple as that. Right? Okay. Learn the good things. Not the bad follow them as they're following Christ. Not when they're not. Okay. Some of you have been really, really hurt by leaders in the church. I know I've had some pastors that I've really looked up to that have fallen. Some of you have personally

2 (24m 10s):

Looked up to pastors that have fallen, right? You thought this was

0 (24m 15s):

Someone that you could learn from. And I was learning from him and then all of a sudden, boom, and you feel like, wow, I've wasted so many years of my life. I've been trying to be like this person. And now I'm so let down and I'm sorry,

2 (24m 26s):

I'm sorry that that has happened to you. But I want you to start thinking about these guides. Like Karen's okay.

0 (24m 35s):

And you go on a hike. There's Karen's, you know what I'm talking about? She's piles of stones and you're going on the hike and you see the Karen and you're saying, okay, I'm going to that Karen. And I'm going to go there. And then what do you do when you hit it? You move past it to the next one, right? You don't just say like, okay, I guess I'm going to stay here. But if they got you that far, that's great. Celebrate it. But now it's time for a new leg of the journey. I got to find the next guy

2 (25m 2s):

Side up ahead. That can lead me to through this Valley.

0 (25m 6s):

They got me here. I shouldn't be too disappointed. Okay. They fallen. I can't follow them anymore, but I can follow another person. You're going to have multiple guides in your life. And you should have, that's why it says, remember your leaders. It doesn't say, remember the leader, the one great guy that you can look up to for the rest of your life. That one incredible woman who's got it all figured out. No, no, no.

2 (25m 24s):

The leaders I've had different mentors throughout my life.

0 (25m 30s):

Some I keep go back to every once in a while to give them a

2 (25m 32s):

Call, you know,

0 (25m 34s):

And some not so much, but we have some people that are in our lives and we need those leaders.

2 (25m 38s):

You need those guides to help us move forward. There are some good guides and there are some bad guides. So choose the godly ones. Choose the good ones. Think of even Frodo.

0 (25m 51s):

Right? I know I'm going to reference the Lord of the rings. A bunch in this

2 (25m 53s):

Series, right? Think of Frodo. He had Gandalf,

0 (25m 57s):

He had L Ron who were good leaders, good guides that let them on the way. But there was also a Boromir who was seduced by the power of the ring and tried to get Frodo, to use it for their advantage.

2 (26m 7s):

It would have been wrong. There's always people telling you what to do. So let the godly be your guides, but the godly be your guides because ultimately the best guides or pointing away from themselves, they're

saying follow me. Yes. But follow.

0 (26m 25s):

As Paul said in first Corinthians 11 one, follow me as I fall,

2 (26m 29s):

All of the example of Christ. So what we're supposed

0 (26m 34s):

To do, and this is why I want to give you a second application

2 (26m 36s):

Here. The first question is, who is your guide? Second one is who are you guiding?

0 (26m 44s):

Every single one of us should have someone ahead of us that were watching. But also someone behind us, that's watching us. You have anyone that's looking to you in your life. I don't care how old you are. You could be a high schooler and there's going to be a middle schooler looking to

2 (26m 59s):

Who is it? That's looking to your life

0 (27m 2s):

And are you actively going to help them and guide them? Not just give them advice and tell them what to do, but to spend time with them, get to know their situation, listen to them. Because if you listen to them, they're going to listen to you. Nobody cares how much, you know, until they know how much you care. You've got to spend time with him. You've got to love them and encourage them. And you'll be able to develop those relationships and say, Hey, just come along with me. And you're going to, like it said in verse seven, speak the word of God into them. Like, Hey, let's, let's read the Bible together. Let's do a Bible study or Hey, let's go to church together. Now. Now some of you are like, man, I don't, nobody should be my guide. My life is a mess. But here's the thing. All you need to do is be one step ahead of the person behind you.

0 (27m 42s):

Can you be one step ahead of someone you can be like, I don't know anything, but I went to church. We'll invite somebody who hasn't gone to church to church. You're one step ahead of them. And you're inviting them with you. You heard this message. You share it. I learned this two minutes ago, I'm going to send you this message by text message, right? I'm helping that person because I'm one step ahead of that person. That's behind me. So who's your guide and who are you guiding? And if you're thinking about my life is, is that nobody should be following my life. Well, maybe it's time to make some changes.

2 (28m 17s):

Okay? Right now, Francis Chan

0 (28m 21s):

Francis Chan has said, if you can, can't find a single person who looks to you as a mentor. Something is wrong with you

2 (28m 30s):

And social media. Doesn't count.

0 (28m 32s):

I'm talking about flesh and blood humans who mimic your actions. Do you have those people in your life? If not, you've got to change some stuff. Maybe some of you need to just go home and needs to drastically change some things about your life, about the way you're living, because we all need to have a guide and to guide someone and we should let the godly be our guide. So we should become more and more godly. So someone else can learn from us. When I was a middle schooler, there was, there was a youth leader and I looked up to him. I thought he was amazing. He taught me so much about faith because he knew something about faith. My sister told me years later, she was like, Matt, because my sister's older. She's like, he was bad.

0 (29m 13s):

Like he didn't know anything. He was not living the way he should have been living. But it didn't matter to me because as a middle-schooler he knew just a little bit more than I did. It's not hard to do with a middle schooler. Right? So maybe you should go help at turbulence on Wednesday nights. All right, Sawyer, there's always, you could be the guide to somebody. So who is your guide and who are you guiding? These are the, some of the most important relationships you will need on this journey. And as Paul says, follow me as I follow the example of Christ, because ultimately that's what we're doing. Every single human being will fall short, but not

2 (29m 46s):

Jesus. When we look to

0 (29m 49s):

Jesus, what we're looking to is the one who gave us the ultimate example. He was perfect. When all of our other

2 (29m 55s):

Guides will fail. Jesus

0 (29m 57s):

Lived the perfect life. He served people. He loved people. He cared about people. The only time too, he said follow. My example was when he washed his disciples

2 (30m 4s):

Feet. And yet his whole life

0 (30m 7s):

Is the example for us because he went to the cross to suffer and die for the people

2 (30m 12s):

You came to, safe to suffer for us

0 (30m 15s):

To die on the cross in the most excruciating way to show us that we can to give up

2 (30m 19s):

Or lives for others to serve others. We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. As it says in Hebrews, we looked at last week, look to Jesus. We're going towards him. He's the ultimate one. And that will help us take the next step on our journey. So who's your guide and who are you guiding?

0 (30m 41s):

Few years ago when Melissa and I were going through our, our miscarriages,

2 (30m 46s):

It was, it was tough. We

0 (30m 47s):

Were in grief. We had four in a year. And in the midst of all this stuff, we were in Moab and Moab, Utah. That's where I went. My wife was born and raised. It's also where pastor

2 (30m 57s):

Keith was, pastor

0 (30m 59s):

Keith was the pastor. Who'd been my wife's pastor, her whole life, and then had performed our wedding. And then Keith had become a mentor to me. He was one of my mentors. I would spend time with him talking about life and in ministry. And he retired this last September. So, so this last September, I went out, I took off

a Sunday so that I could go speak at his retirement ceremony. And it was an honor to be able to do that after 40 plus years of ministry, without a failure that we could celebrate the ministry he's done as a pastor. And I told them about that time when we were in the midst of our grief, we were in that difficult Valley. We were struggling and we didn't know how to get out, Melissa and I, we were both in the grief together, so we couldn't help each other very much.

2 (31m 42s):

And Keith just happened to show up at Melissa's folks' house, where we were staying. And I mean, that's what a good guy does, right?

0 (31m 51s):

He, he just happened to show up and he came in and he sat down with Melissa and I, and he listened

2 (31m 55s):

To us

0 (31m 58s):

As we just unburdened ourselves of all the things we were struggling with.

2 (32m 3s):

And he listened to us and he cared about us and he loved us. He prayed for us and helped us take a step forward out of that grief. I need a guide. Melissa needed a guide. We all need guides in our lives for something new for them,

0 (32m 19s):

Hard, difficult seasons for just how to live life. We need guides. So I want to encourage you on a challenge. You who,

2 (32m 26s):

Who are your guides and who are you guiding? Most of all, let the godly be your guides. Let's pray,

0 (32m 36s):

Lord God, I just thank you for this morning. I pray that message has spoken to someone here. There's someone here right now, who's in a difficult season or in a new season. They have no idea what to do. I pray that right now you would open up their mind that they would remember the leaders you've put in their life,

2 (32m 55s):

That they could look to, that they could follow.

0 (32m 59s):

I pray, Lord God that you'd give them the boldness to go talk to that person, to spend some time with them, to even begin a relationship of them being a guide, then being a mentor. I pray that you would just give people the courage to do that and to find a guide or guides in their life to help them, especially the people who are

2 (33m 16s):

Struggling here today.

0 (33m 19s):

God, I pray that all of us would be able to listen to those people, even when it's sometimes hard to hear the words of wisdom they have

2 (33m 25s):

For us. And I also pray

0 (33m 27s):

That Lord, you would challenge us to guide somebody else that we would see, Hey, here's this, this man, here's this woman. Here's this child. Here's this teenager that's behind me. That maybe I'm just a step ahead of, but I can bring them along. I can teach them something. I can show them something about how

2 (33m 43s):

Live life we've God help us be more godly for the people who will look to us because they will, Oh Lord, God, help us to follow you

0 (33m 54s):

On this quest, let us not be alone, but have good guides who have godly guides that we can look to

2 (34m 1s):

To help us pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.