



EFCA

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NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

We Serve Pastors | Church Leaders | Churches



NCD

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT



150 Churches
in the NCD



1500 Churches
in the EFCA



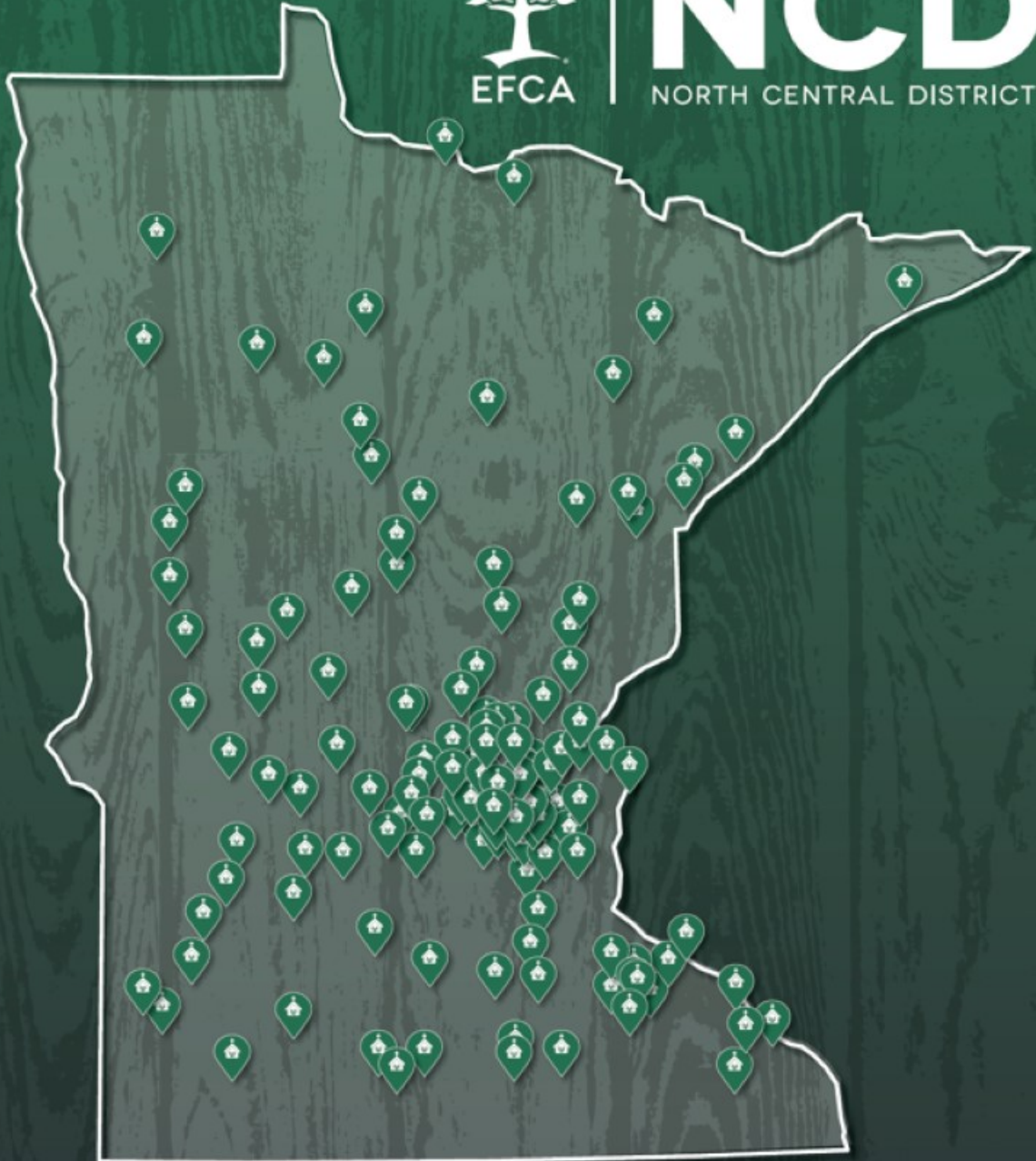
650 Missionaries
in the EFCA



EFCA

NCD

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT



We are a family of churches
on mission in Minnesota.

Our district team is grateful
for your partnership.

All we do is serve pastors,
church leaders and churches.

PRAYER in all of SCRIPTURE

*A Guided Tour Through the
Peaks and Valleys of the
Bible's Prayer Storyline*

Brian Farone | North Central District | EFCA

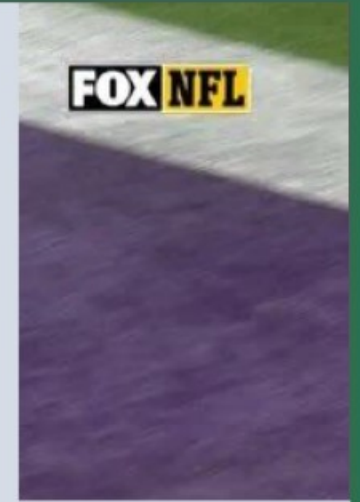
Seeing the Whole Picture



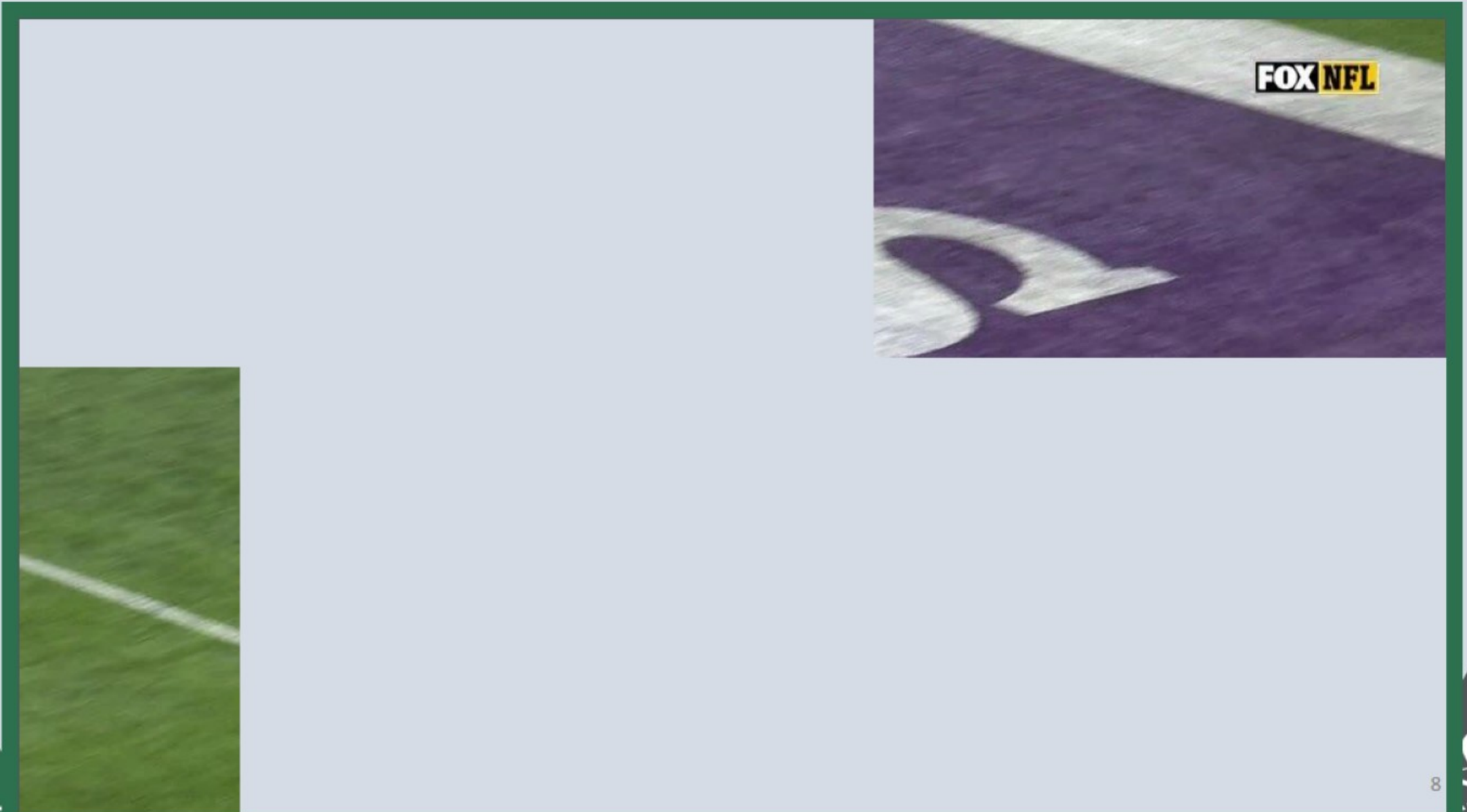
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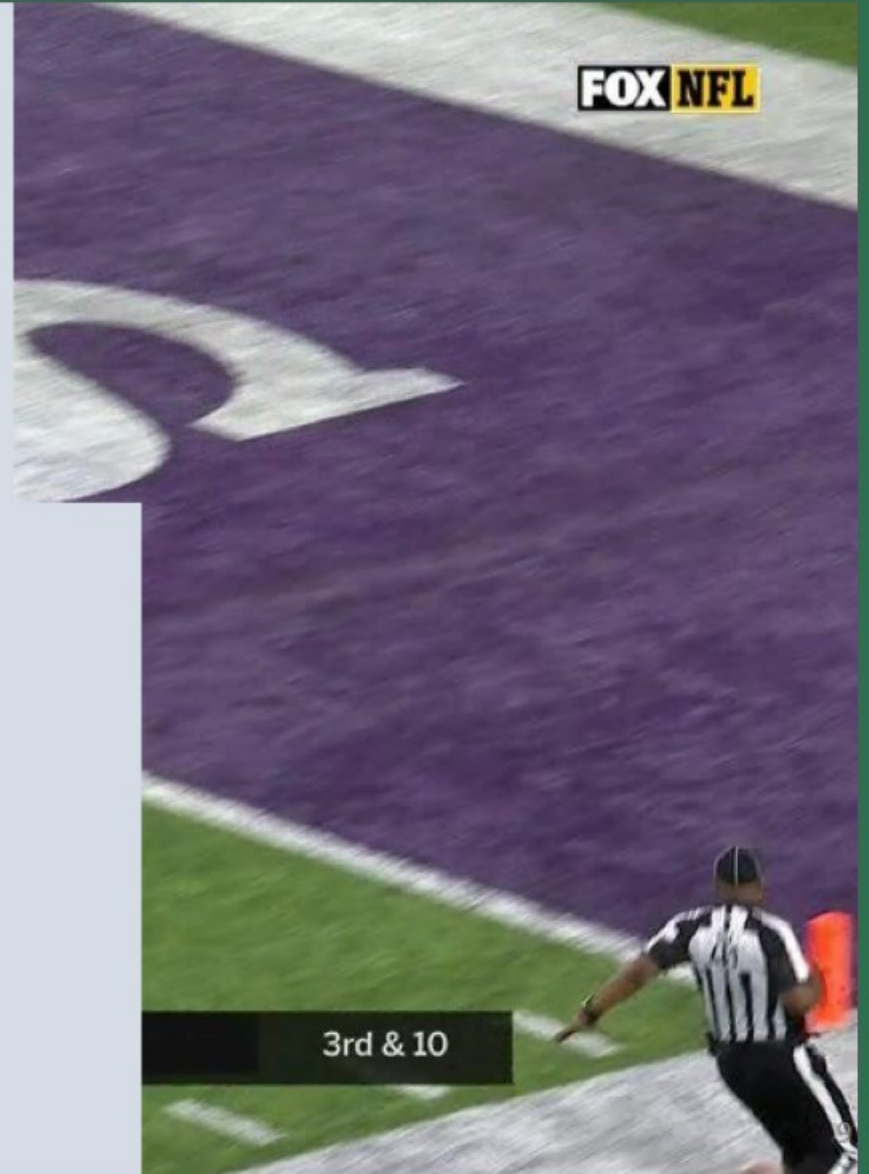
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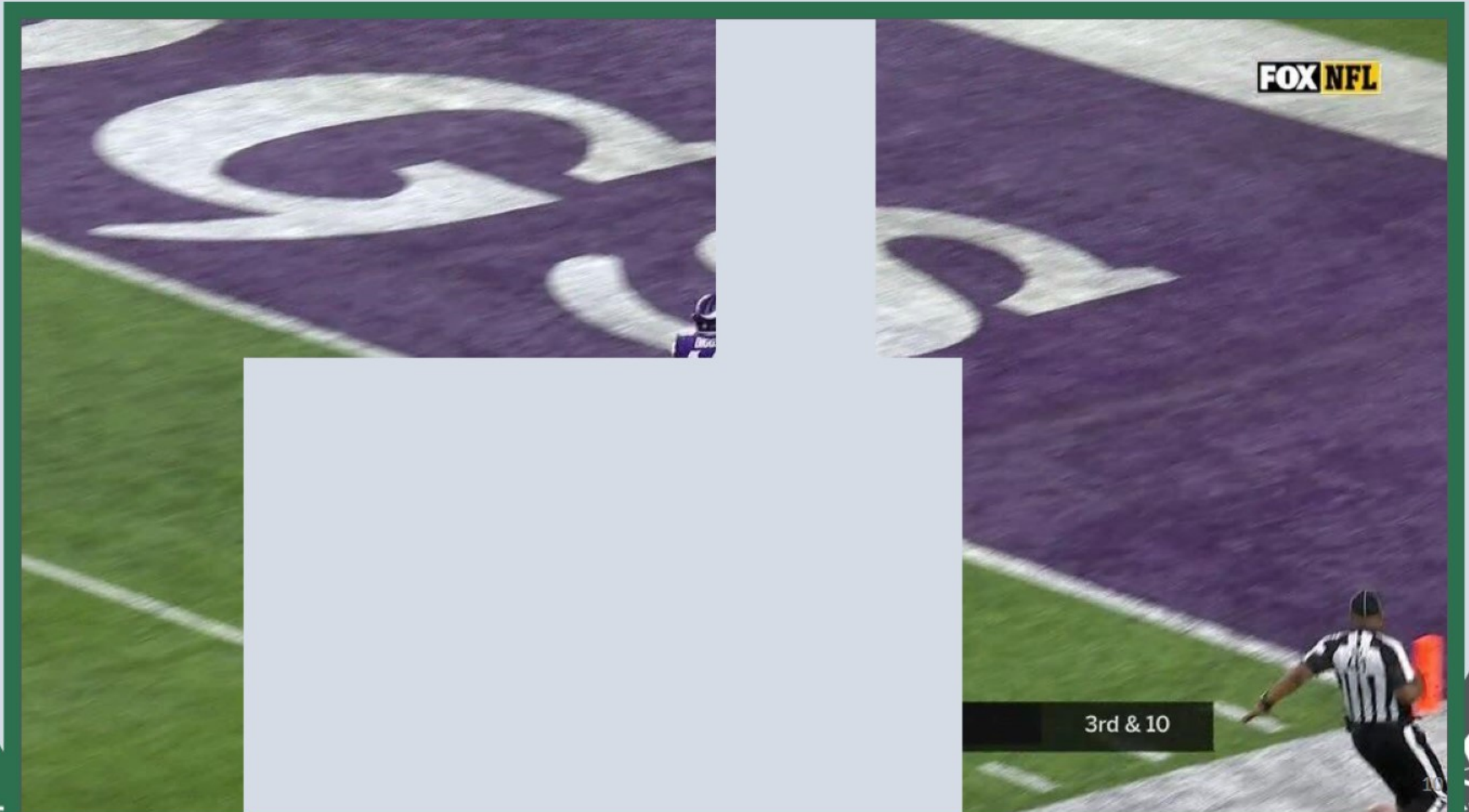
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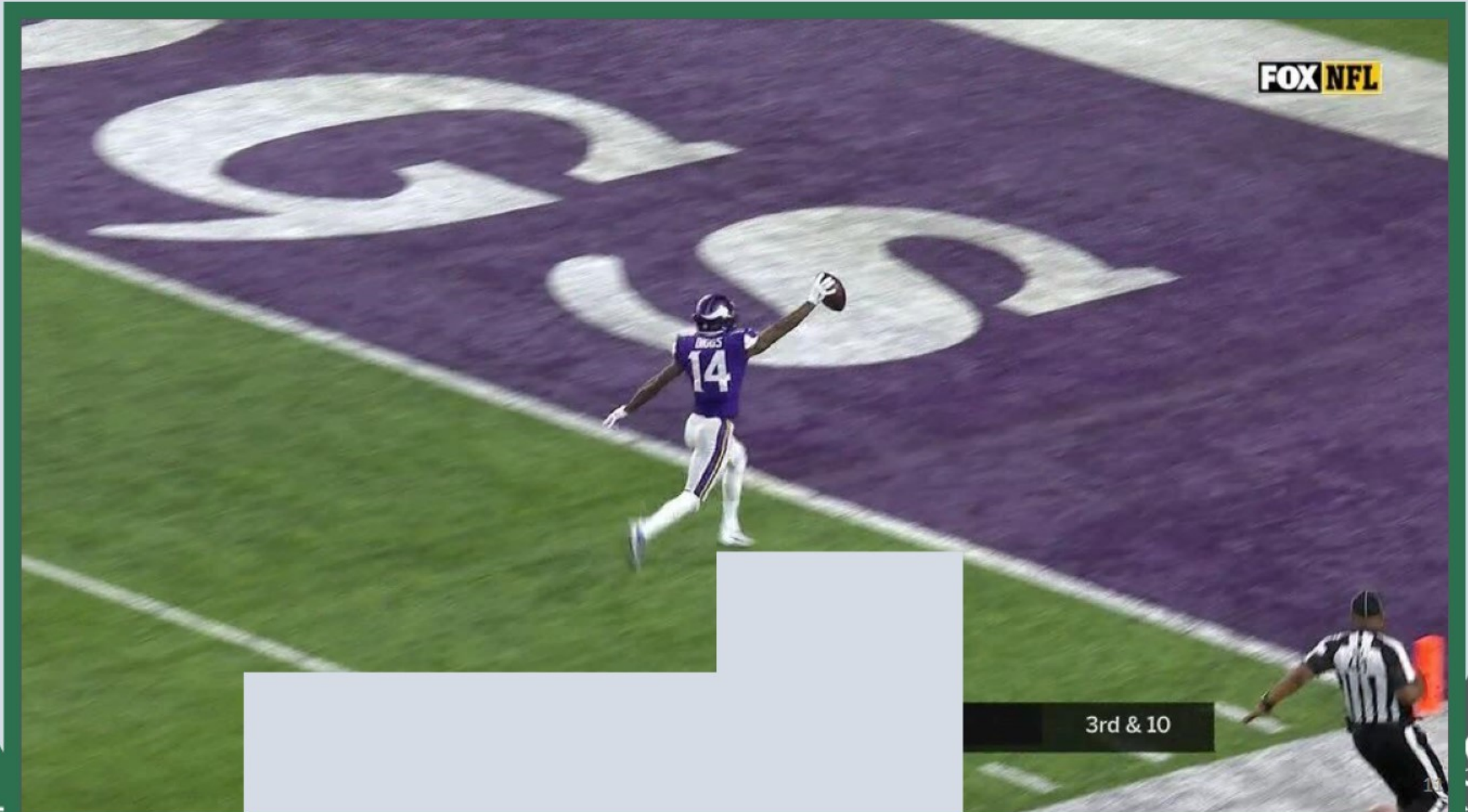
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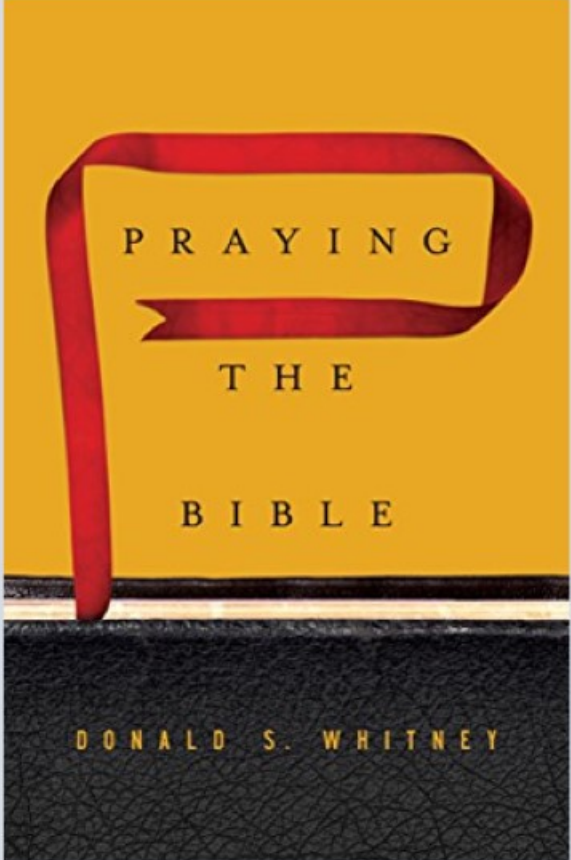
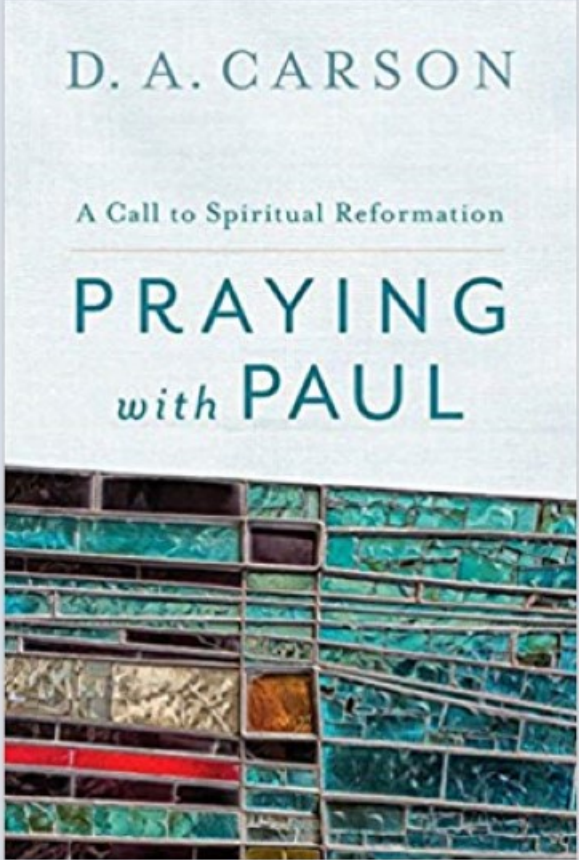
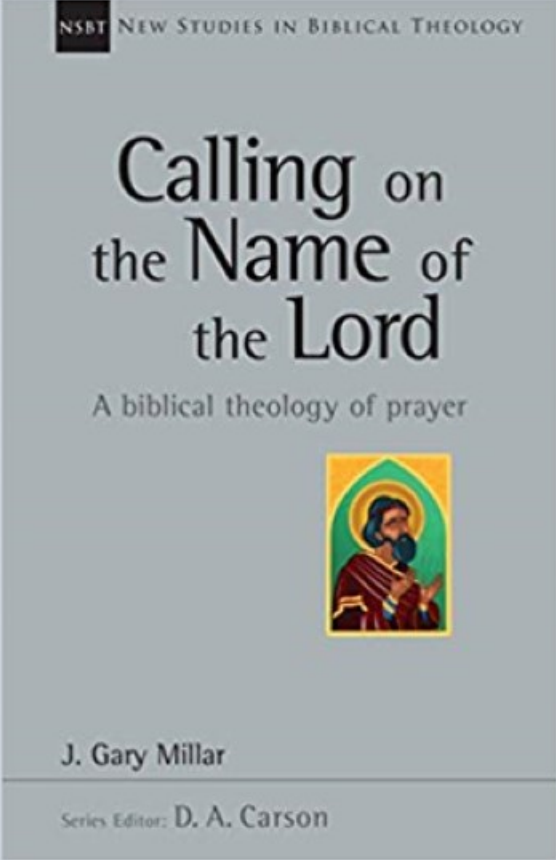
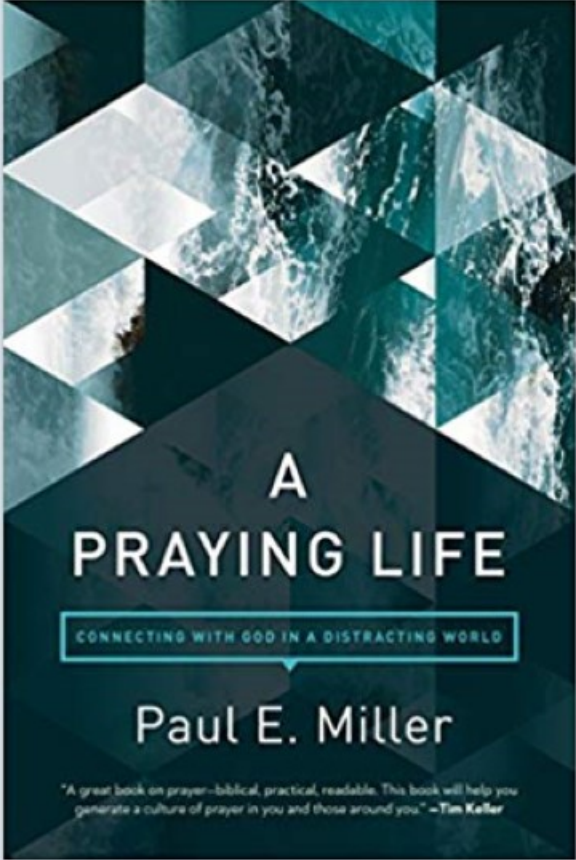


My Goal today is to help us better understand and practice prayer by seeing it in light of the Bible's big, all-encompassing prayer storyline.

My Plan today is to walk us step-by-step through this storyline, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation.



Recommended Resources



The Bible's Prayer Storyline



The Bible's Prayer Storyline

**Before
Prayer**

Gen. 1-2



Genesis 1:27, 31

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:8, 25

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed... And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



The Bible's Prayer Storyline

**Before
Prayer**

Gen. 1-2

**Broken &
Distant**

Gen. 3



Genesis 3:6b-7

...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.



The Bible's Prayer Storyline

**Before
Prayer**

Gen. 1-2

**Broken &
Distant**

Gen. 3

**People
Begin
to Pray**

Gen. 4



Genesis 4:25-26

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. **At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.**



"Prayer is designed for a fallen world"

-from *Calling on the Name of the Lord* by Dr. Gary Millar



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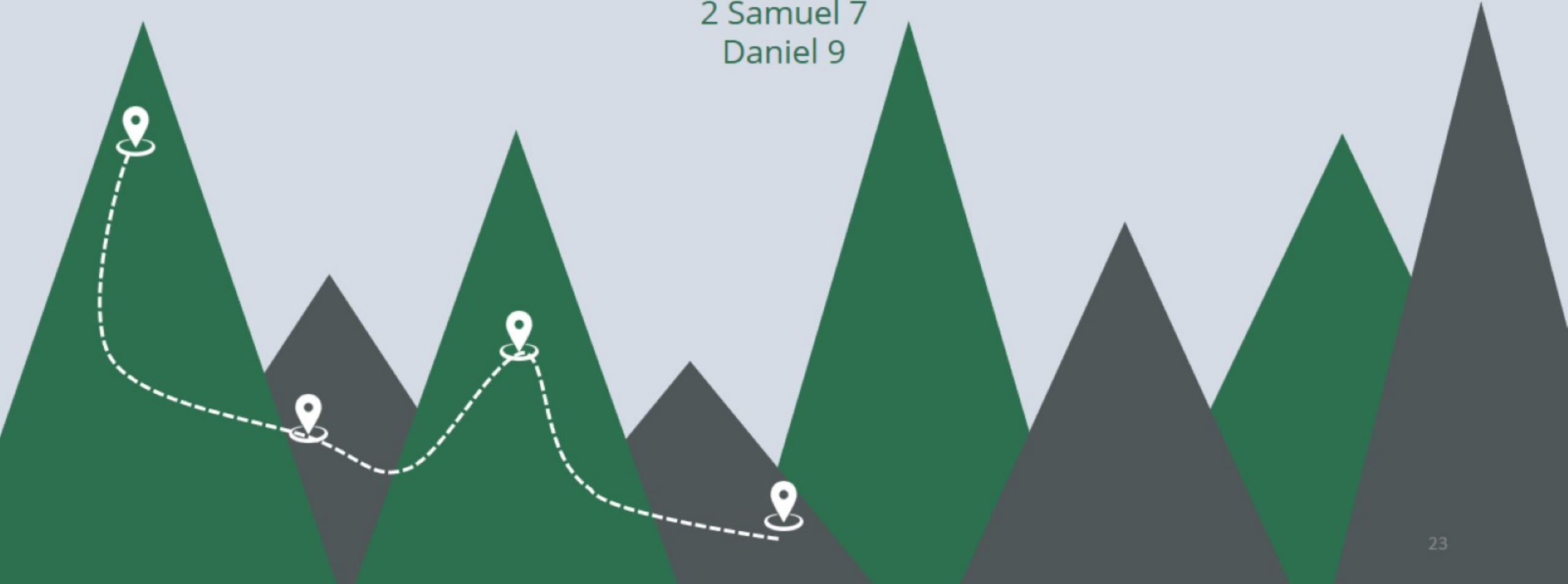
Gen. 4

**OT
Snapshots
of Prayer**

Psalms 100

2 Samuel 7

Daniel 9



Prayer as Worship

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Prayer as Relationship

2 Samuel 7

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it...



Prayer for Mercy

Daniel 9

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened..."



The Bible's Prayer Storyline

**Before
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Gen. 1-2

**Broken &
Distant**

Gen. 3

**People
Begin
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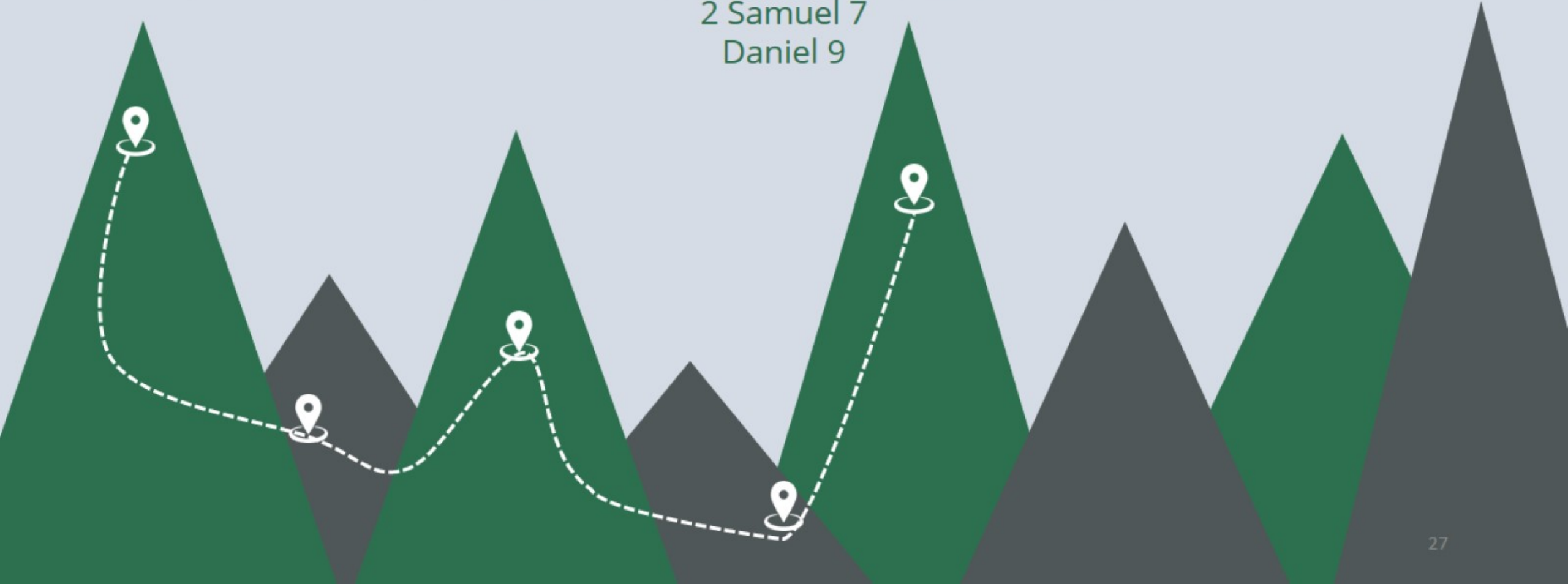
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**Jesus
on
Prayer**

Luke 11:1-13



Luke 11:1-13

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."



Luke 11:1-13 (continued)

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.



Luke 11:1-13 (continued)

For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"



The Bible's Prayer Storyline

**Before
Prayer**

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**People
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**OT
Snapshots
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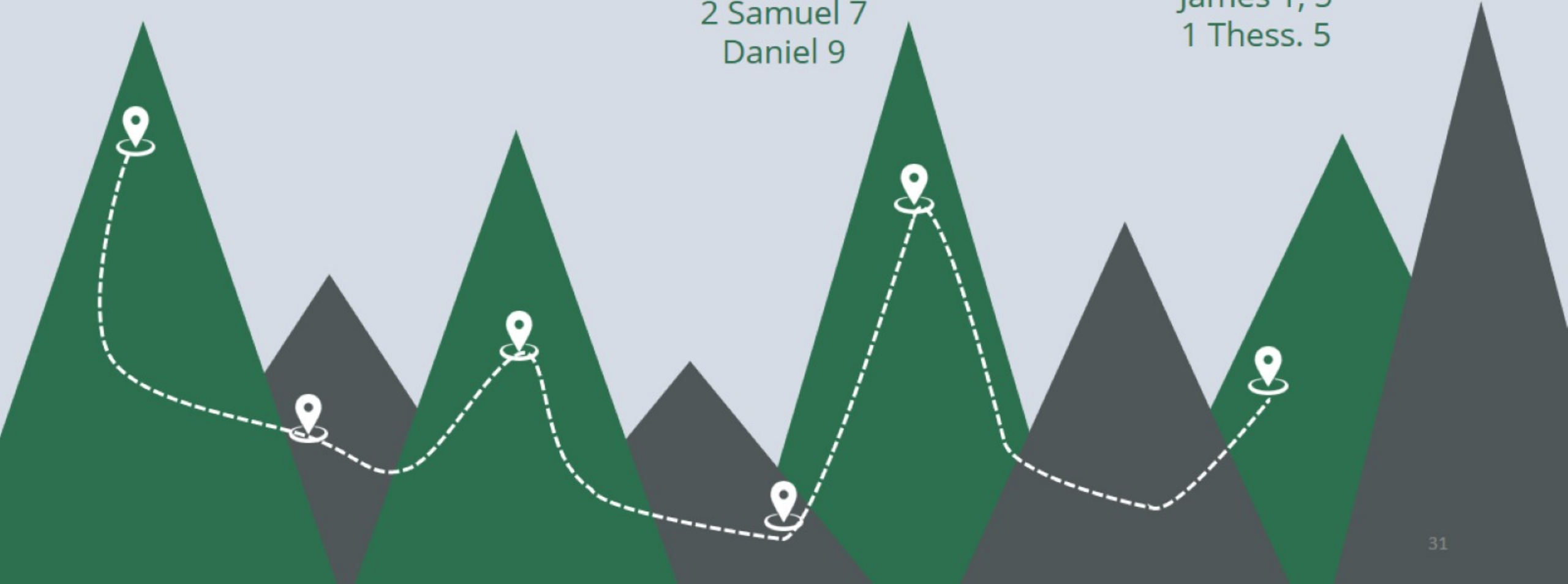
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**Jesus
on
Prayer**

Luke 11:1-13

**NT
Snapshots
of Prayer**

Romans 8
James 1, 5
1 Thess. 5



Prayer as Intimacy with the Father

Romans 8

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



Prayer for Wisdom and Healing

James 1:5-6

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.



Prayer for Wisdom and Healing

James 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



Always Praying

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



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OT Snapshots of Prayer

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Jesus on Prayer

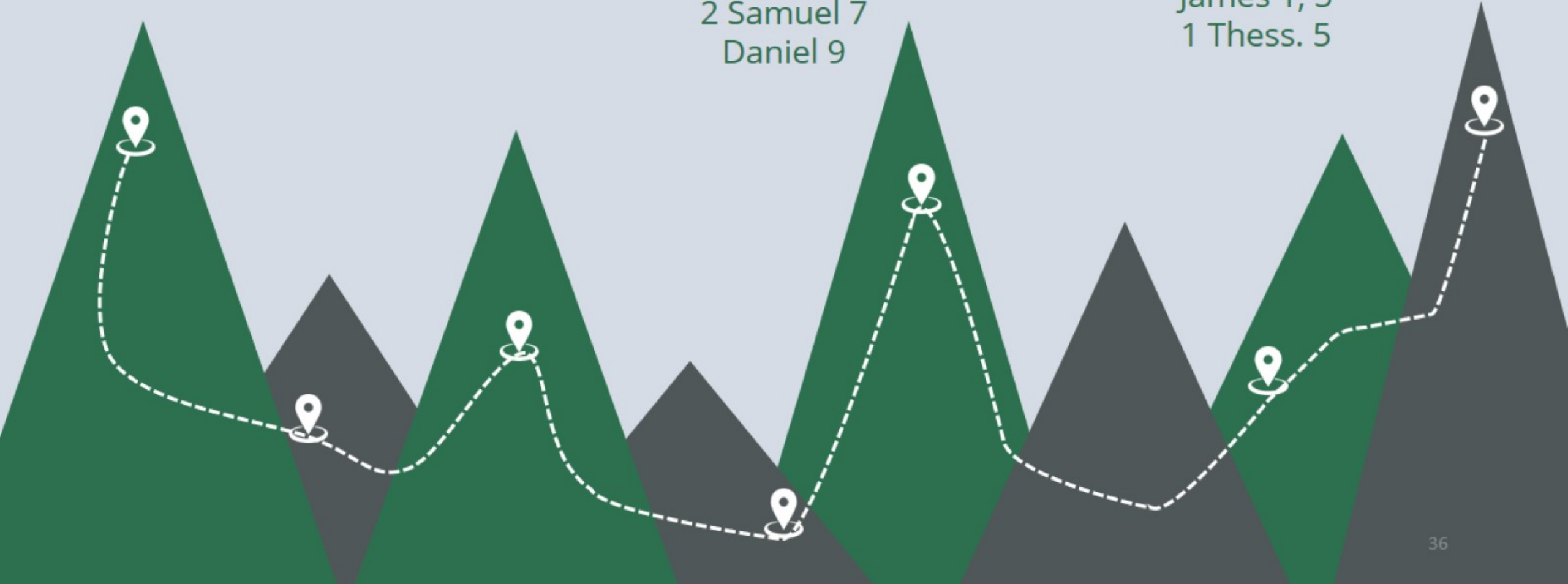
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Prayer Made New

Rev. 21, 22



Prayer Made New

Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."



Prayer Made New

Revelation 22:3-5

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!



Drawing Conclusions from Prayer in All of Scripture

- Prayer began after things fell apart in Genesis 3, when people “began to call upon the name of the LORD.”
- In Scripture, prayer is everywhere and always a central practice of God’s people.
- Jesus calls us to pray and assures us that our good God will answer.
- Prayer, like all things, will be made new. Our present experience of God, wonderful yet partial, will become “fully known” and “face to face.”

