



# THE WAYS

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**OPEN DOORS FOR OTHERS TO LEAD.** Encourage others to step into leadership by sharing responsibilities and mentoring. Let go of the jobs you've always done and allow new leaders to emerge. Remember that our youth and young adults are not the future of our church but are vitally important for our present.

1. What gifts can the next generation bring which we are missing?

**READ 1 Tim. 4:11-16**

1. What are the essential things which we must teach and command?
2. Why would people look down on Timothy for being young? (He was likely near 30.)
3. Who do you know that we need to encourage to "not neglect their gift?"

**Scenario:** You're in your late 20's and have finished college and periodically attending FPC, a church which you used to attend as a teen. When you look around on a Sunday morning, there are few other congregants your age. You're interested in God, you're interested in faith, but you struggle to find a community or a home at FPC.

1. Imagine coming to FPC as in your late 20's. What do you like? What do you struggle with?
2. What do you need to feel welcome and at home at FPC?
3. What do you need to feel like your opinion is valued and needed?
4. What do you need to do to exercise your gifts?

When you Open Doors for Others to Lead, they will do things differently. Time honored traditions might change, weekly worship might change, but we will also find the new things the Spirit is doing. *Opening Doors for Others to Lead* opens the door to the Spirit moving our church to respond to a changing world. But amidst that change, there is one thing that will never falter, the call of the gospel. The world and our church might look different, but ?

**PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray for the next generation that God is raising up. Pray that God would be at work in them and that we would be prepared to receive them.)

## DAILY Devotional

**MONDAY:** *READ:* Isaiah 43:19. *THINK:* The Spirit continually surprises the Church with new action and enterprise. When you *Open Doors for Others to Lead*, you can see the Spirit act in new ways through new leaders. This involves trust and sometimes change, but it also allows us to see the new things the Spirit is calling us to. *PRAY:* for the Spirit to be preparing new lay leaders to carry us forward.

**TUESDAY:** *READ:* Matthew 28:19. *THINK:* The beauty of the church is not that it is multi-generational, but that it is inter-generational. We aren't many generations under one roof, but many generations working together towards one goal. When you *Open Doors for Others to Lead*, we draw generations to the table together to discern God's will. *PRAY:* the Spirit of peace would cause multiple generations to be bound up together in God's work.

**WEDNESDAY:** *READ:* Luke 1:38. *THINK:* Mary was around 13 when she said this. At 13, Mary makes a vital decision for the history of our faith and the world. Where would we be without that faithful 13 year old girl? When you *Open the Door for Others to Lead*, you could open the door to a 13 year old girl who could offer a vision of faithful obedience. *PRAY:* we would be ready to say to the Spirit's leading what Mary did, "Let it be according to your will."

**THURSDAY:** *READ:* 1 Tim. 4:16. *THINK:* Youth for youth's sake is not our goal nor is change for the novelty of it. We look for a new generation to carry the torch with diligence and perseverance. *Opening Doors for Others to Lead* involves wisdom and discernment to find those who would lead us in step with God's will. *PRAY:* that God would help us discern who will be the right new leaders.

**FRIDAY:** *READ:* Joshua 1:6. *THINK:* As new leaders step up, there will be opposition and discouragement. Just as God encouraged Joshua, we must encourage our leaders in the gifts and calling they have. A large part of *Opening Doors for Others to Lead* is reiterating God's call into their lives. *PRAY:* the Spirit would give you the words of encouragement to say to our leaders both new and not new.

**SATURDAY:** *READ:* Acts 2:17. *THINK:* This is the vision of when the Spirit is poured out. Both young and old seeing visions and dreams. Both young and old empowered together by the Spirit of the living God. These are those days! The same Spirit is at work within both the young and old; and when we *Open the Door for Others to Lead*, we can see more of the Spirit's work. *PRAY:* the Spirit is poured out in power and might on the people of FPC.