



Life Verse

Guided by Scripture

A McFarlin Guide to
Discovering Your Life Verse

For the next four weeks, you'll be hearing from some of our staff about their life verse, a piece of scripture that holds a special place in their heart and guides their walk with Jesus. We hope that by hearing their stories and life verses you'll not only grow closer to our pastors, but will also discover your own life verse!

We believe the entirety of scripture is authoritative in directing our steps, but sometimes there's a verse or two that resonates at a deeper, more memorable level. Peter reminds us in his first letter that we all have unique lives in which to serve God, and often different pieces of scripture are held more tenderly than others when we think of our relationship to God.

We see this lived out in church. While many are engaged in various areas of our church, it's very common and natural for people to be primarily drawn to one of our three core areas of worship, discipleship and mission that aligns with and expresses our gifts of the Spirit given by God.

Your life verse may coincide with an area of ministry you are passionate about. If worship is your favorite spiritual practice, then you may be drawn to the Psalms, the collection of the earliest Christian hymns and poems. Maybe small groups and Bible study are where your faith grows the most and you love our discipleship programs. If that's you, then a verse from Paul's epistles may be what is written on your heart. Many in our church call McFarlin home because of our various mission moments, and it's because of the example of the Prophets or Jesus himself.

After the next four weeks, not only will you hear our pastors' life verses, but our prayer is that you would come away claiming a verse for your own life!

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Week 1: Worship

As we begin this journey of discovering and claiming our life verse, it's important to think about our innate God-graced gifts.

Where are the places in your life where you've felt God the most? What areas in church are you most drawn toward?

Notes:

Some of us may be unsure where to start. Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church has a free online Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Open your camera to use the QR code down below and spend the next five to 10 minutes taking the inventory to see what spiritual gifts you may have. Record your gifts and initial responses below.

Notes:



Week 1: Worship

To fully understand and activate our gifts, we turn to the core of who we are as a church as a worshipping body—all we are and everything we do flows out of looking up toward God. Worship helps us understand the world around us while reminding us that God is constant and in control.

If worship is one of the main ways you find spiritual fulfillment, then try reading through the Psalms over the next few weeks. If you read six to eight Psalms a day, by the time our Life Verse series is complete, you'll have read all 150 Psalms!

Preacher:

Life Verse:

How you see the preacher in a new light:

Week 2: Discipleship

Discipleship may be where learning about your faith comes alive! Bible studies, Sunday school, small groups, or participating in devotion activities like this one is really where you are able to, like Jacob, wrestle with God (Genesis 32:22-32). Maybe discipleship is your area because you love the community aspect of shared thinking; hearing what others believe about God or how God works in their lives helps us reflect on God in our lives! Or maybe you like studying and reading, gaining a more thorough understanding of faith and Scripture.

Who are the people who have taught you the most about your faith? What about them helped you dive deeper?

Notes:

What moments have helped root and ground (Ephesians 3:17) you in your faith?

Notes:

Week 2: Discipleship

If you find yourself asking questions like “Why,” or saying things like “Tell me more,” or “I think there’s more going on here,” discipleship may be an area to start searching for your life verse! Paul’s epistles—or letters—may be where your life verse is waiting. Paul was about teaching both the individual and the community. These early churches certainly knew the story of Jesus—just like you do!—and these letters from Paul provided the earliest forms of Christian faith formation and education.

As you search for a life verse around discipleship, try reading through Romans, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, or Philippians. While all of Paul’s letters are full of wisdom, these are the ones that scholars have no question that the Apostle Paul wrote.

Preacher:

Life Verse:

How you see the preacher in a new light:

Week 3: Mission

One of the areas in which McFarlin stands out uniquely from other churches is our robust mission work. You'd be pressed to find many churches that have an active food pantry—much less a mobile one—a utilities assistance program, a monthly community meal, and one that is building a house for a family. Add in our youth and churchwide mission trips, church-school partnerships, prayer ministries, and routinely collecting donations for local and global ministries, McFarlin is a missional church!

Where do you serve or feel called to serve? How has serving shaped your faith?

Notes:

Week 3: Mission

Serving others as the hands and feet of Jesus is how many express their faith in God: Let me participate in this thing called faith!

The prophets in the Bible may provide inspiration for your life verse! Certainly they wrote about worship and they definitely made people think about God, but they were primarily concerned with how people lived out their faith.

If you feel God more when you have a hammer or a bag of groceries in your hand, take time to read through the prophets. Try reading Isaiah, only 66 chapters long. While some of the historical references may be confusing, the world Isaiah is describing almost 3,000 years ago isn't all that different from today.

Preacher:

Life Verse:

How you see the preacher in a new light:

Week 4: Your Life Verse

We hope that this four-week series helped you dig into a book or two of the Bible, discover how your faith is formed, and intentionally seek out where your faith is rooted and grounded.

What common themes struck a chord within you? Look for common themes or connections. Did any words repeat?

Notes:

Circle which area you feel most forms and informs your faith: **Worship** **Discipleship** **Mission**

As you were reading any of the verses throughout this week, or hearing any from our preachers, what stood out? Were there words that seemed to hop off the page? A sentence you highlighted after getting a warm feeling?

Notes:

Week 4: Your Life Verse

When thinking of a life verse, ask questions like, “Do I feel a special connection when reading this verse? Does it feel like God’s written this just for me? Do I have any special memories associated with this verse, or does it stir a memory within me?”

Hopefully one or two pieces of Scripture are rising to the top—record them below!

Notes:

We know that our lives often change, and when we return to Scripture we hear God speaking in new ways. Some of us may have never thought of a life verse for ourselves, and sometime in the future one may be written on your heart as you continue diving into Scripture. The good news of Scripture is that as we draw near to God, God draws near to us (James 4:8) and we are rewarded as we seek God (Hebrews 11:6).

Preacher:

Life Verse:

How you see the preacher in a new light:

Worship with us every Sunday
On Site or Online
Childcare & Sunday school offered for all ages

Details at mcfarlinumc.org
or (405) 321-3484

