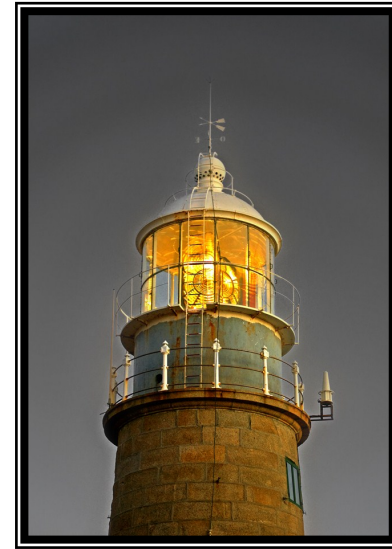


Our Practical Plan for Personal & Congregational Growth in 2012



“For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you... but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere.” (1 Thessalonians 1:8)



The grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you.

the
Laurel Canyon church of Christ

409 McNaughten Road
Columbus, OH 43213

614.868.1375
www.LCCOC.net

1 Thessalonians 1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

“Oh sing to the LORD a new song!”

Our Path in 2012

Our prayer and goal for 2012? To travel an inspired path. A path that produces faith. Faith that goes forth. Everywhere. There are 8 key words that define our path for 2012.

- **RECEIVE**

“You received the word with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

- **TURN**

“You turned from idols to serve the living and true God.”

- **IMITATE**

“You became imitators of us and the Lord.”

- **MODEL**

“You became an example to all the believers.”

- **LABOR**

“Your work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **SOUND**

“The word of the Lord has sounded forth from you.”

- **SOW**

“Your faith in God has gone forth everywhere.”

- **TRUST**

“Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth!”

Calendar of Opportunities

SCHEDULED ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m:

January - March:

1 & 2 Thessalonians: Sounding Forth the Word (J. Hardin)

April - June:

Counterfeit Gods: Turning From Idols to Serve God (J. Hardin)

July - September:

1-3 John: The Pathway of Discipleship (J. Hardin)

October - December:

Counterfeit Gospels: In Search of Full Conviction (J. Hardin)

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m:

January - March:

The Old Law of Moses & the Better Law of Christ (G. Price)
Everyday Evangelism (J. Hardin & E. Tustin)

April - June:

Joshua (E. Moore)

- ⇒ **Assemblies of worship** on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Bible classes** for people of all ages on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Daily Bible Reading Calendars** that will progressively cover the Bible in chronological order
- ⇒ **February 11 (Saturday): Singles Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **March 24 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **March 25 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday** evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **April 22-25 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting** *Questions Our Neighbors Are Asking*, presented by Steve Hardin
- ⇒ **May 19 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **June 24 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday** evangelistically focused sermon presented Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **July 8-13 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School** *Big Problems in Little Hearts* sermons for adults presented by Todd Rogers
- ⇒ **August 10-12 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship** with lessons presented by Jason Hardin & Matt Richman
- ⇒ **September 15 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **September 23 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday** evangelistically focused sermon presented Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **October 13 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **November 4-7 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting** *What's Hurting Us Right Now?* presented by Gary Henry
- ⇒ **December 16 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday** evangelistically focused sermon presented Jason Hardin

Growing in the Word of the Lord



“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt 4:4).

In an effort to grow in the word of the Lord, we aim to walk through the Bible in chronological order throughout 2012. Our monthly **Reading Calendars** (freely available on the first Sunday of every month) will sync the Old Testament, the New Testament, and even books like *Psalms* and *Proverbs* as they unfolded historically. The “big picture” of our tour through the Bible can be seen on the opposite page. Our plan also provides 52 “catch up” days—one for each week.

“Man shall not live by bread alone.” Those are our Lord’s words. Let’s take them seriously and live on the word every day in 2012.

“Declare his glory among the nations!”

ACT 1: GOD’S PLAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

- Creation: The God of all life
- Fall: Rejecting God’s vision for life
- Flood: God judges and makes a covenant to preserve life

ACT 2: GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE

- The People: God calls a covenant people
- Deliverance: God rescues his people
- Covenant and Law: God embraces and instructs his people
- The Land: God’s place for his people
- Kings & Prophets: God shapes and warns his people
- Exile: God disciplines his people
- Return: God delivers his people again

ACT 3: GOD’S NEW COVENANT PEOPLE

- Christ’s Coming: God’s true King arrives
- Christ’s Ministry: God’s true King introduces his kingdom
- Christ’s Deliverance of His People: God’s work through the death, resurrection, and enthronement of his King
- Christ’s Church: God’s people advance the kingdom
- Christ’s Second Coming: The glorious future of God’s kingdom citizens

“Declare his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

Receive.

“You **received** the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Thes 1:6).

If the Lord wills, 2012 will abound with opportunities to “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your soul” (James 1:21).

- A chronological Bible reading schedule
- 106 assemblies of worship
- A wide variety of Bible classes
- Men’s / Women’s / Singles Days-in-the-Word
- Gospel Meetings with specific themes in the Spring and Fall
- Vacation Bible School
- A Youth Lectureship

In the language of Proverbs 2:1-7:

God’s **WORDS** ***** receive them

God’s **COMMANDMENTS** ***** treasure them

God’s **WISDOM** ***** listen to it

God’s **UNDERSTANDING** ***** incline your heart to it

God’s **INSIGHT** ***** call out for it

...then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!”

Turn.

“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you **turned** to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thes 1:9).

In the interest of growth and maturity, ask yourself:

- ⇒ What old-self-practices am I continuing to selfishly gratify?
- ⇒ What aspects of discipleship have I been leaving undone?
- ⇒ Where am I slipping into conformity with the world?
- ⇒ Who or what am I allowing to come before God in my life?
- ⇒ What areas of my daily life need specific attention in 2012?

-
-
-

“He is to be feared above all gods!”

Imitate.

“You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became **imitators** of us and of the Lord” (1 Thes 1:5-6).

Later in this same letter (4:1-12), Paul asks and urges Christians in the Lord Jesus, “that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God...”

- Your sanctification
- Abstain from sexual immorality
- Learn how to control your own body in holiness and honor
- Do not transgress and wrong your brother
- Love one another more and more
- Aspire to live quietly and mind your own affairs
- Work with your hands
- Walk properly before outsiders
- Be dependent on no one

Innumerable impressions will be made on you in 2012. Role models. Celebrities. Politicians. Athletes. Employers. Friends. Neighbors. Family members.

“Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God” (3 John 11).

Model.

“You became an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia” (1 Thes 1:7).

In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul encouraged Timothy to “set the believers an example...”

- In speech
- In conduct
- In love
- In faith
- In purity

You *will* set an example in 2012. But what sort of example? The believers around you can be profoundly impacted if you step up as a model of Christlikeness!

- Cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear what is going on in the lives of the weak and ailing around you (Heb 12:12-14).
- In humility count the needs and interests of others as more significant than your own (Phil 2:3-4; Eph 2:10):
 - * the infants in Christ among us (Rom 15:1-2)
 - * visitors to our assemblies (James 2:1-13)
 - * elderly Christians who could use help (1 Thes 5:14)
 - * those who are sick and shut-in (2 Cor 1:3-4)
 - * those who are grieving (Rom 12:15)
- Use your home as a center of hospitality (1 Pet 4:8-9)
- Joyfully contribute, as you may prosper, to the work of the church (1 Cor 16:1-2)

Labor.

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes 1:2-3).

Later in this same letter (5:12-22), Paul asks and urges brothers and sisters in Christ:

- Respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work
- Be at peace among yourselves
- Admonish the idle
- Encourage the fainthearted
- Help the weak
- Be patient with them all
- See that no one repays evil for evil
- Always seek to do good to one another and to everyone
- Rejoice always
- Pray without ceasing
- Give thanks in all circumstances
- Do not quench the Spirit or despise prophecies
- Test everything and hold fast to what is good
- Abstain from every form of evil

Laborers are desperately needed in 2012. Will you do your part?

“Oh sing to the LORD a new song!”

Sound.

“The word of the Lord has **sounded forth** from you in Macedonia and Achaia” (1 Thes 1:8).

In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus established that citizens of his kingdom are to be communicators of the “good news.”

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Paul described the church as “a pillar and foundation of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15). One of our fundamental aims in 2012 is to clearly shine and lovingly sound:

- By being vocal about our faith and extending personal invitations to “Come and see” (John 1:43-46)
- By welcoming and encouraging all who visit our assemblies of worship and Bible classes (1 Cor 14:23-25)
- By telling the good news about Jesus in private studies (Acts 8:30-35)
- 24 hours per day / 366 days of the year / to all corners of the globe via our website — www.LCCOC.net

Shine *and* sound in 2012. Both are vital aspects of discipleship. To shine without sounding is to be a mute good example. To sound without shining very well may involve speaking the truth without love. Shine *and* sound in 2012.

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth!”

Sow.

“Your faith in God has **gone forth everywhere**, so that we need not say anything” (1 Thes 1:8).

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus described the powerful influence his disciples should have on the world around them.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt loses its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”

“The word of God” is compared to a seed in Jesus’ parable of the sower (Luke 8:11). What are some practical ways you can serve as the salt of the earth and a sower for God in 2012?

- Walk in wisdom toward outsiders (Col 4:5)
- Remember that you are a representative of Christ and that people are always watching and listening (2 Cor 3:2)
- Season your speech with salt (Col 4:6)
- Consistently remind yourself that every single person you come in contact with has a soul (Eccl 12:7)
- Never forget that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34-35)
- Appreciate that all will stand in judgment (Rom 14:12)
- Regularly encourage others to “Come and see” (John 1:46)
- Recommend specific reasons to visit (John 4:28-30)
- Pray for opportunities, wisdom and boldness (Acts 4:29-30)
- Strategically leave advertisements for special events, study opportunities or the website ... everywhere (Luke 8:5)

“Sing to the LORD, bless his name!”

Trust.

“Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thes 1:10).

Later in this same letter (5:1-5), Paul points the focus of believers to the future.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

What will it look like if we live as children of light in 2012? Paul provides some practical pointers in 5:6-11:

- Let us keep awake and be sober
- Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love
- Let us put on for a helmet the hope of salvation
- Let us never forget that God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him
- Let us encourage one another and build one another up

“Tell of his salvation from day to day!”

Making It Personal

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved... Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 10:1; 12:12).

You know dozens of people in desperate need of responding to the gospel. Your heart grieves as you think of brothers and sisters who have turned away from God in unfaithfulness. **But have you prayed for them?** What could happen if you did? Remember, it is prayer that plugs us into the awesome God of the universe. With that truth in mind, throughout 2012, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, for opportunities, for wisdom and boldness. Pray that God might use you to help save them.

- January: _____
- February: _____
- March: _____
- April: _____
- May: _____
- June: _____
- July: _____
- August: _____
- September: _____
- October: _____
- November: _____

“Declare his glory among the nations!”

In an effort to serve others through hospitality, why not invite someone each month into your home or out for a meal?

- January: _____
- February: _____
- March: _____
- April: _____
- May: _____
- June: _____
- July: _____
- August: _____
- September: _____
- October: _____
- November: _____
- December: _____

As you look around, are there opportunities to serve? Where can you make a difference? Can you host a singing or small-group Bible study? Can you help an elderly brother or sister around their house? Can you visit someone who is shut-in? Which member could use an extra dose of encouragement? Who can you help by serving in...

- January: _____
- February: _____
- March: _____
- April: _____
- May: _____
- June: _____
- July: _____
- August: _____
- September: _____
- October: _____
- November: _____
- December: _____

“Declare his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-three reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2012.

January

- 1st To Bear the Curse of Sin for Us (*Gal 3:10-14*)
- 8th To Fulfill the Will of His Father (*Isa 53:10*)
- 15th To Learn Obedience and Be Made Perfect (*Heb 5:7-10*)
- 22nd To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners (*Rom 5:6-8*)
- 29th To Show His Own Love for Us (*Eph 5:1-2*)

February

- 5th To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (*Col 2:13-15*)
- 12th To Become a Ransom for Sinners (*1 Tim 2:5-6*)
- 19th For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (*Eph 1:7-10*)
- 26th To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (*Rom 5:9-11*)

March

- 4th So That We Might Be Made Righteous (*Rom 5:18-19*)

“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!”

April

- 1st To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (*Rom 8:31-32*)
- 8th To Bear Our Grievs and Carry Our Sorrows (*Isaiah 53:3-4*)
- 15th That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (*Isaiah 53:5*)
- 22nd That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (*John 3:16*)
- 29th To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (*Galatians 1:3-5*)

May

- 6th To Reconcile Us to God (*2 Cor 5:17-20*)
- 13th To Bring Us to God (*1 Pet 3:18*)
- 20th So That We Might Belong to Him (*Rom 7:4*)
- 27th To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (*Heb 10:19-22*)

June

- 3rd To Become the Place Where We Meet God (*John 2:18-21*)
- 10th To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (*Heb 9:15-24*)
- 17th To Become the Eternal High Priest (*Heb 7:23-27*)
- 24th To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (*Heb 4:14-16*)

July

“Do this in
remembrance
of me.”



“He is to be feared above all gods!”

Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-three reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2012.

August

- 5th To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (*Gal 2:20*)
- 12th To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (*Tit 2:11-14*)
- 19th To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (*Phil 2:5-8*)
- 26th To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (*Luke 9:23-25*)

September

- 2nd To Free Us From the Fear of Death (*Heb 2:14-15*)
- 9th So That We Would Be with Him After Death (*1 Thes 5:9-11*)
- 16th To Secure Our Resurrection From the Dead (*Rom 8:9-11*)

“This is my body,
which is given
for you.”



October

- 7th To Gain His Joy and Ours (*Heb 12:1-2*)
- 14th So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (*Heb 2:9*)
- 21st To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good (*Acts 4:23-28*)
- 28th To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (*Eph 5:1-2*)

November

- 4th To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (*1 Pet 1:10-12*)
- 11th To Serve as our Passover Lamb (*John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:6-8*)
- 18th To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (*John 10:17-18*)
- 25th To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (*Eph 5:25-32*)

December

- 2nd To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jews and Gentiles (*Eph 2:11-16*)
- 9th To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (*Rev 5:9-10*)
- 16th To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (*Heb 9:27-28*)



“This is my
blood of the
covenant.”

- 23rd That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and

The Pathway to Faith in God that Goes Forth Everywhere (1 Thes. 1)

Receive.

You received the word with the joy of the Holy Spirit.



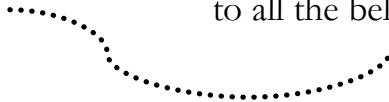
Turn.

You turned from idols to serve the living and true God.



Imitate.

You became imitators of us and the Lord.



Model.

You became an example to all the believers.

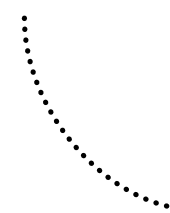
Labor.

Your work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Sound.

The word of the Lord has sounded forth from you.



Sow.

Your faith in God has gone forth everywhere.

Trust.

Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

