

# Our Practical Plan for Personal & Congregational Growth in 2014



O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
(Isaiah 64:8)

# GOD SHAPED

the  
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# A Prayer for the Year

O Lord, you know my strength indeed is small,  
 Lest Thou should lead, I'm prone to slip and fall;  
 Guide and direct, o'er evil help me stand,  
 Make me as clay in the potter's hand.

Thou art the Potter, I am the clay,  
 Make of my life as pleases Thee each day;  
 Weave into beauty as You have it planned,  
 Make me as clay in the potter's hand.

Father, we pray for power to be strong,  
 Let not our lives be marred by sin and wrong;  
 Lead to Thy throne, by love take full command,  
 Make us as clay in the potter's hand.

Mold me, make me, as You'd have me be,  
 Take me, use me, that the lost may see;  
 Guard me, guide me, thru this pilgrim land,  
 Make me as clay, in the potter's hand.

- Clyde Williams

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# Our Greatest Need

Reflect on this 2,700-year-old plea of the prophet Isaiah to God:

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
 that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
 as when fire kindles brushwood  
 and the fire causes water to boil—  
 to make your name known to your adversaries,  
 and that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
 When you did awesome things that we did not look for,  
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
 From of old no one has heard  
 or perceived by the ear,  
 no eye has seen a God besides you,  
 who acts for those who wait for him.  
 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,  
 those who remember you in your ways.  
 Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
 in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?  
 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
 and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
 We all fade like a leaf,  
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
 There is no one who calls upon your name,  
 who rouses himself to take hold of you;  
 for you have hidden your face from us,  
 and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. (Isa 64:1-7)

The words are ancient, but the questions continue to be relevant:

- How long, Lord, will you allow wickedness and defiance to continue?
- And we, how can we experience true deliverance from our own sins?
- Is there a way to “wake ourselves up” and live for what truly matters?

# God's Gracious Answer

Isaiah's heartfelt reflections (64:1-7) lead him to confess:

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand. (Isa 64:8)

The Creator of all things—including you—yearns for you to recognize and build your life on this truth:

“Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand,  
so are you in my hand.” (Jer 18:6)

At times, the vessel of clay being made by a potter is “spoiled.” What then? A skillful potter “reworks” the clay into another vessel, “as it seem[s] good to the potter to do” (Jer 18:4). God employs that simple truth to emphasize his power and grace: “Can I not do with you as this potter has done?” (Jer 18:6)

The clearest representation of what God desires to shape us into is the person of Jesus Christ, “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15).

And so, Paul encourages disciples of Christ to realize:

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son... (Rom 8:28-29)

Having been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus by the Spirit of God (1 Cor 6:11), it can be said of Christians, “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Eph 2:10).

# How Will We Respond?

“Has the potter no right over the clay?” (Rom 9:21)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa 55:8-9)

For those who choose to leave God out of their thinking:

Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,  
whose deeds are in the dark,  
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”  
You turn things upside down!  
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,  
that the thing made should say of its maker,  
“He did not make me”;  
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,  
“He has no understanding”? (Isa 29:15-16)

How much more appropriate to yield and humbly communicate to God:

- “Make me to know your ways... teach me your paths.” (Psa 25:4)
- “Make me know what is the measure of my days.” (Psa 39:4)
- “Make me to be broken and truthful concerning my sin.” (Psa 51:1-9)
- “Make me understand the way of your precepts.” (Psa 119:27)
- “Make me know the way I should go.” (Psa 143:8)
- “Make me a servant, just like your Son.” (Mark 10:45)

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his. (Psa 100:3)

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# Father-Defined

In the opening of his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul wrote:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:3-14)

Did you notice some of those key words? Chose. Predestined. Purpose. Will. Wisdom. Insight. Plan. Counsel. Sealed. Promised. Guarantee.

“Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God” (Heb 3:4). Including you. The ultimate aim behind it all? “The praise of his glory.” That’s why you—your heart, body, home, work, relationships, opportunities—exist. For his glory. Will you allow him to be the ultimate definer of those things in 2014?

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# Christ-Centered

Paul begins his letter to the Colossians with equally magnificent words:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col 1:9-20)

The clearest representation of what God desires to shape us into is the person of Jesus Christ. All things were created by him, through him, and for him. What breakthroughs could you experience in 2014 if you allowed every aspect of your life to be shaped in the mold of Jesus? In Jesus’ own words, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matt 7:24). On what (or whom) will you choose to build this year?

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# Spirit-Led

On a very practical note, Paul charged Christians in Galatians 5:16-25:

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Walking by the Spirit begins with the realization that I have no right to direct my own steps (Jer 10:23). On my own, I have wandered far from God into the slavery of sin and the fear of judgment. But in Christ Jesus, victory can be found. Growth can be experienced. A vibrant, purposeful, joy-filled walk with God *can* be reality... if we “set our minds” in the right direction.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (Rom 8:5-6)

Whose voice will hold the most sway in your life throughout 2014?

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# Gospel-Empowered

In Romans 1:16-17, Paul boldly proclaimed:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Embedded within the gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s power to save, reshape, strengthen, and effectively use you for his glory. The chains of idolatrous bondage can be broken. Old habits can be left behind.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:17-21)

What progress could be made this year if you brought every element of your life into harmony with this message? One thing is for certain. People would notice.

“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.” (Matt 5:14-16)

What will people notice about you throughout 2014?

# Faith-Fueled

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Heb 11:1-6)

If 2014 is not the year of our Lord's coming, difficult days lie ahead. There will be sorrow, tribulation, persecution, disappointment, betrayal, sickness, and death. How equipped are you to deal with these all-to-common storms of life?

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Rom 10:17)

The rest of this booklet outlines a wealth of opportunities to have your faith fed and fortified that you might be fueled to live for God's glory. Take advantage of them! Stretch yourself. Challenge yourself. Devote yourself wholeheartedly to this most valuable type of training.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Tit 2:11-13)

# A Wealth of Opportunities

- ⇒ **Assemblies of worship** on Sundays at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM
- ⇒ **Bible classes** for people of all ages on Sundays at 9:45 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
- ⇒ **Daily Bible Reading Calendars** available at the start of each month
- ⇒ **March 15 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word**  
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **March 16 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday**  
evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **April 12 (Saturday): Singles Day-in-the-Word**  
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **April 20-23 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting**  
*A God-Shaped Look at Sin*, presented by Steve Hardin
- ⇒ **May 17 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word**  
with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **June 29 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday**  
evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **July 6-11 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School**  
*God-Shaped Homes: The "Excellent Way" of Love*  
sermons for adults presented by Brian Price
- ⇒ **August 15-17 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship**  
*How Do I Know?* presented by Jason Hardin & Nathan Matthews
- ⇒ **September 13 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word**  
with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **September 28 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday**  
evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **October 11 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word**  
with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **November 9-12 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting**  
*A God-Shaped Response to Suffering*, presented by Wilson Adams
- ⇒ **December 14 (Sunday): Bring-a-Friend Sunday**  
evangelistically focused sermon presented by Jason Hardin

# Spring Gospel Meeting • April 20-23

*A God-Shaped Look at the Addictive Nature of Sin • with Steve Hardin*

- Sun 9:45 AM • Sin Will Pull You In
- Sun 10:30 AM • Alcohol's Addictive Appeal
- Sun 6:00 PM • The Destructive Descent into Drug Addiction
- Mon 7:00 PM • Gambling's Godless Grip
- Tues 7:00 PM • The Seductive Nature of Sexual Sin
- Wed 7:00 PM • Addiction: Good or Evil? Your Choice!

# Vacation Bible School • July 6-11

*God-Shaped Homes: The "Excellent Way" of Love • with Brian Price*

- Sun 9:45 AM • Love is Profitable
- Sun 10:30 AM • Love Promotes Patience and Kindness in Families
- Sun 6:00 PM • Love-Depleting Challenges of Jealousy & Pride
- Mon 7:00 PM • Love-Depleting Challenges of Selfishness & Anger
- Tues 7:00 PM • The Joy of Truth in Our Family Relationships
- Wed 7:00 PM • Loving Families Support One Another
- Thurs 7:00 PM • Love Never Fails
- Fri 7:00 PM • Three Abiding Things

# Fall Gospel Meeting • November 9-12

*A God-Shaped Response to Suffering • with Wilson Adams*

- Sun 9:45 AM • Facing Life with Faith
- Sun 10:30 AM • When Faith Gives Way to Fear...
- Sun 6:00 PM • Searching for Sense in Tragedy
- Mon 7:00 PM • Four Truths About Trials You Have to Know
- Tues 7:00 PM • In God We Trust (Or Maybe Not...)
- Wed 7:00 PM • Finding Hope for Tomorrow

# Youth Lectureship • August 15-17

*How Do I Know? God-Shaped Faith in an Age of Skepticism  
with Jason Hardin & Nathan Matthews*

- Fri 7:00 PM • Singing // Making Faith My Own: Why and How?
- Sat 10:00 AM • Is the Bible Really What it Claims to Be?
- Sat 11:00 AM • Can I Trust the God of the Bible?
- Sat 1:30 PM • BREAK-OUT SESSIONS  
Youth: The Challenge of Walking by Faith Today  
Parents: The Challenge of Guiding Young Hearts to Faith Today
- Sat 2:30 PM • What About Jesus of Nazareth? Is It All Really True?
- Sun 10:30 AM • "I Believe; Help My Unbelief!"

# Care Groups for 2014

"Church" is not somewhere we go on Sundays, it's who we are. We're a body with many members (1 Cor 12:12-13). We're family (Eph 2:19). Brothers and sisters in Christ who care for one another (1 Cor 12:25). As family, our heavenly Father wants us to love one another earnestly from pure hearts (1 Pet 1:22). As a unified body, our Head has called us to pursue mutual upbuilding (Rom 14:19). "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil 2:4).

To this end, every Sunday evening immediately following our PM assembly, the following Care Groups will meet in Classroom #1:

- 1st Sundays (Last Names A-C) - led by David Lord & Ed Moore
- 2nd Sundays (Last Names D-G) - led by Eric Tustin & David Pike
- 3rd Sundays (Last Names H-Q) - led by D. Campbell & Mark Berry
- 4th Sundays (Last Names R-Z) - led by Kevin Joy & Jason Budd
- 5th Sundays (Groups Leaders & their Wives)

## Sunday Adult Bible Classes • 9:45 AM

### JAN-MAR: God-Shaped Respect for Authority (taught by Jason Hardin)

- What is Authority and Why Does It Matter?
- God's Authoritative Expectations in the Old Testament
- God's Authoritative Expectations in the New Testament
- The Catastrophic Consequences of Lawlessness
- The Raw Materials of Communication
- The Nature of God's Written Revelation to Mankind
- The Intersection of Heavenly Authority and Everyday Life
- When It's Time to Make a Judgment Call
- When God Hasn't Said Anything About It
- Living in the Light of God's Authority as a Disciple of Jesus
- Worshiping in the Light of God's Authority as a Church
- Working in the Light of God's Authority as a Church
- Traveling the Ancient Paths in a Postmodern Age

### APRIL-SEPT: God-Shaped Obedience of Faith

A textual study of Romans (taught by Jason Hardin)

### OCT-DEC: God-Shaped Lives of Discipleship (taught by Jason Hardin)

- What is Discipleship?
- The Disciple's Relationship to Himself: An Athlete
- The Disciple's Relationship to Himself: A Soldier
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Lord: The Potter and the Clay
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Lord: The Vine and the Branches
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Lord: A Child of God
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Brethren: A Member of the Body
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Brethren: "My Brother's Keeper"
- The Disciple's Relationship to His Brethren: A Servant
- The Disciple's Relationship to the World: Strangers and Pilgrims
- The Disciple's Relationship to the World: Salt and Light
- The Disciple's Relationship to the World: An Apologist
- The Disciple's Relationship to the World: Fishers of Men

## Wednesday Adult Bible Classes • 7:00 PM

### JAN-MAR: A God-Shaped Approach to Handling Money (Jason Hardin)

- What the Bible Teaches About Money
- God's Provisions: Manna, Capital, and Tithing
- How the Prophets Addressed the Socio-Economic Issues
- Jesus' Teachings About Economic Issues and Attitudes
- Materialism: A Spiritless View of the World
- Dangers of Debt and Bankruptcy
- Giving: Sharing and Wisely Using God's Gifts

### APRIL-JUNE:

**Ecclesiastes:** (M. Berry, D. Conrad, P. DeGarmo, D. Ferry)

### God-Shaped Marriage (Jason Hardin)

- Giving Ourselves to a Lifestyle of Confession and Forgiveness
- Making Growth and Change Our Daily Agenda
- Working Together to Build a Sturdy Bond of Trust
- Committing to Building a Relationship of Love
- Dealing with Our Differences with Appreciation and Grace
- Working to Protect Our Marriages

### JULY-SEPTEMBER:

**Construction in Progress** (Budd, Campbell, Lord, Matthews, Tustin)

- Faith
- Trust
- Hope
- Love
- Desire
- Patience
- Walls
- Enthusiasm
- Confidence
- Relationships
- Bridges
- Joy

**Teaching Matters** (Ed Moore)

### OCTOBER-DECEMBER:

**God-Shaped Communication:** (David Pike)

### God-Shaped Parenting (Jason Hardin)

- Modern Threats to the Family
- Co-Parenting with God
- What Happened to Discipline?
- Shaping the Defiant Will
- What Makes a Family Strong?
- Impacting Your Kids for Life
- Becoming a Hero to Your Kids
- The Dysfunctional Family
- Sibling Rivalry
- Building Esteem in Your Kids
- The Tough Teen Years
- Things Our Kids Must Know



# Making It Personal

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 walked away from God. **Have you prayed for them?** What could happen if you did? Remember, “the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16). With that truth in mind, throughout 2014, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, opportunities, wisdom, and boldness. Pray that God might use you to impact them.

January: \_\_\_\_\_  
February: \_\_\_\_\_  
March: \_\_\_\_\_  
April: \_\_\_\_\_  
May: \_\_\_\_\_  
June: \_\_\_\_\_  
July: \_\_\_\_\_  
August: \_\_\_\_\_  
September: \_\_\_\_\_  
October: \_\_\_\_\_  
November: \_\_\_\_\_  
December: \_\_\_\_\_

You can't do everything for everybody.  
But you *can* do something for somebody.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Where are the opportunities to make a difference by serving? Can you host a singing or Bible study? Can you help an elderly brother or sister around their house? Can you visit someone who is shut-in? Who could use an extra dose of encouragement?

January: \_\_\_\_\_  
February: \_\_\_\_\_  
March: \_\_\_\_\_  
April: \_\_\_\_\_  
May: \_\_\_\_\_  
June: \_\_\_\_\_  
July: \_\_\_\_\_  
August: \_\_\_\_\_  
September: \_\_\_\_\_  
October: \_\_\_\_\_  
November: \_\_\_\_\_  
December: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2014.

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> To Bear the Curse of Sin for Us (Gal 3:10-14)
- 12<sup>th</sup> To Fulfill the Will of His Father (Isa 53:10)
- 19<sup>th</sup> To Learn Obedience and Be Made Perfect (Heb 5:7-10)
- 26<sup>th</sup> To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners (Rom 5:6-8)

### February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> To Show His Own Love for Us (Eph 5:1-2)
- 9<sup>th</sup> To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (Col 2:13-15)
- 16<sup>th</sup> To Become a Ransom for Sinners (1 Tim 2:5-6)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (Eph 1:7-10)

### March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Rom 5:9-11)
- 9<sup>th</sup> So That We Might Be Made Righteous (Rom 5:18-19)
- 16<sup>th</sup> So That There Might Be No Condemnation For Those Who Are In Him (Rom 8:1, 34)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> To Make Us Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach (Col 1:21-23)
- 30<sup>th</sup> To Purify our Consciences (Heb 9:13-14)

### April

- 6<sup>th</sup> To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (Rom 8:31-32)
- 13<sup>th</sup> To Bear Our Grievs and Carry Our Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4)
- 20<sup>th</sup> That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (Isaiah 53:5)
- 27<sup>th</sup> That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (John 3:16)

### May

- 4<sup>th</sup> To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:3-5)
- 11<sup>th</sup> To Reconcile Us to God (2 Cor 5:17-20)
- 18<sup>th</sup> To Bring Us to God (1 Pet 3:18)
- 25<sup>th</sup> So That We Might Belong to Him (Rom 7:4)

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup> To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (Heb 10:19-22)
- 8<sup>th</sup> To Become the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:18-21)
- 15<sup>th</sup> To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (Heb 9:15-24)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> To Become the Eternal High Priest (Heb 7:23-27)
- 29<sup>th</sup> To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

### July

- 6<sup>th</sup> To Free Us From Our Futile Ways (1 Pet 1:17-19)
- 13<sup>th</sup> To Free Us from the Slavery of Our Sins (Rev 1:4-6)
- 20<sup>th</sup> That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness (1 Pet 2:24)
- 27<sup>th</sup> To Enable Us to Live for Jesus and Not Ourselves (2 Cor 5:14-15)

“Do this in remembrance of me.”



## 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-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2014.

### August

- 3<sup>rd</sup> To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting (*Gal 6:14*)
- 10<sup>th</sup> To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (*Gal 2:20*)
- 17<sup>th</sup> To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (*Tit 2:11-14*)
- 24<sup>th</sup> To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (*Phil 2:5-8*)
- 31<sup>st</sup> To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (*Luke 9:23-25*)

### September

- 7<sup>th</sup> To Free Us From the Fear of Death (*Heb 2:14-15*)
- 14<sup>th</sup> So That We Would Be with Him After Death (*1 Thes 5:9-11*)
- 21<sup>st</sup> To Secure Our Resurrection From the Dead (*Rom 8:9-11*)
- 28<sup>th</sup> To Destroy the Works of the Devil (*1 John 3:7-8*)

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



### October

- 5<sup>th</sup> To Unleash the Power of the Gospel (*1 Cor 1:18*)
- 12<sup>th</sup> To Gain His Joy and Ours (*Heb 12:1-2*)
- 19<sup>th</sup> So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (*Heb 2:9*)
- 26<sup>th</sup> To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good (*Acts 4:23-28*)

### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (*Eph 5:1-2*)
- 9<sup>th</sup> To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (*1 Pet 1:10-12*)
- 16<sup>th</sup> To Serve as our Passover Lamb (*John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:6-8*)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (*John 10:17-18*)
- 30<sup>th</sup> To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (*Eph 5:25-32*)

### December

- 7<sup>th</sup> To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jews and Gentiles (*Eph 2:11-16*)
- 14<sup>th</sup> To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (*Rev 5:9-10*)
- 21<sup>st</sup> To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (*Heb 9:27-28*)
- 28<sup>th</sup> That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and Remember Him (*1 Cor 11:23-28*)



“This is my  
blood of the  
covenant.”





# GOD SHAPED IN 2014

FATHER-DEFINED  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
SPIRIT-LED  
GOSPEL-EMPOWERED  
FAITH-FUELED