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CEDARCREEKCHURCH

Looking Ahead - At the Movies

November 2, 2025

When something unexpected happens, our instinct is to *do something ... anything!* A problem pops up, and we rush in to fix it. We want to prove we're capable, strong, and needed. But sometimes, even with the best intentions, our quick reactions cause more harm than good.

Proverbs 14:12 reminds us, *"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."*

It's a sobering truth: what *feels* right in the moment isn't always *wise*. Our desire to solve things quickly can cloud our ability to see clearly. Often, we jump to conclusions, speak too soon, or take action before we've paused long enough to seek God's direction.

In action movies, agents leap at the first sign of a crisis. But, when we are facing our own dilemmas, the better move might be to *pause*, take a breath, pray, and invite others in to help us discern the best next step.

Maybe today you're facing something that demands a response. Before rushing in, pause and ask God to show you the right path. Odds are, he'll guide you toward peace and clarity instead of panic and chaos.

Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: What's something a friend, neighbor, or family member has helped you with that you couldn't have done as easily on your own?

How do you see your community responding to the needs of people who are going through a crisis?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: How can sharing life with others help us learn essential life skills like caring, trusting, and loving?

What qualities do you look for in a friend?

Reflect and Respond: How might you take steps toward finding or becoming that kind of 'back-to-back' friend described in Ecclesiastes 4:12?

Prayer:

Lord, when life feels urgent and uncertain, help me to pause before reacting. Give me wisdom to see what's truly right, not just what feels right in the moment. Teach me to trust your voice above my impulses, and remind me that I don't have to face any crisis alone. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.

Stronger Together - At the Movies

New Testament Reading Plan: Revelation 17**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer...

There's a part of me that still believes I have to handle things on my own. Maybe it's because for so many years, I did. When life got hard, my default was to double down. I put my head down, pushed through, and kept it all to myself. It felt safer that way. No one could disappoint me or misunderstand me if I just carried it alone. But somewhere along the way, that independence became isolation. And isolation is a heavy place to live.

God never intended for us to walk through life that way. Ecclesiastes 4 reminds us that "two are better than one." Friendship is more than just companionship. It is a divine design. It's God's way of helping us see what we can't see, feel what we've forgotten, and believe what we've stopped believing. True friends hold us up when our strength gives out, speak truth when lies feel louder, and remind us that we're not fighting alone.

I can think of moments when my Christian friends saw the exhaustion I tried to hide behind a smile. They didn't try to fix me or tell me to "just have faith." They showed up. They listened. They prayed. And in their presence, I felt the presence of God. It reminds me that love isn't meant to stay locked inside our own walls.

When we let people in, we let God's love move through them. It takes humility to admit we need others. It takes courage to be seen. But that's where strength is found. We have a triple-braided cord of community, friendship, and faith.

Alone, we can survive for a while. Together, we can conquer.

Don't do life alone. Reach out to someone. Ask for prayer. Check on a friend who's been quiet. The gift of friendship isn't just about having someone by your side. This gift is about becoming the kind of friend who helps others stand strong each time they fall. Because together, we're better. Together, we reflect the heart of God to all around us, especially those who are just getting to know him.

Questions:

When life feels heavy, do you tend to reach out for help or pull away and handle things on your own? Why do you think that is?

Who in your life helps you see what you can't see - someone who speaks truth and reminds you of God's promises when you forget them?

What might it look like for you to be that kind of friend to someone else this week?

Next Steps:

As we approach the holiday season, a time that can magnify both joy and loneliness, take a moment to reach out to one person who might be struggling. Send a text, write a card, drop off coffee, invite them to attend your Group, or simply check in. Remind them they're not alone and that they matter. Small gestures can carry eternal weight when offered with genuine love.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for creating us to live in connection with you and with others. Forgive me for the times I've tried to handle life alone. Teach me to see friendship the way you designed it: as a source of strength, truth, and grace.

Help me notice those who are hurting around me, especially as the holidays draw near. Give me courage to reach out, to listen, and to love without expectation. And when I feel weak, surround me with people who remind me of your faithfulness.

Thank you for the gift of friendship and the reminder that a cord of three strands - you, me, and others - is not easily broken. In Jesus' name, amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Monique Myers, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Finding Worth in God's Word - At the Movies

November 4, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Revelation 18

Have you ever struggled with self worth?

Personally, I've found this to be a recurring problem. I am a people pleaser, just wanting to make everyone happy. Unfortunately, I have learned the hard way that no matter what I do, I can't please everyone. And yet, at times, I still get caught up in a vicious cycle trying to. Not only is it exhausting, but it's not how God wired us to live.

We must remember where our worth truly comes from.

Our worth does not come from our actions - it comes only from God and who he says we are: loved, transformed, forgiven. We must break the cycle of trying to be good enough and give up control of our lives. A misguided sense of control only causes anxiety and distress, because we are focusing on the wrong things.

Even though there is absolutely nothing we can do to deserve God's love, he still loves us and wants to spend eternity with all of us! He does not care if we are rich or popular - each of us matters the exact same to him. So we no longer have to compare ourselves to others or feel bad about ourselves, because in our Creator's eyes, we are beautiful.

God intentionally created each of us with a unique purpose and spiritual gifts. He intended for all of us to be different. We were never meant to be identical clones, looking and acting the same - we are all “fearfully and wonderfully made” (NIV Psalm 139:14).

This week, intentionally rest in God's peace and meditate on who he says you are. Give up control of what others think and stop letting the world determine your self worth. The Creator of the universe adores you, and there is nothing anyone can do to change that!

Psalm 8:3-5

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers - the moon and the stars you set in place - what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

Questions:

How is your self-worth right now?

What are some ways that you can remind yourself of who God says you are?

Next Steps:

Get baptized to publicly die to your old self and be dedicated to your new life in Christ (Romans 6:4).

Attend GrowthTrack to discover how God wired you and how you can use your unique gifts and purpose.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thanks for loving me despite my flaws. Help me remember that even when I am not accepted by the world, I am always accepted and loved by you. Help me to see others the way that you see them and love everyone not because of what they can do, but because of who they are. In Jesus' name, amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Isabelle Billnitzer, a Perrysburg attendee and regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

He has Good Plans - At the Movies

November 5, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Revelation 19

Exactly one year ago today, I lost my job. Two days later, my dad's health started to decline, and a few months ago, he passed away. It has really been a challenging season. Thankfully, I know I am not alone.

Many of us are experiencing difficult seasons. The loss of a loved one, an unwanted medical diagnosis, betrayal by someone we once trusted ... or being scammed out of money, like Thelma, the main character from our featured movie, *Thelma*.

When we face difficult challenges, it is easy to worry and lose hope, which is why it is imperative we focus on God instead of the situation. Our God is so amazing and loves us so much. He wants us to trust him and draw closer to him during these difficult seasons. God invites us to surrender all our worries and concerns to him and pray big prayers in faith, knowing that he can do more than we could ever ask for or imagine.

God will be with us through whatever struggle we face so we don't have to handle it alone.

Ephesians 3:20

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Take a few moments to really reflect on this verse. Our God deserves all of our praise and glory. He will work things out better than we could ever imagine.

This truth fills me with such wonder and joy, and I have experienced it so many times in my life. As I reflect on the last year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God, who drew me closer to him and helped me through my struggles. I can see now that losing my job gave me more time to spend with my dad. And when the time was right, a new and better job opportunity came my way. I was never alone during my suffering, and neither are you.

You can trust God with the big plans he has for your life. If you are struggling today, give it to God. Pray big prayers and surrender it all to him. Only he has the power to provide exactly what you need before you even know you need it.

Questions:

What struggles are you experiencing?

How can you focus on God instead of the struggle?

Why should we pray big prayers?

Next Steps:

Reflect on Ephesians 3:20. Write it on an index card and carry it with you. Read it, and memorize it. Let the verse increase your trust and faith in God.

Listen to worship and praise music daily. "Good Plans" is a great song to listen to.

Pray big prayers, and wait expectantly for God to answer.

Prayer:

God, I worship and praise you. You deserve all the glory. Help me to pray big prayers because you are able to accomplish more than I could ever ask or imagine. Thank you for helping me to focus on you instead of my situation. I will continue to look for each and every blessing you bring into my life. You are such a good Father. I love and adore you! Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Marsha Raymond, an Oregon attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Don't Go Chasing the Wind - At the Movies

November 6, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Revelation 20

It's all vanity.

At least according to Solomon, the wealthiest and wisest man alive at the time he wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (ESV)

*Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is **vanity** and a striving after wind (emphasis added).*

All is vain - what does that even mean?

It means it's useless. There's no purpose or reason for what you have, or for chasing things that don't completely satisfy you. It means that the *things of this world* will never lead you to the contentment you are looking for.

Last weekend, during *At the Movies*, we were introduced to Thelma, a 94-year-old woman. She must have gone to great lengths to store up money, hiding it around her house. But when she received a fraudulent call that her

grandson was in trouble, she jumped into action, wanting to be helpful, and ended up the victim of a scam.

I don't know about you, but I would have been tempted to "borrow" a scooter and charge ahead to get my \$10,000 back, too. (You go, Grandma Thelma!)

Although I don't have that kind of cash hidden around my house, I have other things I value, like my mug collection. I wouldn't want it lost or stolen. And isn't that what we often think life's all about ... things?

We want more. We want what's next or better. It's easy to get caught up dreaming about what's next - more stuff, more success, new or different relationships. And when we don't get it, it's not fair. We feel like we've been robbed and cheated.

Friends, I'm here to tell you that kind of chasing never satisfies.

Fortunately for our character, Thelma, her efforts were not all in vain. She risked her health, well-being, and emotional stability to chase after what she didn't have, but along the way, she discovered that friendship and family are things she could never lose.

Let's receive this lesson, too. Instead of exhausting ourselves, chasing the wind for all we don't have, let's slow down and appreciate the people and blessings God has already placed in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NLT)

Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless - like chasing the wind.

Questions:

What is something that is hard for you to be grateful for? Why?

What is something you have been striving for?

What is one thing you can do this week to slow down and find contentment?

Next Steps:

Donate something that is no longer of service to you.

Seek out someone you haven't connected with in a while and spend quality time with them.

Write down three things you are grateful for in the *Daily* gratitude area in the CedarCreek App.

Prayer:

God, I pray for contentment. I want to live with gratitude. I am dissatisfied about (blank), and because of that, I have been chasing after the wind. The things I have been pursuing that are not satisfying me are not from you, and I pray that they will fall away. Lead me to contentment in you and this beautiful life you have given me. Show me an area where I need to ask for help and help me to invite people in so that I am not living life alone. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

This post was written by Becca Roberts, a West attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

More is Better - At the Movies

November 7, 2025

New Testament Reading Plan: Revelation 21

Inviting Jesus to lead your life is the most important decision you'll ever make.

I believe this with all my heart. But the next decision - to get involved in a life-giving church - is almost just as important. It is a critical step into the life God has designed us to live.

We learn and grow more in community with other people than simply being around them in church on Sunday. That's why CedarCreek promotes the importance of joining a Group. It is in the company of committed Jesus followers who become friends that God's power is released in our lives. Without developing those relationships and coming to trust in their love for us, we cannot fully pursue the adventure God has for us.

When it is only me, myself, and I, it's easy to persuade myself that God wants

me to do this, or go in that direction. Or is it just me? In my Group, I have sisters who say, "God said *what* to you? Why don't we look and see what Scripture has to say about that?" When we get clarity about God's truth together, we can pursue a course that will glorify God and bring his kingdom to earth as it is in heaven.

Two are better than one, as Ecclesiastes says:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. ... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Three are even better, especially when the third is Jesus!

As I get older, community becomes even more dear to me. Like Thelma in last weekend's featured movie, I want to be useful and add value to my community. But there are times when I need help and am too stubborn to ask for it (also like Thelma!). Isn't this true regardless of our age?

Are you surrounded by a life-giving community? If not, I invite you to seek out people who can point you toward Jesus and speak wisdom into your choices. It is truly a blessing when we choose to follow Jesus together instead of trying to do life alone.

Questions:

Where do you go for help when making an important decision? Do you have a group of godly, trusted friends who know you and will help you?

Next Steps:

If you're not in a Group, join one! It may take awhile to adjust to new people, but it's worth the wait!

Invite someone in your life who feels alone to church, or into your Group.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that he modeled for us how to do life in close community. Forgive me for the times I've tried to push through alone and stubbornly refused to seek help. Help me to remain humble and acknowledge the places where I need others. Please give me people to do life

with, and use us to help each other grow into the people you created us to be, all to your glory. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:

Romans 1:20

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This post was written by Lauri White, an Oregon attendee, and a regular contributor to the Daily LivingItOut.

Reflections - At the Movies

November 8, 2025

Romans 1:20

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Movies have a way of helping us see what we might miss in everyday life. Through characters, stories, and moments of struggle or hope, we catch glimpses of deeper truths - just like Romans 1:20 reminds us, God's invisible qualities are seen through the world he created.

The same is true in friendship. God often shows his love, strength, and faithfulness through the people around us. When we walk through life with others - celebrating victories, facing challenges, or just showing up for them when they need help - we're reflecting God's heart. True friendship is one of the ways he makes his "invisible" presence visible.

As we continue into our *At the Movies* series, let's be intentional about noticing how God shows up - in stories on screen, in creation, and in our friendships.

As you reflect this week, take time to memorize the series theme verse, Romans 1:20, as a reminder: God is always revealing himself, often through the people he places in our lives.

Prayer:

God, thank you for revealing your power and nature through everything you've made. Help me slow down long enough to see your hand at work in the world around me. Remind me that you are near, constant, and faithful in every moment. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Series Theme Verse:**Romans 1:20**

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This post was written by Lori Tuckerman, Director of Content for the Daily LivingItOut.