

Starting Point

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Introduction

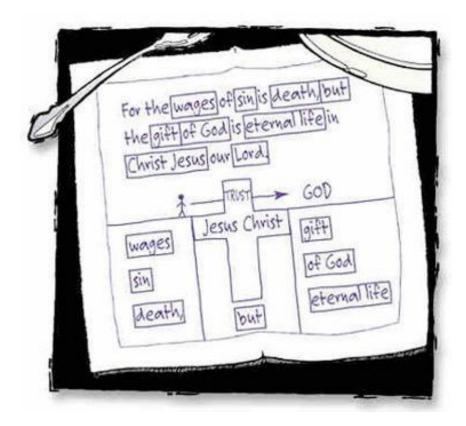
This study is designed to help you discover your redemptive purpose and live the life God created for you.

- Step 1: Begin Your Journey Explore who the people of Broadview are as followers of Jesus and begin your journey with us. Step 1 takes place on the first day of Starting Point.
- Step 2: Grow Your Faith Begin taking some essential steps that every believer needs to become a fully-devoted follower of Christ. Step 2 takes place on the following Sunday after Step 1.
- Step 3: Live on Mission Discover how God has combined your Character, Heart, Abilities, Resources, Insights, and Spiritual endowments to make you uniquely suited to bless others in your world. Step 3 takes place on the following Sunday after Step 2.

All three steps of the Broadview Starting Point can also be taken online anytime at broadviewchurch.com/startingpoint.

Step 1 - Begin Your Journey

Following Jesus Christ begins when you _____ and ____ in the good news about Him and then follow him in believer's .



Have you turned away from unbelief and trusted in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation? If not, are you ready to do this now?

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 (CSB)

Jesus wants ever	yone who trusts	in him to be	

What is baptism? Baptism is the public identification of your life with _____. When a person is baptized, he or she is gently dunked into and raised out of the water.

Who should be baptized? Water baptism is intended for the person who has believed in the good news about Jesus Christ and become His disciple (follower).			
Why should I be baptized?			
To the command of Christ.			
Jesus said to his disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19			
To that you are a disciple of Christ.			
Baptism is a public testimony that you are following Jesus now. You identify with Him. Just as Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected from the grave, baptism shows that you identify with Him. You have died to an old way of living, buried it, and now you are raised to live a new life.			
To follow the of Christ.			
When Jesus began His ministry, He was baptized by John the Baptist. The life Jesus lived is an example of how we should live.			
When should I be baptized? As soon as you have in Christ! In the New Testament, baptisms are never delayed.			
How should I be baptized? By			
 The word "baptize" in the original language of the New Testament literally means to plunge, submerge, or immerse. 			
 Our union with Christ's death and resurrection is best expressed through immersion. 			
The baptisms in the New Testament were by immersion.			
Where should I be hantized? Wherever there is			

Followi	ng Jesus continues as you journey with God's
Broadvi	ew can be your church!
The New	Testament uses at least four images that aptly describe Broadview:
Biblio	cal Image #1: Broadview Church is a
•	All of you should be in agreement, understanding each other, loving each other as family, being kind and humble. 1 Peter 3:8 (NCV)
•	As a family, we value
	Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 (CSB)
Biblio	cal Image #2: Broadview Church is a
•	The word "fellowship" means that we have a bond of common purpose and devotion that joins us to Christ and one another.
•	As a fellowship, we value and
	So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. Romans 14:19 (CSB)
•	We must guard against attitudes that cause harm to the fellowship of God's family (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:17-18; Ephesians 4:3; 2 Timothy 2:23-24).
Biblio	cal Image #3: Broadview Church is a
•	Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts Romans 12:4-6 (CSB)
•	As a body, we value helping people serve God according to each person's Character, Heart, Abilities, Resources, Insights, and Spiritual endowments.
•	We believe that when you are able to serve God according to your design, you will have more joy, serve more passionately, and be more This means that no one sits on the sidelines at Broadview. God has given everyone a ministry.

Biblical Image #4: Broadview Church is a
• This is Jesus' favorite description of the church (cf. John 10:1-30; Matthew 25:33; 26:31)
 As a flock, we value the care, nourishment, and leadership God provides through our
Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." John 21:16 (NCV)
Broadview can teach you the biblical needed for life.
In our essential beliefs, we have unity. In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty. In all our beliefs, we show charity.
Our comprehensive statement of faith is The Baptist Faith and Message, which you can read at https://bfm.sbc.net . The most essential beliefs that we embrace are summarized below:
God
Only one true and living God exists. He is the Creator of the universe, eternally existing in three Persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each equally deserving of humanity's worship and obedience. He is infinite and perfect in all His attributes.
"Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (CSB)
The Bible is God's
The Bible is God's written revelation to people, divinely given through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is entirely true. The Bible is totally sufficient and completely authoritative for matters of life and faith. The goal of God's Word is the restoration of humanity into His image.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for

correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete,

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CSB)

equipped for every good work.

People are God's			
creation. Yet every inheriting both phybeings are born wi	e in His image for His g person has willfully disc sical and spiritual death th a sin nature and into d through Jesus Christ o	obeyed God—an act k and the need for salv an environment incline	nown as sin—thus ation. All human ed toward sin. Only
	et us make man in our in sea, the birds of the sky vl on the earth."	•	•
Jesus is God and			
virgin, He lived a s provide people forg	God and fully human. H inless life and performed giveness of sin and eter ght hand of the Father, a	d many miracles. He d nal salvation. Jesus ro	lied on the cross to ose from the dead,
sustaining all thing	iance of God's glory and s by his powerful word. and of the Majesty on h	After making purificati	
The Holy Spirit is Go	d and the One who	us.	
Christ. He lives wit empowers them fo Spirit convicts indiv	supernatural and sovere hin all Christians beginn r bold witness and effect viduals of sin, uses God to secures them until Chr	ning at the moment of ctive service as they yie's 's Word to mature beli	salvation and then eld to Him. The Holy
•	re power when the Holy erusalem, in all Judea ar	·	•
Salvation is by	through	alone.	
All human beings a	are born with a sin natur	e. separated from Go	d. and in need of a

All human beings are born with a sin nature, separated from God, and in need of a Savior. That salvation comes only through a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, the Savior, as a person repents of sin and receives Christ's forgiveness and eternal life. Salvation is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit

through the Word of God. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and not on the basis of human works. All the redeemed are secure in Christ forever.

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (CSB)

The church	is the	of Christ.
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The Holy Spirit immediately places all people who put their faith in Jesus Christ into one united spiritual body, the Church, of which Christ is the head. The primary expression of the Church on earth is in autonomous local congregations of baptized believers. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by taking the gospel to the entire world and by building its members in Christlikeness through the instruction of God's Word, fellowship, service, worship, and prayer.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.

Acts 2:42-44 (CSB)

The _____ is in God's hands.

God is actively involved in our lives and our future. Through His prophets, God announced His plans for the future redemption of His people through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. With the call of the disciples, God prepared the way for the future of His Church. In Scripture, God promised that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth to resurrect and judge the saved and unsaved. As the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator and Judge, God can and should be trusted today, and with our future.

And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment—so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (CSB)

Beginning your journey at Broadview

"Why should I become a member?"

•	You will be part of a spiritual family that will you.
•	You will receive spiritual from our pastors.
•	You will be in following Jesus and helping others follow Him.
•	You will be a part of something than yourself: a spiritual community.
•	You can rest in knowing that you are obedient to God in the New Testament's many "" commands.
The o	difference between "attenders" and "members" can be summed up in one word:
	.
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wnat is	s expected of me as a member?"
	sk our members to to live as God directs every Christian to do
We a	
We a	sk our members to to live as God directs every Christian to do
We a	sk our members to to live as God directs every Christian to do gh his Word.
We a	sk our members to to live as God directs every Christian to do gh his Word. regularly with God's family for worship (Luke 4:16; Mark 1:21). closer to God and one another through relationships with one
We a throu	sk our members to to live as God directs every Christian to do gh his Word. regularly with God's family for worship (Luke 4:16; Mark 1:21). closer to God and one another through relationships with one another (Acts 2:46-47; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 10:24-25). faithfully and generously of your time, efforts, and finances to

"How do I become a member?"

To be a member at Broadview, you must first do the following things:

- Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and be baptized by immersion after receiving him.
- Complete the first Starting Point class. (You just completed this!)
- Covenant with us to live according to the biblical expectations we just discussed.

What's next?

If you are ready to become part of the Broadview Church family, we would ask you to fill out the decision form at broadviewchurch.com/step1 or by filling out the card provided for in-person participants and turning it in.

Step 2 - Grow Your Faith

For many centuries, in the middle of the Sahara stood a tree all alone.

It became known as the Tree of Ténéré. It was a remnant from an ancient time, when the Sahara Desert was a grassland and not as parched and arid as it is today.

The Tree of Ténéré became an icon and even a sacred tree to the many caravanners that would use it as a landmark. People wondered how this



one tree could stand alone when the next-nearest tree was 250 miles away.

In 1939, the answer was discovered. The roots of the tree reached all the way down to the water table—110 ft. beneath the surface of the earth.

If the roots didn't go deep enough, the tree wouldn't survive.

What is true of the Tree of Ténéré is true of our faith. If we are going to withstand the pressures and harsh conditions of our spiritual environment, we need our lives rooted deeply in our faith. We must draw sustenance from the spiritual water that is Christ.

"Whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

John 4:14 (CSB)

There are many spiritual disciplines that can help grow our faith deep. Today we will take a look at four of them.

Discipline #1:	can help grow my faith.
What phrase does Matthew 6:5	begin with?
Read what Jesus said about pra	ayer in Matthew 6:5-15.

What is prayer?	
Prayer simply is	with God.

Why should we pray?

When we pray, at least two things happen:

- God _____ us when we pray.
- Our will becomes ______ to God's will when we pray. Prayer expresses our desire for God's will to be accomplished on earth.

How can we learn to pray?

Many Christians have found it helpful to set aside a certain time of the day to focus on prayer. Consider whether this idea would be helpful for you.

One of the best ways to pray is to use the Model Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 as a guide.

- "Our Father in heaven" Start by humbly acknowledging the glorious Person to whom you are speaking.
- "Your name be honored as holy" Above all else, let your prayer seek to honor God.
- "Your kingdom come" Request that God would rule over every aspect of your life.
- "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" Seek God's will, not your own.
- "Give us today our daily bread" Ask God to provide for your needs.
- "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" Ask God to cleanse you of sin and help you forgive others.
- "And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" Pray for resistance from temptation.

A similar practice that can be helpful is to pray the words of the Bible into a prayer to God.	In other words, voice
For example, Colossians 2:6-7 can easily be personalized reads, "So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the taught, and overflowing with gratitude."	Lord, continue to walk in
Someone praying Colossians 2:6-7 might say to God, "Fat Jesus as Lord by faith. Help me today to walk in him. Let n in him and established in the faith, just as I have been taug with gratitude."	me be rooted and built up
When you pray Scripture, keep the 3 R's in mind:	
Is there anything in this passage that should cause	me to?
Is there anything that should cause me to	?
Is there anything that I should of God?	
Discipline #2: can help	grow my faith.
Discipline #2: can help The Bible is the Word of God. As such, it is totally true, absoluted the completely sufficient for our lives.	
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Many Christians read or listen to God's Word each day during the time they have set aside for prayer. Reading Scripture helps us think about things from God's perspective.

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:2 (CSB)

Discipline #3: Giving can help grow my faith. Read Luke 6:38. What is the promise made to generous people?		
What should we giv	e to God?	
We should give o	ur time, our effort, and	l our finances.
Why should we give	to God?	
One of the many	reasons to give is bec	cause we will receive a
, ,	•	et your left hand know what your right hand is cret. And your Father who sees in secret will Matthew 6:3-4 (CSB)
How do we give to	God?	
We should give _	and o	cheerfully, not under compulsion or guilt.
generously will al	so reap generously. E	o reap sparingly, and the person who sows fach person should do as he has decided in pulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (CSB)
To whom do we giv	e?	
In 2 Corinthians 9	, the collection being	taken up was given to a local
=		nancing and fulfilling its mandate to share the), providing financial support of its pastors (cf.

1 Timothy 5:17), and providing for those believers who have needs (cf. Acts 4:34-35).

God wants us to be led by his Spirit when it comes to serving and giving to his church. We must remember that everything we have is owned by God. Ask the Lord to give you a generous spirit and to show you the ways you can help his church with the time, efforts, and finances entrusted to you.

Discipline #4: Loving can help grow my faith.

become more godly by becoming more loving.

Loving is something each of us can do already, and it is something we can learn to do better.

Who should we love?

	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and
	with all your strength Love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30-31 (CSB)
	According to Jesus, our first and greatest love should be for whom?
	Flowing from that love, we should also love whom?
	Jesus said that we should even love our
	"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44-45 (CSB)
W	hat does love look like?
	Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (CSB)
	Why can love be described that way? Because is that way. God is love.
	This is our standard. If we were to insert our own name in place of the word "love," how much of this passage could we read before it became untrue? Let us strive to

My Response

Fill out the questionnaire at <u>broadviewchurch.com/step2</u>, or fill out the card provided for in-person participants and turn it in.

Step 3 - Live on Mission

God has designed every person in a distinctive way. His design of you determines the best, most fulfilling, and most joyful way you can serve him.

Many Christians, however, never discover their design and then become frustrated when they try to serve God in conventional ways that are unfulfilling. Other believers sign up to serve in ministries because someone compelled them or made them feel guilty for saying no. They quickly fall into the trap of making excuses why they cannot serve God.

At Broadview, we do things differently. Instead of trying to push square Christians into round ministry opportunities, we have a more biblical, Spirit-based, and fulfilling way to do ministry.

In this session of Starting Point, we will address common excuses believers make why they cannot serve God. Then we will discover how God designed us to serve him naturally and with joy. Finally, we will find the best place of service according to our design.

Excuses We Give to God

"Who am I to	God?"
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In Exodus 3, when God revealed to Moses that he was the chosen one to bring Israel out of slavery in Egypt and take them to the Promised Land, Moses objected, "Who am I to serve the Lord?" This is the "I'm too insignificant" excuse.

But the Lord didn't make a mistake when choosing Moses for the job. The Lord would be with Moses every step of the way.

When you feel too insignificant to serve God, you must believe that the eternal God who rules the universe will be with you.

"What if I _____?"

Moses asked his "What if" question in Exodus 4:1. This is the "I'm afraid" excuse.

But again God had an answer for Moses. God had Moses throw his shepherd's staff on the ground, and it turned into a serpent. Then God had Moses pick it up, and it turned into a staff again. Moses needed to learn that God's power is greater than Moses's fear.

When we fear failure, we often use the same excuse as Moses: "What if...?" But the worst-case-scenario hardly ever happens regardless of how convinced we are that it will. When we fear failure, we are believing lies. And once we believe a lie, defeat becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

To overcome our fear of failure, we must believe that God will do things through us that we cannot even do on our own.

"I don't have the _____."

Moses added this excuse to the others, claiming that he wasn't a good speaker. This is the "I'm too inadequate" excuse.

When we claim to be inadequate, we are essentially blaming God for making us that way. But the God who calls us to serve him is the same God who created us the way we are.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Who placed a mouth on humans? Who makes a person mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say."

Exodus 4:11-12 (CSB)

When we feel like our abilities would keep us from serving God effectively, we must believe that God will give us every ability we need.

For every excuse we offer, God has an answer. And what God says about a matter is the truth! Our excuses are lies we believe instead of the truth.

How God has designed you

You are a magnificent masterpiece that God the Creator is perfecting. It is as if your life is a canvas, and everything that makes you YOU is added to that canvas by the Master Artist. With incredible and perfect precision, the Master Artist dips his

paintbrush into the colors on his palette. Each color represents a different aspect of your life: Character, Heart, Abilities, Resources, Insights, and Spiritual endowments. The hand of God himself provides just the right amount of each to make the masterpiece that is you. And he is not finished.

As the Master Artist continues to perfect his masterpiece, your dreams and desires become more clear. The painting that is you is not static, but rather very much alive. Even if you have not yet discovered it or considered the possibility, God has given you a dream for ministry—a way for you to contribute to his kingdom and make a difference in the lives of others. This ministry of yours not only blesses others, but provides you with joy and fulfillment.

When you discover your design, you will discern your calling.

As we walk through the following six aspects of how God has designed you, fill out the questionnaire at broadviewchurch.com/step3 or the one provided for in-person participants and turn it in.

Character - ____ are you?

What values are important to you? What words would you use to describe yourself? What traits have you heard others ascribe to you?

Examples: Honest. Leader. Unselfish. Generous. Loyal. Devoted. Loving.

In the questionnaire, list descriptions of your character.

Heart - What are you _____ about?

When you think about serving God, what would you *like* to do? What about serving God excites you?

Examples: Working with kids. Helping others. Ministering to the poor. Worship ministry. Teaching a small group. Greeting new people.

In the questionnaire, list what you are passionate about.

Abilities - What can you ____? What natural abilities or learned skills do you have? Examples: Playing a musical instrument. Doing vehicle maintenance. Public speaking. Cooking or grilling food. In the questionnaire, list your abilities, even if you have difficulty understanding how it might apply to serving God. Resources - What do you _____? What do you own or have access to that can be used for God? What possessions do you have? Examples: A vehicle. A home. An extra TV. Financial wealth. Clothing you don't need. In the questionnaire, list the resources you are willing to use for God and his kingdom. Insights - What have you _____ What have you experienced in life that can minister to others? What things have you gone through that may assist others? Examples: Biblical insights. How to raise godly children. Financial management. Abuse recovery. In the questionnaire, list insights you have learned that you would be willing to share with others. Spiritual endowments - How are you being _____? In what spiritual ways are you aware of that God has gifted you? How do you believe the Spirit of God is leading you to serve him? Examples: Mercy. Helps. Teaching. Administration. Giving. Leading. In the questionnaire, list any spiritual endowments you believe you may have.

The first letter of each aspect of your life creates an acrostic:

Character

Heart

Abilities

Resources

Insights

Spiritual endowments

The Greek word **CHARIS** means **grace**. This is the word used in the New Testament to describe our spiritual gifts—how God has created us to serve him and edify his church.

According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts...

Romans 12:6 (CSB)

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10 (CSB)

God's grace is manifested in his church as believers serve him and one another according to how God has designed them.

You Are Designed to Live on Mission

If you are willing to serve	God according to your design, the	nis will occur in one of two
arenas: Your service	Broadview or your service	Broadview.

We believe that God's kingdom reaches not only into his church, but also into the fabric of every part of our community and world. With that in mind, it is our desire to see you fulfill the mission God has given you, wherever that may be.

Your Service AT Broadview: The Serve Team

The Serve Team is made up of people who simply actively serve God at Broadview in one of our Ministries. Each Ministry has a Ministry Leader who coordinates their work with our pastors.

If the Lord is leading you to serve him AT Broadview, let us help you get started!

Below is a sampling of Ministries at Broadview where you can serve. And if you don't see something listed that you would like to do (like a Paintball Ministry, Men of the Holy Grill Ministry, or a Women's Ministry), we can create a new Ministry! We invite you to join our Serve Team by filling out the online form at broadviewchurch.com/step3 or filling out the card given to you.

Bible Study Teacher	Building Maintenance	Event Planning
Greeter	Kids Ministry	Kitchen Ministry
Landscaping Ministry	Nursery Ministry	Outreach & Missions
Prayer	Usher	Vehicle Maintenance
Worship Ministry	Youth Ministry	Other/Not Listed

Your Service BEYOND Broadview

God is interested in every part of your life, not just when you attend church. Jesus is Lord over every aspect of our lives.

The Greek word *oikos* means "sphere of influence," or more precisely, "extended household."

"He will speak a message to you by which you and all your household (oikos) will be saved."

Acts 11:14 (CSB)

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household (oikos)."

Acts 16:31 (CSB)

"Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, along with his whole household (oikos). Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized."

Acts 18:8 (CSB)

Who are the people in your oikos?

Consider the following arenas of your life: Work, school, friends, neighbors, relatives, your recreation team, your social club, or other connections you have. Who are the people you *have* developed a relationship with, *are* developing a relationship, or *maybe should* develop a relationship?

Using the questionnaire at <u>broadviewchurch.com/step3</u> or the Oikos Prayer Card provided for in-person participants, list 8-15 people that you might consider to be part of your oikos. Place them in the following categories:

- Pre-Christians Those who have not yet placed their faith in Jesus.
- Prodigals Believers who are not actively pursuing their faith.
- Purposefuls Believers who actively pursue their faith.
- Potentials Those who seem to be showing up on my life's front burner more often than in the past.

If you need time to finish this list at home, that's okay. You are consciously identifying the people in your life to whom God wants to extend his grace.

After your list is complete, make these steps a regular part of your life:

- Pray daily for your oikos, that each would sense God's presence in their lives and be open to his love. As a reminder, you might put your Oikos Prayer Card by your Bible.
- Invest in your oikos—watch for appropriate ways to be God's instrument, as he calls them to himself and transforms their lives.
- Invite them to church regularly & thoughtfully, as God opens doors of opportunity.
- Prepare to become a better example of faith in Christ as well as a more effective witness of his grace.

Thank you for being on mission with God AT Broadview or BEYOND Broadview! Remember, our mission is to help you fulfill yours. So let us know how we can help. We're here for you!