

40 Days of Encountering God
Week Four: 7 Big Dreams
March 16-21

This week we will pass the halfway point in our 40-day journey of encountering God through His word and prayer. May the following Scripture increasingly be our heart cry:

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.”

(Psalm 63:1-4 ESV)

During these six days we seek to encounter God’s heart for His church in WNC and around the world. God has a very big heart. He loves all nations and desires that no one perish but that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). How can we join the Lord in His plan to reach all peoples?

The leadership of New Life has sought the Lord and identified seven areas for growth (within the NLCC family) and mission (outside our four walls). You will have opportunity to pray about these **7 Big Dreams** this week. We understand that the Lord God is in charge of all that we accomplish, but by His grace we can see Him fulfill these dreams and far more than we can ask or even imagine through His power working in us (Ephesians 3:20). Let’s pray toward that end.

Monday, March 16

“These commandments that I give you are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

(Deuteronomy 6:6,7 NIV)

Dear Father, You are the ultimate Parent. Only through You can we love, teach and parent our children well. It is not the church’s job to do this; it is the job of families. Would You please raise up and equip **150 families to disciple their kids** in the coming year? Please use the “Empowered to Connect” conference April 17,18 to equip many.

Tuesday, March 17

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

(Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT)

Father, thank You for our Community Groups and the healthy, healing relationships that grow there. As You know, there are still many at New Life who have not yet taken the step to connect in this life-giving way. Would You please raise up the leaders and members for **an additional 25 Community Groups this year?** For Your glory, Lord.

Wednesday, March 18

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8 NKJV)

Our Father in heaven, You have called us to reach out to a world that does not know You. We are Your hands and feet and voices, empowered by Your Spirit. Thank You that You care about those near us...in our “Jerusalem.” Please make fruitful our work at Woodfin ES and New City Christian School, and direct us **to partner with one additional school in this area this year.**

Thursday, March 19

“And Jesus came and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

Dear Lord God, You have birthed churches all over the world to be Your incubators, Your greenhouses to make and grow new disciples. Would You please lead and guide us so that we can help **support 10 church plants and lead 3 new church plants?** We beseech You, Lord of the harvest, to raise up laborers for this harvest field.

(Matthew 9:37,38).

Friday, March 20

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

(Habakkuk 2:14 ESV)

O Lord, there are thousands of nations (peoples) that still don't know Your name or the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus. Would You please enable us to **engage with one unreached people group** somewhere in the world? You have said there will be people from EVERY tribe, tongue, people and nation in heaven (Revelation 5:9). Open our eyes and hearts to the precious people group You have called us to help reach in Your name.

Saturday, March 21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:19-21 ESV)

Dear Father, we desire to invest Your resources wisely...in things that will outlast us and this world. Would You please bless us so that we can **give \$1.5 million or more to missions, church planting, poverty alleviation and anti-trafficking?** All we have is Yours and You have full authority to direct us to use it as You see fit, as joyful, cheerful givers.