



## ZENITH 2023 THEME GUIDE

### SUNDAY- SURRENDER

If you want to experience this inside out change from God, you start by letting God in. You decide that your way isn't working any more, so you surrender to God's ways. You acknowledge before God that your inside or your heart is broken and sick, that you cannot heal it on your own no matter how hard you try, and you desperately need His help. You invite God in so that He can start the transformation. *For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matthew 16:25*

### MONDAY- STILL

Often we think we can bring about change through more activity and effort, but Scripture regularly invites us to be still before God and abide in Him. Being still allows us to listen for God's voice through the busyness of life and requires us to intentionally seek out his voice. This is where our hearts can be opened and begin the transformation of our life. *Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10*

### TUESDAY- SPIRIT

God doesn't just want to help you change, He wants to reside within you. He has given us an amazing gift of the Holy Spirit to be a Counselor and Comforter. Within us, the Holy Spirit can guide us to transformation shaping our heart to look like God's heart. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23*

### WEDNESDAY- SHIFT

Once you allow Jesus to penetrate your heart, you are changed forever. When you start to follow Jesus, God works to shift your thinking, your desires, your plans, and everything to align with His will for your life. *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2*

### THURSDAY- SERVE

The work God is doing on the inside now starts to spill out into your life and into your relationships. You have experienced Jesus' transforming love and now it naturally overflows out of your life into the lives of others. *A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Luke 6:45*

## **ZENITH CLASS TOPICS**

### **LOVE**

“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Love is the defining characteristic of Jesus followers. To live an inside out life, love for God and love for others must be the driving force for all we do.

Suggested Texts: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Matthew 22:34-40, 1 John 3:16-18, John 13:34-35

### **JOY**

A deep and abiding joy resides in all those who have put their faith in Jesus. Our joy is not conditional. We can rejoice regardless of circumstances because we know that Jesus has overcome the world and has prepared a place for us eternally. This knowledge allows us to rejoice in every season of life.

Suggested Texts: 1 Peter 1:3-8, James 1:2-4, Psalm 47, John 16:16-33

### **PEACE**

God is described as a God of peace. He generously gives us peace in all situations. He also calls us to be agents of spreading His peace to others. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we become peacemakers in a world deprived of peace.

Suggested Texts: Matthew 5:9, Philippians 4:4-7, 2 Thessalonians 3:16, James 3:17-18

### **PATIENCE**

Rather than conforming to a culture in a hurry that wants everything right now, we learn to wait on God and trust in His timing rather than our own. As we experience the immense patience that God has demonstrated for us, we learn to reflect that patience in the way we interact with others extending grace when people mess up, let us down, or even hurt us.

Suggested Texts: 1 Corinthians 13:4; Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 37:7; 1 Timothy 1:16

### **KINDNESS**

More than the right attitude within relationships, kindness is the right action. Kindness describes the right treatment of others and the proactive help that a properly attached group loyally provides. Jesus taught kindness in many of his parables and modeled it for those who struggled to understand that individuals and communities who claim to follow God must allow the Spirit to nurture kindness as a core characteristic.

Suggested Texts: Matthew 12:9-13; Luke 10:25-35

### **GOODNESS**

The Greek word for goodness is a close synonym with kindness, but also carries the idea of generosity. It should be understood as benevolence/generosity to others that is a result of the overflow of God's goodness and generosity to his people. Jesus and his followers modeled this kind of generous goodness as a Spirit-given characteristic of communities that claim Jesus as Lord.

Suggested Texts: Matthew 14:13-21; 32-38; Acts 2:44-46; 4:32-35

### **FAITHFULNESS**

In the context of community, faithfulness is "the social glue that binds one person to another" and is expressed by the emotionally rooted but external behavior of loyalty, commitment, and solidarity. The Spirit produces faithfulness in Jesus followers to provide the reliability needed for community members to trust and have confidence in the safety of the community.

Suggested Texts: Moses- an example of individual and collective faithfulness (Hebrews 11:23-29); Ruth; David & Jonathan (1 Samuel 19-23)

### **GENTLENESS**

Regularly throughout scripture Paul asks the churches to practice gentleness in their interactions with each other and with the world. It is something that each of us needs to be regularly reminded of because it's easy to be harsh in our daily lives. Being gentle shows the world the spirit and temperament of Jesus.

Suggested Texts: Titus 3:2, 1 Peter 3:15, Ephesians 4:2, 2 Corinthians 10:1

### **SELF-CONTROL**

We live in a world of constant access and instant gratification. It's very easy for us to overindulge in our favorite TV shows, YouTube series or social media websites. God wants us to be disciplined and keep things in perspective. Self-control is one of the only ways that we can combat the temptations that life throws our way and acknowledge the importance and supremacy of our relationship with God.

Suggested Texts: 2 Samuel 11, Proverbs 16:32, Proverbs 25:28, Titus 1:8, 1 Peter 4:7