

# WAYS

## DEVOTIONAL

### **What are the Ways?**

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

# How do I Devote?

## 1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

## 2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

## 3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

## 4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

## 5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

# Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



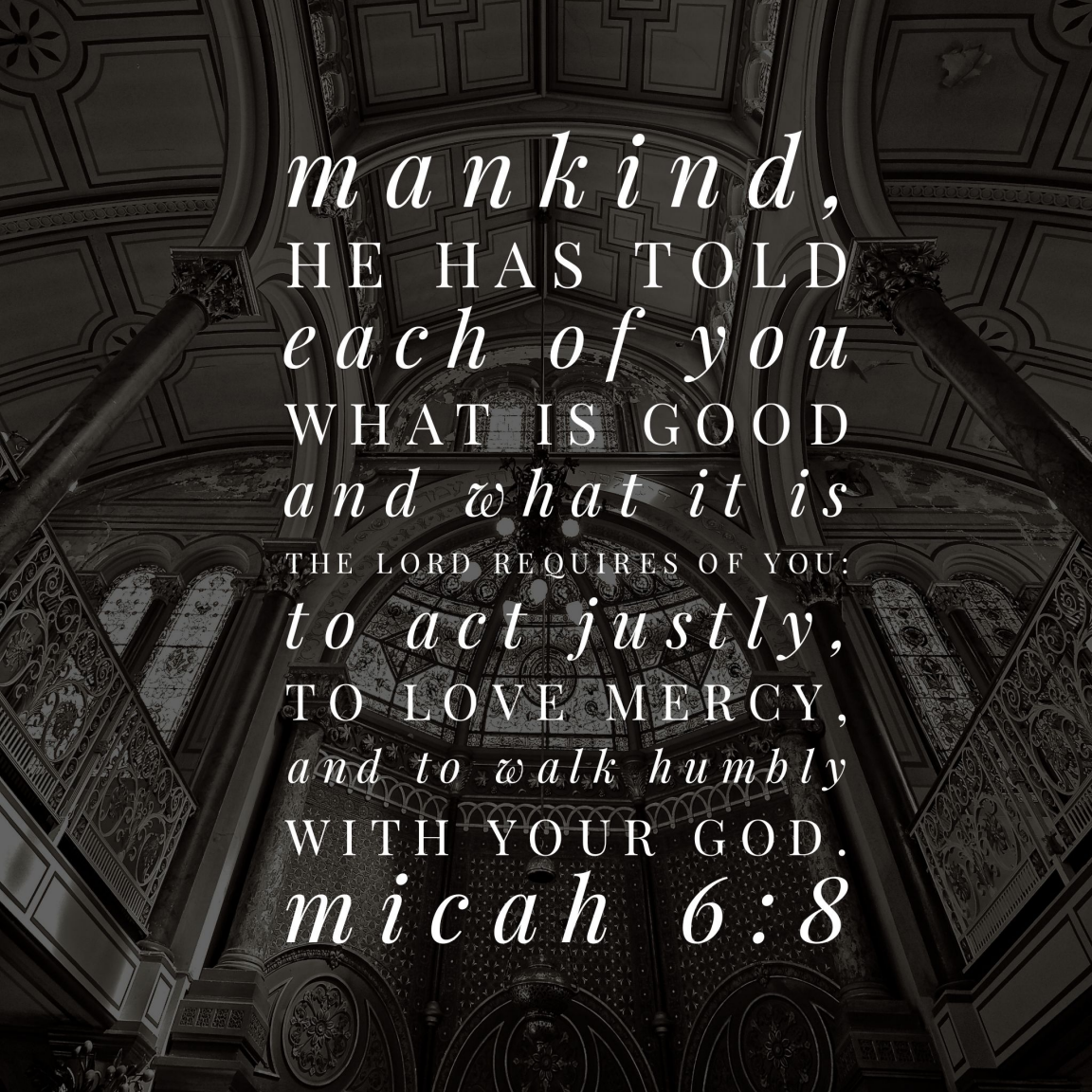
# JUMP IN

Sunday

Life is full of unexpected problems and needs, large and small. Pay attention to moments when God calls you to action, no matter how ordinary or extraordinary the situation may be. See “disruptions” as invitations to share Christ’s love. Write a note. Visit the sick or the grieving. Share a meal.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God’s goodness and how you can *Jump In* this week.





*m a n k i n d,*  
HE HAS TOLD  
*e a c h o f y o u*  
WHAT IS GOOD  
*a n d w h a t i t i s*  
THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU:  
*t o a c t j u s t l y,*  
TO LOVE MERCY,  
*a n d t o w a l k h u m b l y*  
WITH YOUR GOD.  
*m i c a h 6 : 8*

Monday

**READ:** Micah 6:6-8

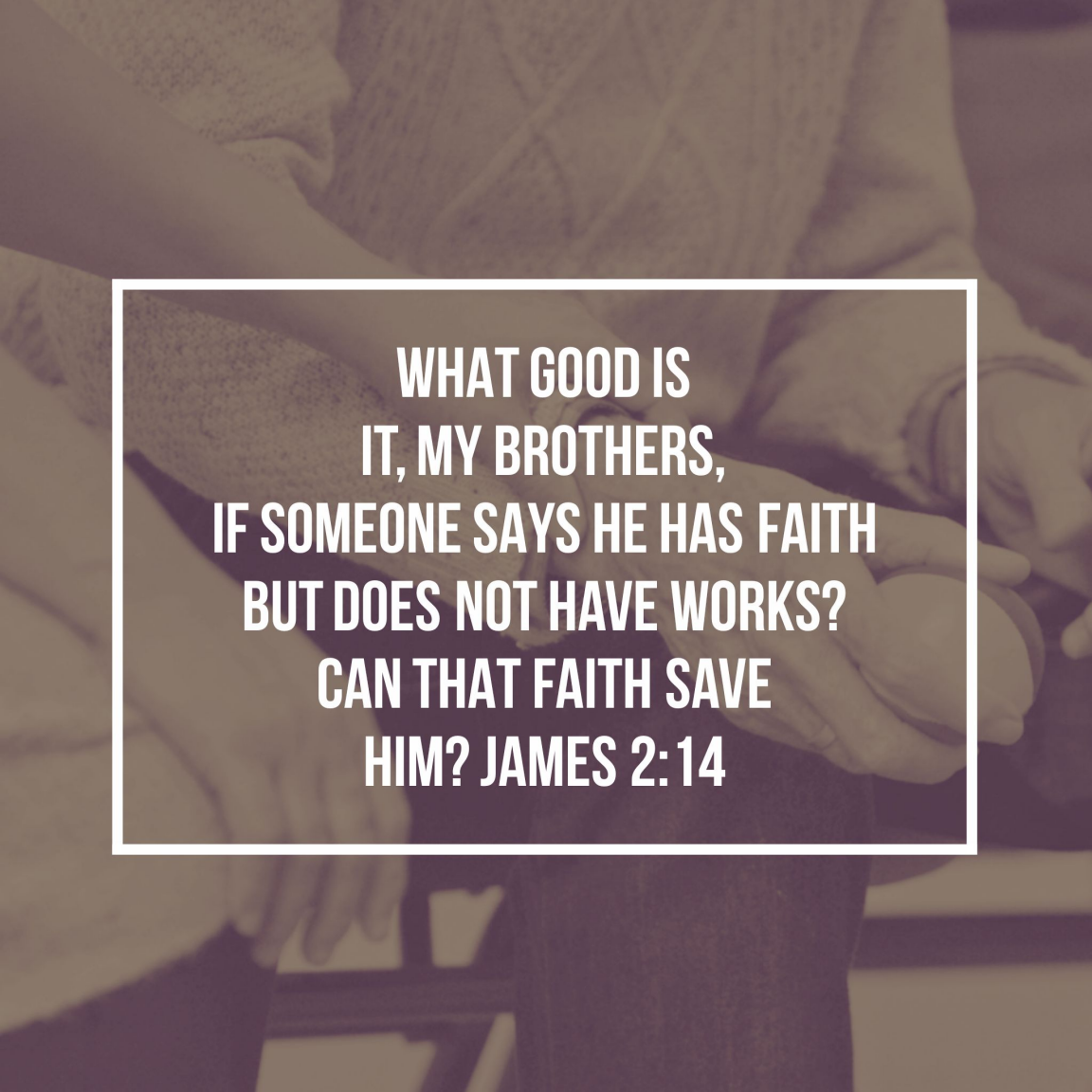
**THINK:** Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly.

We can make faith pretty complex sometimes, but those 6 words are the essence of what it means to *Jump In*. We *Jump In* to defend those who are used to injustice and those who need to be released from their own sinfulness. Don't make it too complex: Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

**PRAY:** that you can serve in humility before the Father's presence.

*Jump In* today.





WHAT GOOD IS  
IT, MY BROTHERS,  
IF SOMEONE SAYS HE HAS FAITH  
BUT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS?  
CAN THAT FAITH SAVE  
HIM? JAMES 2:14

Tuesday

**READ:** James 2:14-19

**THINK:** We have been forgiven and cared for by God over and over and over again. When you take that to heart, it changes you. Faith's natural product is a desire to love those around you. *Jump In* and own their needs. Clothe people. Feed people. Listen to people. Forgive people. Counsel people. Laugh with people. *Jump In* to embody God's love for God's people.

**PRAY:** that the Spirit would grow actions out of your faith.

*Jump In* today.



- DON'T FORGET TO SHOW -  
**HOSPITALITY**  
TO STRANGERS,  
FOR SOME WHO HAVE  
**DONE THIS HAVE**  
**ENTERTAINED ANGELS**  
**WITHOUT REALIZING IT!**  
**HEBREWS 13:2**


Wednesday

**READ:** Hebrews 13:1-3

**THINK:** What if we cared for people as if we were caring for angels? What if we cared for people as if we were caring for ourselves? Would you be more apt to *Jump In* if you did that? Would you care no matter the disruption and act no matter the cost? See people as they actually are, not forgotten or suffering, but as well loved brothers and sisters in Christ and *Jump In*.

**PRAY:** to see how Jesus is present in those in need.

*Jump In* today.



WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS,  
HE HAD COMPASSION  
FOR THEM,  
BECAUSE THEY  
WERE HARASSED  
AND HELPLESS,  
LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT  
A SHEPHERD.  
MATTHEW 9:36

Thursday

**READ:** Matthew 9:35-38

**THINK:** Faith isn't just about obedience but about compassion as well. There is a reason we avoid eye contact with those in need. When you make a connection, it is hard not to care and hard not to *Jump In*. Don't hide from compassion; it can be the voice of the Spirit. Meet people and truly see them. As God works in your heart, you will feel towards the needy as God does - with compassion.

**PRAY:** the Spirit would grow compassion in you.

*Jump In* today.





THEY SOLD PROPERTY  
AND POSSESSIONS  
TO GIVE TO ANYONE WHO HAD NEED.  
**ACTS 2:45**

Friday

**READ:** Acts 2:42-47

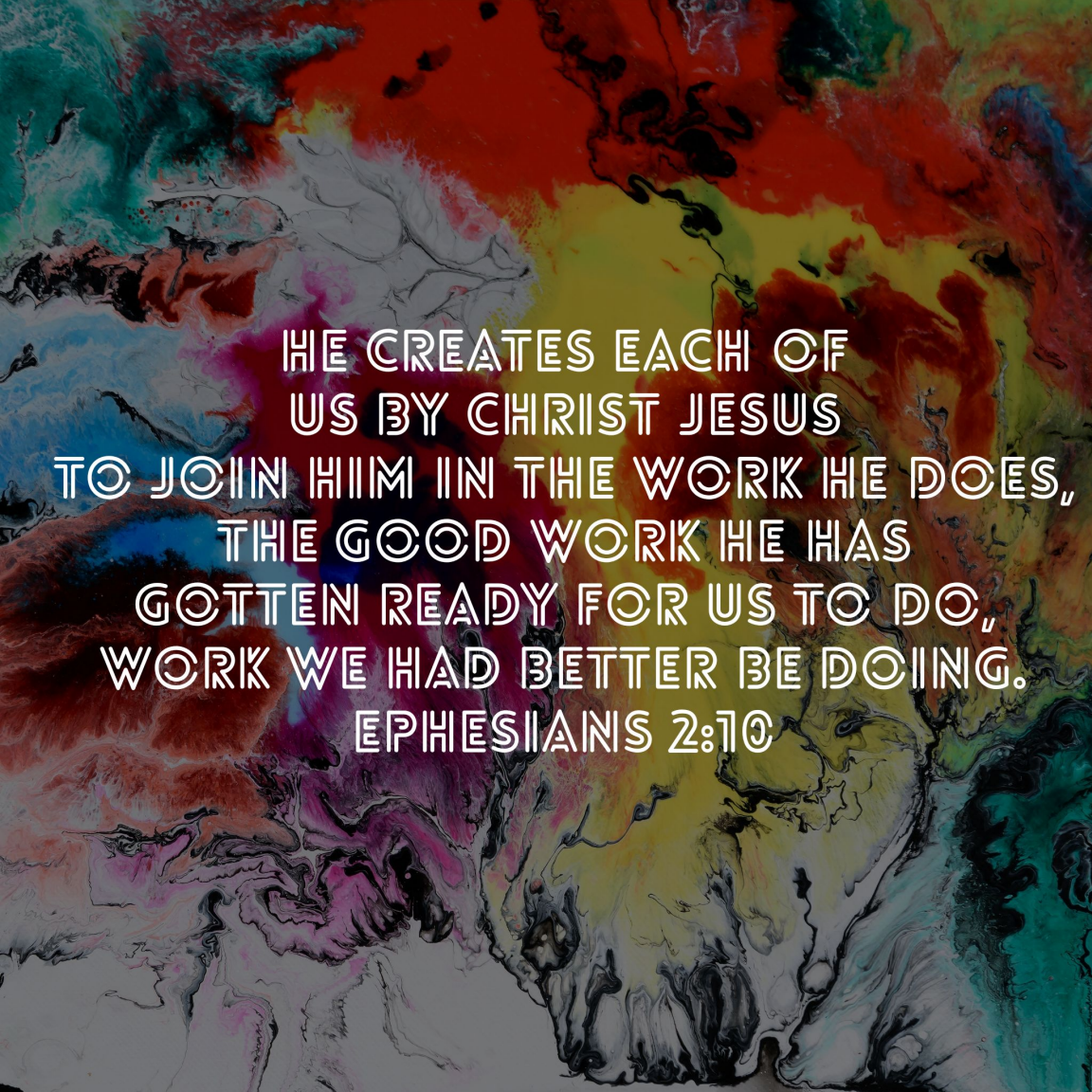
**THINK:** The first century Church set a radical example of care for one another by selling their own homes and sharing the proceeds.

You might not be called to sell your house, but on the other hand, you might. When they chose to *Jump In* for one another, God added to their number daily. When we *Jump In* for one another, will God do anything less?

**PRAY:** with God about what you have and how He can use it.

*Jump In* today.





HE CREATES EACH OF  
US BY CHRIST JESUS  
TO JOIN HIM IN THE WORK HE DOES,  
THE GOOD WORK HE HAS  
GOTTEN READY FOR US TO DO,  
WORK WE HAD BETTER BE DOING.  
EPHESIANS 2:10

Saturday

**READ:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**THINK:** You are not saved by good works, but you were created for them. God has prepared you, and He has prepared good works for you. Do not let them slip by. *Jump In* to the opportunities God has placed in your path because you were literally created to do them.

**PRAY:** the Spirit would show you the works God has prepared for you.

*Jump In* today.