Andy Wood ([00:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EFl9o3UnYjDeLUEMj8aVuU0ujMmLjikB8O0VLwKRjpb6oLiCy-OF_1JgO0QIjgo0e-NiK5U9MzF30bQZL6griadr4ZI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0.27)):

Today, we're kicking off a new series called The Anchored Life. And if you were with us last week, Stacey got us rolling with this. She talked about the eight-week challenge that we're going to do as a church family. And last week, many of you stepped up, and you said, "I'm going to read through the New Testament with the rest of the church." We've been talking about this all weekend long.

([00:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/3bOCtOZeSnN8v7lmbrAEV3RFIqNOuIrvqI9-Hlxr-BG4mTXsv7AHnKWj8oADA3AOtRpHhkbvp-hERelPIEiyof4SrpA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=21.12)):

And right now, we have just over 14,000 adults who have said yes to take the Anchored Life Challenge. And this is significant because there are going to be families that are changed. There are going to be so many of you that are new to this journey of faith that begin and start to understand God's love for you and begin relationship with him.

([00:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ZrtoxqO2FT5Fitda08ZKrg2Ldc6C7MIaH8Trqf8f-y9VtaoVUyZRy_btu5n5I1NCN_NeH89fpOwpsJzWPv1EaOwcqJA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=41.25)):

And some of you today, maybe this is your first time here or maybe you weren't here last week, but I'm going to give an opportunity at the end of our time to take that challenge together. And before I jump into that, though, I want to make sure you know how excited I am about next weekend. Pastor Rick is going to be back to bring the message. This is his first time back to teach since the transition happened. And we're so thrilled.

([01:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pWgCu5UyLUnV5a0hgs2yyUsDho8fMcwFlHpiFczgqWJ1w-0UROaTGWVsvn23OoN1UGkkMgOZuuPoxkxnEAsZ-RADwCk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=68.76)):

I want to encourage you to be praying for him as he prepares this week. I also want to encourage you, make sure you're back, bring somebody with you, and let's celebrate. It's his 70th birthday. So, we get to celebrate his birthday. I hope it's okay that I said his age. It's going to be a great weekend next weekend as Pastor Rick comes back. Now, today, as we begin, what I'd like to start with is just an overview of where we're going.

([01:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GXF16gQtLtUmRhEUu4OjCo5m_GYqrQlKA5CY0CFZGDqYNC-r_hliFpJPVfdh-hT6AhrZHsV88sh0OLfsLY4da4B7cuc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=93.51)):

So, the next eight weeks, each week, we're going to be reading through during the week's sections of the Bible. And as we read through it, during the week, we're going to look at different chapters, different books of the Bible, but on the weekends, we're going to highlight some of the major themes that we'll be reading throughout the course of this week.

([01:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2Vr09cyY6prETLLM8q2QDQff5Rn8jufg6cfpTWZ6btZLVT8hiGSt_65Q8NP2xFc2_FF-2-pDt44jzmUBfos8XMb1m9U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=111.72)):

So, this week, on Monday, the whole church who's taken the Anchored Life Challenge will start by reading through the Gospel of Luke. Luke is one of four gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And today, I'd like to give an overview of the book of Luke and some key themes that apply to our life. Today's message is titled Anchored in Truth. And I want to start with just a few verses on the top, Luke 1:1-4.

([02:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/SkXaEWFUK7Hd1RS_dE2KMAxdhZzBOFGcMpgBVEro9jdgrOIlbrp478mjoU1eZSDsLVAARfhVqHfcd0DB0FXZYEHjvh8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=140.13)):

In these next few moments, before I jump into these four truths, I want to give us some handles or even just a framework for how do we read the Bible? How do we approach the word of God so that it can change our lives? And when we read the Bible, we come from different vantage points. We come from different backgrounds, different cultures, different places in our journey spiritually.

([02:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/if-NMPL8z0g_RKTa8898a-VzRiuuujbGIc9vtFkUhZAr3t6QY_FFTSdrJdRgafTURdsgsQKBsovAVtrJLgo1z_BiSYo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=162.33)):

So, there's some very key practices and tools that will help us read the Bible and apply it to our lives. And I'm going to unpack some of that. So, I'm going to ask you, like Stacey did last weekend if you were here, to engage your mind on the front end of the message and listen to some of these tools that we can walk away and apply them to our lives.

([02:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/tH75Q_1BhhEjQBftikkuPlc06YLo_97UxfrNMnAICF4yWqCRdPFvPPRUMnCnfvzy0pu4ZRTrcsf-4XeZIL5WjkNHUe8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=179.82)):

Luke 1, beginning in verse one, "Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from early disciples. Now, having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so that you can be certain of the truth of everything that you were taught."

([02:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QHZR99dm2RZssB0taYthvdXgyjEmxv5wjOFjwwbXVfp-vlByhH1iht_QERaL-x__LssPhLz8UGIIhFanXRtuPozQI0k?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=179.82)):

Now, this is the Gospel of Luke. He's writing about Jesus. And he wants to help Theophilus understand the teachings and the life of Jesus. And I love Luke because I can relate to him in so many ways. Luke actually wasn't a part of the inner circle with Jesus. He wasn't one of the early disciples. He came a little bit later in terms of his jumping onto the scene and writing about Jesus.

([02:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/V4WsDU0PydNcEwIQikhLgvUirT5vFYgJqLn0fSKV6Er6sh9vxmjxwCtmX6NG2roZa15xm_rwW6QI4PC5fE5_A7oT8iA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=179.82)):

And so, when you read it, it's like, okay, this guy wasn't in the inner circle, but he still had a role to play in the next generation. And I remember in 1980, or sitting in the first membership class as they were talking about the starting of Saddleback Church in 1980, so it was my first membership class, and Pastor Rick was talking, and there was this video that was playing, and I felt like I was missing out on the beginning of this church.

([02:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/hJUX8oFC6wrB0fB_ycXWGBtLX8upyRTLyKfuIWzJUavHH4fy6Sh7PTE2pQMIZRYhrinlegLjiTKa_0JvfkqnHAzMA_c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=179.82)):

And I remember thinking, "Man, I so wish I could have been apart at the beginning." And then it was almost as if God said into my heart, "Andy, you couldn't have been. You weren't born in 1980, so you missed out on the beginning, but here you are now in the next generation." And Luke is a little bit like that. He had some things probably to overcome, but he still writes this gospel not having been one of the original 12.

([03:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_d3Fmm99I-rQBE4cLdE1qaix4giBYmDwwlboPG5rayqubsgbbF38nZRZ-0wDW1XEomfzbySMUbN3cNJirTZkZh1UTMA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=180.51)):

Now, when we read the Bible and we open up a book of the Bible, it's important to understand where that book sits because the Bible is more than just a book. The Bible is a library of books. So, this is the Immerse New Living Translation version of the Bible that we're going to pass out to everyone who takes the challenge. But any Bible that you open that goes from Genesis to Revelation, it is a library of books.

([03:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/i68xPMjmDlB2b1AX3D5FbyIIyyt8CclIXQ9Alz7O4zi8QoVLgFGbYqis7DJkQ6JXFjuDMdvgxj7d_bUb_tyYw-DegCU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=180.51)):

And I want you to imagine, there's going to come on the screen some categories, when you walk into a library... I don't know if anybody goes to libraries anymore, by the way. If we have some librarians, God bless you, we're grateful for you, but there are very few libraries. There used to be more of them. And you'd go into a library. And when you go into a library, there are sections of the library or genres of books.

([03:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/N624GlOk_DlarVZlkzHGZ8MOPye0v-dgX_kTCawOFMYUWE7hkIh0NQ2OzWVBk8EicLryDBk7vyCIe-9wsHc__hneWiU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=180.51)):

You go to a genre of books. You might go to a historical section of books. You might go to a section of nonfiction books. We believe this whole thing is nonfiction, by the way, in case you're wondering with genres, but the genres of the Bible, those different genres inside of them, would be a handful, often more than two, three, four, but there are books that set inside of a genre.

([03:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/uIxxvoGi5eXke4gPMMaxtpUYc0IUC5xOHJc5yMjC06XWT5JT4V3ttKKRe34w-ko0_t1rsTSvYigkYLmXDY_gjloGCAE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=180.51)):

And each of those books, when we open in our modern translations, what we see is chapters and verses. So, if you're new to this whole thing, you'll see a number, colon, another number. The first number is the chapter. The second number is the verse. And those numbers have been inserted later after the fact. So, when people wrote the Bible, when the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus, he didn't write Ephesians 1:1, praise be to God, the Father.

([03:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_3CemP-Jzwy15N10JcGOBheRQm8z6Md19amCTaOxaVpxmR6QuO65qR1E7jOi1Y575qN2_HLarpoqJreq1NZ8QHKQaDY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=181.08)):

He didn't do it that way. So, he wrote the words. And then like a house that has addresses, we later came back and put those addresses in so that we know where to locate in the Bible. But they would just have scrolls. So, they would unroll the scroll, and they would figure out where they were based upon, where in the scroll they were, how far it had been unrolled. So, the genre leads to a book that leads to a chapter that leads to a verse.

([03:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/6iEuYbCMFZ-MFWXLYmzNVdhttwph_aW4k_MJRDhUz8YH-t1onLVK9S00AhYmWotEi1zZjWzvlAmQ41TJ3Xt1jiBX_Tk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=181.08)):

And sometimes, we can extract a verse from the Bible and not understand the context in which the verse was written. So, I said this a couple of weeks ago. There's this one verse that says, God's speaking, He says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and bless you." Now, this was written by Jeremiah, Jeremiah 29:11. And if you know the context that it sits in, Jeremiah is writing to the Israelites.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FORwAcQ5WY-EvKnlGTZ4uDc3Do61xp2JtxPi44xQUWNaqJLEkU7BrpV4o2Ax2U3JZGBTBkCxipGGpdCLDbtc3d2ZYFQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And God says to the Israelites, "You're going to spend 70 years in exile. And I have a wonderful plan for your life." So, when you read it in context, it gives you more perspective. So, genre has a couple of questions. The first one is what type of book is it? So, we want to know what type of book are we reading? Here are some categories if you want to write them down. These are the major categories of genre in the Bible.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/on60XoIUz6Hoc4nDDnZNLY0hwYeBDL2V0zedr6pwpWWZr38jlM0F5wmdiVuVhXayp0SzIP93tURaGL4IXUkdoPW0fHg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

There's law, which is the first five books of the Old Testament. There's history. So, historical books would be 1 and 2 Chronicles, 1 and 2 Kings. They're written from a historical perspective so that we can know what God is like and how God's interacted with humans historically. There's poetry and wisdom. So, the Psalms and Proverbs. King David would say, "The Lord is my shepherd. I have all that I need."

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/lxhNHnGD7BhMbSaKiPfIaJPjEUJcS73gdq9dnapBSUApNnxfl2-bfyUsJY9aFbtuRTV9YBS7nWpnnVlWYPmQedJlxyg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And in the original language, often the poetry is even more beautiful than we can see in our language. But Psalms is a version of poetry. Ecclesiastes is. Proverbs is a form of wisdom. So, you have poetry and wisdom books third category. Prophecy. So, the prophetic books would be small. They call them minor prophets or major. Ezekiel is this long prophetic book. There's prophecy.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/O_XkcOWelrUpWJWUtoa3BTsgWD8pgP13kw9Ui3S_Mc-wWIXRjlAPuttVRgHEeJFgd02hOACld_EUSdC72Q8XT8cWhqU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And then in the New Testament, there are gospels, which is Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And those are about the life of Jesus. And then there are letters that were distributed. So, these letters would be Paul. The Apostle Paul wrote letters to the churches and then they multiplied and were spread. These genres, when we understand them, help us know, when we come to the book, there's some key questions that we need to be asking.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FH0kS3ElByGd_2LBQ4bOe4a54haeBiFhO9itvYjsa6TF9kSiNTpJ1i9YDU4ZKutMI77wQz5m7Sbz6ePZy5ulk3Z8el0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And the next question that is super important is who wrote it? So, when I read most of the books of the Bible, we know historically who wrote those books of the Bible. Now, we believe that God actually inspired people, and the scriptures were carried along by humans. So, through the Holy Spirit, He wrote His word, but He used humans to make it happen. So, I want to know who wrote it, and then who did they write it to? So, there's always an intended audience.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/TsNf-V1TcpHxza9zVhjPzzmAa4_degV7KOtz5e3as-3CQV-DYlVhmHFjUOzrGy3AXVvASJghbeCMeyJeJTTYpuh2uww?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And you can think of this like in the New Testament where it says 1 and 2 Corinthians in the New Testament. That letter was written to the church at Corinth. So, when Paul would write, he had an audience in mind. The Bible has an audience in mind. And there's a question that's important to say, "Well, why did they write it to that group of people?" These questions give us perspective.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/rGFhsJ8OCnegJC1mXw7VRvf_vR4BjCPOGP5o3A6RCw6pOuUxgB4efdaa2GPqFtvMDluimA32H7wr3U0e_pYZv-Q0Q6g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

Sometimes, we can mis-assume that the Bible was written to us. The Bible was written for us, but it was not written to us. And if we understand who it was written to, then we can know more clearly what is for us and how we apply it to our lives. So, it is packed with God's values and who He is and what He's like, and it's all true, but understanding context helps us apply it to our lives. Now, I want to come back with all that frame.

([03:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/9vAdmLOUt4-7Ax0EQmFV1d2hvSQ-kfqcOM6kZ_J93gDdxsWzIRmgFzQPrjtkwcxNBfbIIV4phNssTtjOHq_pq9KN-p4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=182.46)):

And I want us, again, to look at what Luke says now through that filter. So, Luke 1, Luke says, "Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used eyewitness reports circulating among us from early disciples. Now, having carefully investigated everything from the beginning," Luke is a doctor, so he's very precise and he's attentive to details.

([10:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JaERQzuNaWafMPa8fMp2mL3Sqsd9P-lblUPFsTQmEUotkkxixAPo2WTxN0WjHw99sSwf80eKg9WKkOtg5JoMTKyGggs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=650.19)):

And so, he's gone on his own research project to come up with the story of Jesus and understand it and write it. He says, "I also now have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus." So, there's this guy, Theophilus, on the other side that's reading. And Luke wants Theophilus, when he opens this scroll, this is what he wants him to experience.

([11:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/x8AANMohEeJ-lu5MliMiNGxgzoTNiOgWX60APWtYpE4WIgzzkehcbUxvAiW8C7UsN6f0dfU-eZ1XYJGFJILxdskDbn0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=674.43)):

He says, "Theophilus, I've done this so that you can be certain of the truth of everything that you were taught." So, you see very clearly, Luke is trying to help Theophilus understand the certainty that, with security, he can stand in confidence around the life of Jesus. The things that he's been taught are true. And I want you, in your notes, to take that line that says, "So that you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught."

([11:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-C5V2JQQ64l9FIpCk3pLALHNmpxbkWwZJBLJPvCqTvtlrFuHt8BctWByor3Z2qglvw4Z1ILsOCZIHsOrMdUT0lZ6apw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=702.99)):

Just underline that phrase, "So that you can be certain of the truth of everything that you were taught." God wants us to have a level of certainty and clarity about truth. This is why we're doing the Anchored Life Challenge. This is why we're focusing on the Bible because there's so much information that is coming at us from the media to the news outlets that we read.

([12:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cc7zUcnrxUSznB2_kZVb7Ytd7SaZNRGEG1fTC2EUH-qP8o9OARJ4yVAja-uriWEzPnprmiLfYfzIfVrdpoHyMVpLsA4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=727.47)):

And often, that news information or the media, that when we hear it, sometimes, we're so confused what is true. And that perspective of truth is very important. We, many times, bring to truth our own experiences. And we'll say things in our culture. We've got little axioms like, "Man, just go with your truth, bro." And you got to think about that phrase for a second.

([12:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/NT--668JdU2wcOKLzxnLiHjn1stMh6nclH6pDveUpaUg1xbrYVwrG2mT3HS-MYQW6-MWJFUkIGxe5hwGNNr53i1Ur6w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=751.11)):

If my truth is I don't like gravity, and I walk to the top of a building, and it's like, "Well, my truth is not gravity." Bro, if you walk off the building, you're going to die. So, figure out your truth, but there's an ultimate truth that supersedes it. It's like with artificial intelligence. You guys pay attention to AI and the emergence of it, or virtual reality. A couple weeks ago, we were trying to figure out what to do with the kids on a Friday night.

([12:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QHWTB5Qs0DTFb08TU3ocDetsaZ-yGlbHZyzAq9couOcpW268MDF8UFSK11cf16k1FS9_09RpOSn5xss6ekzhoEF9NNI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=778.41)):

And it's hard to get all my kids to agree on an activity. So, we're like, "Well, let's go to a VR, virtual reality, arcade," which was stupid. It was a bad choice because at the end of it, I had a miserable experience. Now, I'm glad to do things that I don't enjoy for my kids, but you go into the VR arcade, and the music's like... So, for an ADHD person that already has lots of noises in their head, and then the lights are all over the place, like strobe lights, and I'm already dizzy.

([13:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OV098sbLLq9u2m6vvJRCccJGVvlpd2myGzLYER3rOAIv0De2VlcBYedVJdGVkaY2LtkmJoRpZoq9QLDdb7OMBLTbS1Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=814.44)):

And then they hand you these glasses. They're like, "Well, put those things on." So, I walk over. They strap you into a seatbelt next to a pole. It's really fun. They put you next to a pole, they strap you into a seatbelt, and you put these glasses on. And you can do a lot of different things. You can do a race car. And you sit in a car. And you drive it. But this one was a game called Among Us. And there are all these different rooms.

([13:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/SoK8zFKFuq4ai-Z-KgkI_Qi0vs9aaCLfaWE_F3BT-fOTB5JkO3rKnhn834KJukHHuiuM9qga5Vn54gMP96vM47dYJug?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=837.93)):

So, you put the goggles on. And you start walking around. And, oh, wait, there's a ledge there. Don't walk off the ledge. But you've got these glasses on. And literally, you look around, and it's like a room that you can see. And there are these big puffy characters that look like cartoons. And I am so sick after 30 seconds. I feel like I want to throw up that I have to take the goggles off. I can't play the game. But virtual reality is not reality.

([14:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/TV9TXxuL_uZBZdUa5RX5g4T4KGHWxxs6g-qtUxMOwXQZ-jkWNLX-DXS1Pe8Ws3ZlrAEAuva6_d4V31X3aXXTyeEs6qI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=869.13)):

And sometimes, when it comes to reading the Bible, we can misunderstand. We can think that because the Bible was written a really long period of time of growth, that it's not reality, but God's word, God's truth, is firm. It's secure. It's reliable for our lives. And it's almost as if when I read the Bible, I'm taking the goggles off so that I can see what is real and what is true. And God wants us to have that filter for reading scripture. It is His word. It is truth. And it's reliable.

([15:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zGVKvE1fMlkIQd8BmPBcqwOYCqZ6dlIspuqtONSkfOvKCGzEISdVruM4-bae2LE4bmjR6lN649kQvUmG7El1bPWGBLQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=902.67)):

That's what Luke is saying to Theophilus. Now, I do feel like I have an alfalfa from those glasses. And I just need to check it up there for a second, make sure it's down. So, I want to talk about four truths from Luke that you can anchor your life on. The first one that he gives to us is around what Jesus does with God's plan. Jesus fulfills God's plan to bring hope to our lives. So, when Jesus came, He came to bring hope to the world.

([15:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aX77NiI1rowlUNFx0qc6KsaAqJGFN8LhByh9uGEfNoPkADenv4PSdPf0FtICUdP0Y82xICMmFZ-mNdS613etVtT9LfI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=933.69)):

He came with the way that He lived and what He taught and the miracles He performed. He came to fulfill this long plan from the beginning of time that God had to redeem the world and bring it back to Himself. And in chapter four of Luke, Jesus is in His hometown. He's in a synagogue, which is their church and their culture.

([15:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FpSFY4n0wTh1f0qnN_B1OkhRcz7oOvlpq2eOnrOZeBB4os-fXjXGcicF_bIGDTUj8cP-TF5qYcoINSVlvVQIYX2uCR0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=956.49)):

And it says, "When He, Jesus, came to the village of Nazareth, His boyhood town, He went in as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah, the prophet, was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me for He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.'"

([16:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2ilVzXkG0Q1YXoV3tzUpLUMUReF9iQQZa0-L23PiK3N3AVTLk5x_gHHalQm-KFDsCuN6T-GNO28wZzdCMbrHgPJFc9Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=992.91)):

Now, if you read this, and you're in the first century, and you see Jesus opening the Bible or opening their holy scriptures, which is our Old Testament, and reading it, this is normal commonplace in the synagogue. But what Jesus does next is very important. "So, He takes the scroll," it says, "He rolls it back up," verse 20, "hands it back to the attendant, and sits down." At this point, everybody in the synagogue is looking at Jesus intently.

([17:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GJ5Bbn2OFa19hlaIXiEdVknMJAzD7tCfGAZ_5Vwxj6yiiBbv28AJ4b7O8fwNeITZyJMdrwpggB3HljWadsSbOAhhYKY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1020.12)):

And it says, "Then He began to speak to them," and He says this, "'The scripture you have just heard has been fulfilled this very day." He's saying, "I am the one that all of the prophets have been speaking about, all that Isaiah would say in helping us understand that a Messiah would come. I am," He's saying. Jesus is speaking, "the fulfillment of God's plan to bring hope to the world."

([17:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wlbqjsKoTh_IlPMZ7bhn4ZB_4VWwDOj8k4nlh3LUXIY2PK2WhWQB75o1UeO_00aGs2yCecK5wZtxNLLtLrFOXpcLA1k?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1048.98)):

So, when you read the book, when you read God's word, to come to it with the filter or the lens that understands this is good news for our life. It's good that God would give us a book that changes our lives and helps us know Him. And for those who receive it, it's called good news. The word gospel literally means to proclaim good news. It changes our perspective.

([17:54](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/flYywOJOUmcHRBAGBubSw7UbWVeD8MsYFKMezAhPB_NhjPM6K4jAWTA0rnECCnWX1-BbgRrYIwAiPmBmcHcmAF7bioE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1074.39)):

If you think the Bible is bad news, it will impact the way that you read it, but if you believe that it is God's good news for your life, that Jesus came to fulfill God's plan, it shifts your perspective. It's like when my kids were young. Whenever I would travel, I would bring home with me gifts. So, if I went to Texas, might bring them home cowboys gear, unless I decided I wanted to bless them, I wouldn't bring it, but I would bring maybe a cowboy hat or something like that.

([18:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/szJzf_BubEgAwL4YGn7ErSiNMlgE_o5Fm_5gBVwrafqqX_mDIjYY3h_8etQdumqAoakLYCq7OksOVuqouoFe3Pc7n6Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1106.97)):

And when I would go to South Carolina, I might bring something, or overseas, I would bring something back. And my kids got used to me bringing gifts when I would come home. And something began to happen where every time I would walk through the front door, the kids would rush to the front door. They're running towards me.

([18:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ScZInxWyO97kmtzhrQ8P2jnPY7mxEZm63a4fYrRMB9rUjTt4lqXbQ7vQ47YSSO08R0wUgUJ0NHiVHv1M_k7ktq1BkMs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1123.74)):

And as soon as I come through the front door, it's not like, "Good to see you. We're glad you're home. We love you." It was, "What did you bring me, dad?" And it was great for a little while, but then eventually, I was like, "I got an idea." So, one time, I was on the way home. I was like, "Oh, this time, I'm not going to get them anything. They'll be happy to see me."

([19:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/E5SnXe9VuI0IC-gOlFpgEeN_DqcC50uAOzQcaP5PHdtvrqOYu3giTHOG5afxExmnYj1I2POe43Mexoq5vpit8hiIk2o?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1145.43)):

So, I walked through the front door. And when they rushed to the door, and I'm like, they said, "What did you get me?" I said, "I got you me. I'm your gift. I want to give you a hug." And they weren't happy. But the point is when you read the Bible, God is the gift. God is the one who, when He opens the door, He says, "The gift is Me." And Jesus is the one who's come to restore our hearts back to the heavenly Father. And He came as good news.

([19:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/238Vm1Fv02-LlhePtBv1TvHGbsUJuJxjHgjMIEveKJCYWp8BQh5H2O_77O7fdAHZX9oqKVmFlmqeFKIyh28H_ms_MDE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1178.67)):

He came to fulfill the Father's plan and ultimately to transform our lives as He was fulfilling this grand plan. Now, sometimes, when you read the Bible, it doesn't change your life. Sometimes, you can sit in a church service and hear the teachings of Jesus and hear the Bible being taught, and it not transform you. And that's why the second thing that Luke highlights, that I want to highlight from Luke is very important, that Jesus changes our lives when we apply His teaching.

([20:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0tgYSCRl1KOaZ1qBIn02b5km4spauTtV_yLm42dvc3WHlak7Yww-B8a2EE5TJmIxvAHZ2bz8_ZXAPwUiFQbvkwZuBis?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1208.82)):

So, you can listen to teaching, but if it doesn't get applied to your life, it doesn't transform you. The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' most famous sermon. In the book of Matthew, it shows up. In the book of Luke, it's a little bit shorter. But Jesus is teaching through the ways of the kingdom of God, this invitation that He was making to people to live into God's kingdom.

([20:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2hiOuWzpuJ83aelXxlk86NfIQ6ixAXLiiHrd8IW1QEY9rnkSbJDmNSztqr-gIGqF3FTgn5Ba7rhaySV3C2dfkh_eTq0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1232.01)):

And at the end of this teaching, where Jesus says, "I didn't come to abolish the law and the prophets. I came to fulfill them," at the end of teaching people how to live in the kingdom of God, He makes this statement in Luke 6:47. Jesus is speaking. He says, "I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it.

([20:54](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pAX7DqbKHsRcWuMk0Hj6oLoW-C4UsWWGcBz2TU2KhdiCHyASdCiMnLuWXtyboO2IfBkBqle5yH6tX2VuVTp9ZTS0y_Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1254.27)):

It's like a person who built their house, and they went deep, they dug deep, and they laid a foundation on solid rock. Now, when the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it's well-built, but anyone who hears and does not obey is like a person who builds right on the ground without a foundation. And when the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse with a heap of ruins."

([21:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PErjR4xcgmRqguJWcie9mDBoXRKBIYGZBA0PuHwwQcHOWgWa2b8rkHRQxnmyf4omZwFMa_ipsXzCV4rAmucuJIDjR4M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1282.29)):

Now, I'm not into construction, you probably don't want me building things, but I know enough to know that a house without a foundation won't stand. And what Jesus is saying is that when you listen to my teaching, it's like building on a foundation when you apply it to your life, but when you don't apply it, it's like a man who builds his house on the sand. A way to think about this, you might write this down, information plus application leads to transformation.

([21:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/z9qc3V0VS7O9HesFygoS8WXpxO-dKwMogExpudFLhCYa8WJycwLcqyE8kP_i-4BoGyrsSLc1yY_oehYfms25M6ZYSzY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1310.67)):

So, if I just sit and listen and listen and listen and get more knowledge and I get more information in my mind but it doesn't change my heart and the way that I live, it doesn't ultimately produce transformation. So, I have to apply it to my life to experience transformation. Another way of thinking of this is information without application leads to stagnation.

([22:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_rTQL5yMGzLS14rzv3lII7AM2wrvM8OmknOxMvx_jYQscIxrUmXBQnLqP6dzUEAOjAI7ej38W4aRWqyznFWp6govPf0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1333.83)):

And sometimes, in our lives we're not moving forward with our faith because we're not applying the things that we already know to be true. I hired a trainer recently. And the trainer had me download an app for my phone. And so, I download this app. And on the app, I open it up every day, and it's got these core habits that I'm supposed to apply to my life. So, I've got 10,000 steps per day, which by the way, I'm only at 4,400, so I might pace a little bit more to catch up.

([22:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/a6L6rIu6xYs0iw62fIVV4TI7AJnqu1GkuHsUWMRRenSNhVPPZfXe13mUiiGwOodoe-KNUri-UEouPxa6iLzzEuYzX3I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1364.79)):

And then it has eat fruits and veggies and make sure you get enough fiber. And then it has a workout of the day. So, I open up that workout of the day. And it has different exercises. Now, here is my favorite way to work out. I like to go into the garage. I have a small gym there. I open up the app. And then I just memorize that workout for the day. So, it will say, okay, three sets of bench press at this weight, two sets of rows at this weight.

([23:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jh8EvE9csIirWwah2W-3KIdggzb7Kcw39mV5sQAQzPNtNsRzZSww3R-HEtrLzC7oYwi5JGEaCi7adAOSGpG-nd_rvCw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1395.09)):

So, I memorize it. I get it into my mind. And once I've memorized it, I turn around and walk back into the house and I don't do anything. That is my favorite workout right there. Now, you know that doesn't work. It doesn't change the way I look. And it's so funny when you think about a workout to get it in your mind but not do anything with your life, but when it comes to Jesus's teaching, sometimes, this is the way that we live.

([23:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JgCTZNDj6ZSMX0Q8xWVb8EmJNVD6LcaFzLj659ldiySrJa9RJq1yZWNsBVzLQq7HuvI1B_RNz3r5VLLNf3NuBJpKaOQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1421.28)):

There is a symbiotic relationship between your being and your doing. And often, people will say things when they're teaching that they really don't mean that don't help us. Sometimes, people will say, "You're not a human doing. You are a human being." Let me interpret it the way it sounds. You're not a human doing. You're a human being. I'm like, "Okay. Well, what does that mean? Does that mean I don't do anything?"

([24:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aqjt_D-7uS0YNKb_WBplLd0HgM1vCBT2A9RwogymjcUgpAQwTft5GWOnFiwy_B8uKUXtt0kpIq3aTPsbQyfxtKt2CH8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1448.94)):

And the intent of that statement is like, well, as a creature who's a being, if you only focus on your doing, you miss the point of relationship, which is true, but your being and your doing, they are intricately connected to one another. So, if you lie over and over and over again, the way that you start to see yourself is as a liar. So, Jesus would say things like, "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks."

([24:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UWM5MoZyaBSDqCHZVW22YbHIVr4EiDlcBCIdpmsCyMp8k7TZKpgmJHCyGwHvC0nHBR6_XE59AgT3x3ewclOcGTVpm6o?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1476)):

So, does that mean that if my heart doesn't feel like saying the right thing, I can just scream at my kids? It doesn't mean that. What Jesus is saying is it's a litmus to help you see what's on the inside. So, by changing your heart's perspective, you change what you do, but by changing what you do, your heart begins to shift as well. So, these two are constantly working together. And the application with the truth leads our life to transformation.

([25:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Nr8lnwB_uN2erzG-bvvZJU8EM0vmAhdxYZpLqTx6l_DpaDjkrqJ3WgE5CecAr6WBbyTdrPZo0JeATvD5_ZhKnct_-Pg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1501.92)):

James would say, "Do not be merely hearers of the word, but be doers of the word." Don't go to a mirror and look at it and walk away and forget what you look like. Walk away and apply what you've heard. Now, when it comes to application, our perspective on who God is and what God is like is very important because if we believe that God is coming through a filter of relationship, it changes the way that we read the Bible.

([25:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jD5qnYEdBW0WtiO3C4mQL_6nfbkJ4jqxCyzaYMBA_ZRMJ1WEkghJL6OZ_VG6a-BSWKsTlO6mQ9I8AH4KtVu7QGLQAq0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1529.49)):

See, this book right here is a relational book from a relational God. God has existed for all eternity as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. And He's given us a book that, at its core, is relational and inviting us into relationship with Himself. And that leads to the third point.

([25:50](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/K4bxyXlP8QWaX4FfU6ugtK1kPLoXaL_kAnlibRpC_AA6EaH_RRT1amTpLtsZhJNizrc5sM5u4ftb5sHHVXUiXqhQ0VI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1550.1)):

Jesus invites us into a relationship with the heavenly Father. When Jesus came, He came to invite us into relationship with the heavenly Father. Now, Reward Sibanda is going to come and teach this point. Will you welcome him as he comes to the stage?

Reward Sibanda ([26:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cUcu0VC6otADujt_YwLhA804PeEhUNbXzZyKqD8KvqU1ApQ9giRfa_SFZq4XtWDFAFaPB6BhrH-W4Lh1c7d8pbCneWo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1573.26)):

Man, pastor Andy was talking about fitness. I'm all about fitness as well. Fitness whole pizza in my mouth. But what I love about what he was talking about is simply this. The Bible invites us into a beautiful story. And we are all beings of stories if you know what I'm talking about. There's a reason that Hollywood makes all the money that it does because we're drawn to stories.

([26:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ia6gstFoT5beCmRN7pRNaQMGd1YXZieo2HVTcRc762yFdYNMVyMedV0BwxUDrDB6RZg1zDuADRvxERezimMU2iQ4FIQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1598.79)):

And that's why I love the format of the Immerse because it takes all this incredible and beautiful informative stories that we know, and it gives them to us. And so, as we go into this, we see all the stories. And Jesus was always telling stories. He called them parables. He tells incredible and compelling stories about the lost Son. And this particular one is one of my favorites that I'm about to read to you guys. And I call it the parable of the potluck.

([27:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/tWW7e1FWDoDMO99ZDwRHZc2JpSTCd-N9J8f0bHYTGwvwI8E2pIt651A-z-F_QieCqDrYUpbKxC9zXCm8N6mJtu_0dRU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1626.75)):

And here's what it says. In Luke 14:16-24, it says, "Jesus replied with this story," He says, "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. And when the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to tell the guests, 'Come. The banquet is ready," but they all began making excuses." If you're cool in this room, you've never had to experience this, but for the rest of us, there are times where people make excuses when you invite them.

([27:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EuEyxGZQ8YfxnBBZYQ4qxLMc6QHVQWGOYVfae0PKXFEszpHcR9vtBUNE5monfEwUyf5gZoQDjLUiJ6MrC2j8KcEgde4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1654.65)):

But the one thing I ask for is if you're going to make an excuse, at least try, because listen you all, these people were not even trying. It says, "One said, 'I have just bought a field and I must inspect it.'" So, I'm just going to go look at an empty field, then come to your party. Here's another one. "Another one said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen and I want to try them out.'" Basically, it's like, "Hey, I'd rather hang out with five cows than come hang out with you."

([28:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/keh4qNlOPamC9TZphirgK7ZqplZ6XCqSgbRff3sLJSFUkAs8ii5MyFIpmfU92OiUkKjG7gMDbrcSOVJkrgpE2FT1jB8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1682.31)):

I don't know if they had seen the menu, or I don't know if he had posted on his stories that he has an iguana and he licked the spoon when he's preparing, whatever it is. They were not showing up. And here's another one. It says, "'Hey, please excuse me,' another said, 'I just got married so I can't come.'"

([28:20](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/gOyQg-7DmFD8myBFVrY_qcrV2FL2z7NUDoMTa0mopj-Zo62xpzxkCbW1wGPHNSjcG1sgWLW9FLkq0NfEPM7lUsZcgUo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1700.13)):

Now, this one I resonate with. You know what I'm saying? Because if you're recently married, you want to go spend time with your wife. You want to go do a lot of fun things. Everything is fun. I still remember when I got married, my wife would be like, "Hey, we have a fun family activity to do." It was just me putting together Ikea furniture, but I enjoyed that.

([28:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GmKHIDIL4kxpFwTdG52MixX-KOnK7rcp1V4eRazJnpy1GokOjoTV6y_gKFhv29iNcv1r_7TpdrWNTWwUY3Kl0IxOEy0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1719.93)):

The only place where I drew the line was when it came to football because we tried it once, and she sat through the whole thing, and asked 1,000 questions, and halfway through, started making fun of my cowboys, and is making fun of our quarterback. His name, Dak, or Wak, or whatever it is. So, there's things like that. But I understand this one because they just couldn't make it.

([29:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/D3Qnx-emJ98oYaQRdyJpnH1UsvQQMeCadr1aF7M_02rKJsc306dr1ygCE3yK0TwbOD25TlZqT82FdIfc0jWSUdfM1-Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1741.08)):

And here's what it says. And it says, "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. And after the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So, his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'"

([29:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1iJPODc6Ktomg9MpvCcyUZsvtNXmPEUNGqC8jX6PYlrgoVu_IHfeC9YsyqajjX4JhY7nV_DCM-ICu0E0xSpheMscbWw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1774.17)):

You know what I love about what Jesus is doing? He's giving us a window into the nature of our father. He's like, "Hey, my dad loves people. My father sets tables. Every other religion, they set tables for their gods, but our God is a relationship. He sets a table for us. And He invites no matter how broken or crippled you are. You can come and sit at My father's table."

([29:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OprxPdS19_Y54HbByvB8vctpwsba8bT8nBXRSDaCAn8DYp2NdRXH08j2f2NkfWNzjwBlw3yMVUGAxyveIINM4V5YFOA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1799.1)):

And I love this because as we go through the word when we read this, we see that Jesus is showing us the heart of His Father. There's this statement in John, John 1:18, which I love, and this is what it says. It says, "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

([30:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ea3zm8aj85P8o63aD0Ljvu7CtD1NA_BzQhMtuUsv6udxwtUMPI9xNmhNrEqRBS4-xke4aMeCht8gxmxpJoWQndclZuI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1818.06)):

And it's as we go through this beautiful scriptures that we see the culture and the character of this God, but beyond that, we see what Pastor Andy was talking about, that He's not just inviting us into a religion. No. It's a relationship and it's a friendship. And here's the thing. The greatest metric for friendship is invitation. You have a reason to question the validity of your friendship with somebody.

([30:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/BFXYmcALObSfy-x_qBVyFTyfUV1fNAjGYyaZYeehPd9Kho5gQfV2Eh2B8L9Wll1FB32pPWM_zgaTIqrFqbuqsxRLBYI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1845.87)):

If you go on social media and they invited everybody else to an event except you, they even invited a creepy guy from the other cubicle, and he was there, and you are not there, you can show up and say, "Hey, I thought we were friends." Why? Because friends invite. And that's what I love about this, that Jesus is inviting us into this relationship with the Father because when we come close through the scripture, we see that, hey, it's beautiful.

([31:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wjZz0ebYIFm3tAh3uiuqhP2ASPrt81T2AKR2K6MH82PpU4kaXY5Ab3KQjbbSywBey5hb5j4QEwAJoisUmdrJO7IH7Z0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1870.44)):

And this God that maybe we thought was a scary punisher, no, He's a God who desires a friendship with us. Because here's what I'll tell you. That invitation is greater than obligation every single time. There are places that we're obligated to go to, but then there are places where we just enjoy the invitation. And I noticed this when I recently got married, that there was a place and out a friendship and intimacy that my wife invited me to.

([31:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VQYSJmit3LUQtQJfwcFfmBo7zInEnZjmS_PPq4QPFlV1JNpZAMdNHJyl2aLzD9ROfpU8F4O_CioHAApR9wUuVBDZQeQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1897.68)):

And it's a place where she finds therapeutic and it's a peaceful place for her. And it's this place right here. Now, the first time she invited, it was an invitation, "Hey, come with me." And because I was newly married, I was like, "Yes, I'll go." And I walked, and I was like, "Oh, look at this. Wow. Oh, look at this. Wow." And I'm enjoying the experience with her.

([32:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mRwdL84iN5YvDXULpBU5XXvsUqktMQEqx106cN1xN2RaIJfFdLkOFjzZIHJMQPqaWF3iJJaHruin05aULfylBp7M-g0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1920.75)):

And I'm doing until I noticed something that, at first, it started as an invitation, but I think you just wanted me to carry all this stuff. I don't like this place because, hey, when it started, my wife will be excited. And everything's like, "Oh, my gosh, look, it's 50% off." And I'm like, "No, babe. It's 100% of money that I didn't want to spend." And so, I'm walking with her in this place.

([32:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mNbBCTxEXilH6FBG7AhEjVwu8f_-aw7e_p-jm-IQmuDkkTFAP2LOyavwsRzDPGTmTtFnA5E6wos_ux9M1aPL8M_3748?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1944.03)):

And after a while, I was like, "You know what? I don't want to do it. I just don't want to do it." And that's when it changed from being an invitation to an obligation, "You got to come." And I'm like, "Why?" "To carry all the stuff." "What stuff? You only said you wanted to pick up milk, right?" But what it was is, hey, when I started going there, I noticed that what started as a beautiful invitation became an obligation.

([32:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XGg90z-l1N5tC7w0ttyvP8M_swUG-F33RHRwHkGme5-OmfaMuOjMvThTmvUrVP0ww9xYGpprfhLOYC8eWDBtIZPaxjQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1965.18)):

I'll go to Costco because they got all the samples and everything, but this place was a little different. And I feel like that's what Jesus is trying to capture in this particular scriptures, saying it's an invitation. And as we read this Bible, because the church is doing it, because your friends are doing it, don't ever approach it from the lens of obligation because you'll miss the beautiful love letter that this scripture is.

([33:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/iQWkvm6udvCDkT1FhQo3MWXVcrPQf2l7m2Md27o_cN6BUyhOWKE2pmVjK8xyT3_B7SOjgmObsBVpKZuofrffWGXlNlQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1989.54)):

And Pastor Andy shared an image that he always has when he reads this, where it's Jesus standing and inviting him and saying, "Hey, come, come, come on this beautiful journey. It's going to be fun. There are so many good things."

([33:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/m2o_mE2SHS8h9hy2zS_ytu0ZBhwoFwRSny3VXNWq3dyiVAQPTjFonvg01u77n9FPAUetvqCnAPshRtmkpdbFk2TUol8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2003.19)):

What I want to challenge every single one of you guys is simply this. God is calling you into a relationship and you get to see His nature and His character through His word. And the fourth point that Pastor Andy is coming back up to share is what it's really about. Jesus wants our surrender, not our perfection. Pastor Andy. Thank you.

Andy Wood ([33:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Y6RB1dWtDj0nygomkGOMkRY9U4wBXNke1qi8oKQIpK3vFTzwJ2CuXqVNqyaY4RNSmF6XXLfz7hQCmEBQIHVk-9OpDtA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2031.15)):

As you think about opening the Bible, every one of us, when we open the Bible, we bring to the Bible our experiences. We bring to the Bible all the things about ourselves that we wish were different. And this last point about Jesus wanting our surrender, not our perfection is one of the most important components of continuing to come back to the Bible, continuing to come back to God.

([34:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KZdR0VoER0CNUaHMaahTzBW9HKeqy9JtOxyiK2459YzmXqkVW-s8lD_AemfQLQrr9QpIZOLgukRpQRraPxcSfYkmuLE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2055.93)):

Because if we're honest with ourselves, there are moments where the things in our life that are not the way that we want them to be can become the very thing that keep us from the God who can change us and transform our lives. Jesus, when He was hanging on a cross in Luke 23, He's hanging between two criminals. He's paying the price for the sins of the world. These guys on the left and the guy on the right, both of them have lived lives that they deserve to die for their sins.

([34:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1Po5QfMVjIpnzlMNb7zTU7_zCIm1Yd4U0Q41jtBx5yzXW1aeAUoYwXWoKTXX645c3FOaVZyDOTm7ozuhKbhVJ5VIiaU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2085.48)):

But Jesus, between the two of them, He's perfect in all of His ways. He's paying the penalty and the price of sin so that we can be forgiven. And one criminal, in verse 39, it says, "The one hanging beside Him scoffed, 'You're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself and us, too, while you're at it.' Now, the other one, the other criminal on the other side, protested, 'Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong.' And then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And Jesus replied, 'I assure you, today, you will be with Me in paradise.'"

([35:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cxTrDk8rjkdcfizd_h8cwpMdLi5QRy5rDz9KhklzZbkarDirbvJl81SV9Im-WdO1pwg4KKQfoZej10urkuCNvAgQTQA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2131.17)):

This seems so scandalous that Jesus, hanging on a cross next to a criminal, would say, after this man has lived this horrendous life, to say that, "You're forgiven, and you'll spend eternity with Me in paradise," yet Jesus, in that moment, took as much of that guy's life that he could surrender to Him and used that little bit of faith to give him the promise of eternity, relationship with God. Jesus took as much of this man as he could surrender, and He used it. And God will do that.

([36:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ThgzhbpAspe4NuWld-zv3WZMa9KqI64YYFbATb94jwDIbjcneJpt3ChE9ByNDKjirBvoT4bUeMCRXfcp5KWaG-dDVtk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2163.3)):

To give as much of myself to God as as much of Him as I understand is really the journey. It's not a journey of coming before Him with my perfection. It's a journey of coming before Him surrendering based on what I know about Him and then trusting over time that He'll transform me.

([36:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/mWXRDkqPzDAPfBpfKkdboulIDjf2uL5ZPHhZmJV1kj4LKfcHbwPc7rSiHa_P0f3X8XXvhed5OIBusfe2avA5v11iD9E?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2182.83)):

Now, I've been reading the Bible for over 25 years. I remember having a student pastor when I was in eighth grade. And he took a group of young middle school boys, and he said, "I'm going to teach you how to read the Bible." Now, on Sunday nights, we normally would have our gathering and we would play middle-school games together.

([36:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/GtfQX6994ZvvGwDlW9_xVQKoLHQHgTtPBIzAgANCQSBZETP7ghswQHaxqCHAPMs17qNyCWpdEtl-RQYzUx1hgKmmSvM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2203.2)):

And I remember when Mike Bonser told us we were going to learn how to read the Bible, all the middle school boys were like, "We want to play games." But that one habit God has used to change my life in such a powerful way. I'm so grateful for the Bible. I'm so grateful that a living God would give us a living book that can provide hope and strength to our lives. There are so many moments where I've been at rock bottom.

([37:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/TFyP1SucMJwT6TV32PF7MF_Z43-9jExtOiabP9IMIhVBh9GX4G2KQ-8cw0Xh_QvBSDbxy4C5nQE_wCHVqJ8XS7tKA90?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2230.53)):

And God has met me in my opening of the Bible to speak to me. Now, there are moments, like Stacey said last week, where it feels like you're opening and you're not really receiving and it's not changing you, but this constant journey consistently, over time, transforms our life. But this last point is so important.

([37:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/lpoxcuYK9mCxeu22akw9k9uzzWEZY9FKmfznF-wRlz6snFGlnki-eLmjQ5wDMVd-_AqZsSNjXZV2Y2Z45rd4wsbIOnI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2250.15)):

The other day, I was walking down the stairs, and my son coming downstairs, both the same time, first thing in the morning, and I'm about to go read the Bible. And as I'm coming downstairs to read the Bible, he goes into the kitchen. I come into the kitchen as well. And he opens the cupboard. And in our cupboard, there's two types of cups. There's the normal cups that you order online for four bucks, and everybody uses them, and they get broken all the time.

([37:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xzI_9yfml6ozNU8LALgR9l2JDMSGa27syQ1N5qRpDSZ_tDhFKqDliE2pxv4Vmo9YVXTgWHBERF6CqORzK0I3PhpupX0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2275.17)):

And then there's another set of really expensive cups that we only use for special occasions. He goes for the expensive cup. I haven't said, "Good morning," to him. I haven't said, "I love you. Good to see you." I just said, "Why in the world are you using that cup?" And then I walk away. And I'm like, "Okay. I'm going to go read the Bible." And I sat down. And I was like, "Oh, my goodness. Again."

([38:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jodV4AthSXUEHD974Gxvd_4ldVe1050Q6tiX9WRqitU1UnfK_a5s7gT-v2FYQ1WXzNd2NDMkJh2qGaxa2bfM-99yaDw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2297.85)):

And maybe you felt that before. There's so much inside of us. There's so much imperfection. The more I know God, the more I see the gap between His perfection and all of my brokenness. And the reality is if I allow that brokenness to keep me from God, I'll never open the Bible.

([38:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Y1VBofB3P8KocvcRpppzIhv6QBeJneFXtCVMTD8J7q9crIaI7IrgEP9zX9QarZ2BFMfgXhzpJjYkzo54C86Ch9wTjkU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2315.94)):

God is inviting you. He's saying, "Come. Read this book and get to know Me and let Me change you. I'm not asking for your perfection. I'm asking you to come as you are. And over time, I will change you." The invitation today is to say yes to open the book. The invitation is to say, "For the next eight weeks, I'm going to read through the New Testament."

([38:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/M0WdAZHkB8lezxu6_-tWszt48fnbwuRgyYVoLg4wvj4BQEy-0ML9qJnzb1t5Op_CozVJqX0l1kb9d4x_3zWTScK9mVU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2339.31)):

Some of you, you've wanted to read the Bible for a long period of time, but you've never taken that step. Some of you, in your mind, you're thinking, "Well, that's for really religious people." And I would say to you, you don't have to have a spiritual pedigree. You don't have to have a background. You can come as you are, open this book, and say yes for the next eight weeks to let God use it to help you get to know Him and change your life.

([39:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/11hspUlZDPaX1Z9JJXEga1N3CJ6XnNza9QozJsCOIqZqxddIbb2kJ7-s2LFtECKmgKiEjfNpf24e6kc_95u_-_FvenA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2362.17)):

And I want to challenge you right now to take that step. I want to challenge you to say, "Yes, I'm going to take the Anchored Life challenge." Now, this challenge is not just a challenge to read through the Bible. Some of us, perhaps we might do it online. Our app online, the Saddleback app, has all the audio version of it. So, if you prefer audio, you can do it that way. But most importantly is that we would do it in the context of community.

([39:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/C2tFg2nJYkWiRrDOCMJrg6R6Mo6cbZmyeVPkSw2nQdt8xG7AGnSaYM6wfp_TTlGNBlAO0SmooM2FW_ImXz2-r7J3OqA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2388.69)):

And so, the invitation is to say yes to the Anchored Life challenge to read for the next eight weeks. And then the second part of that is to say, "I'll do it in the context of a group." We're calling these book clubs. And today, you can sign up. And for every person that makes a decision to say yes to this challenge to get into a book club, read through the New Testament, we're giving away a copy of the Immerse New Testament version of the Bible, New Living Translation.

([40:15](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4xxSA9DcakPwcw_n6RstNOtnyGJ_goQx_duAsuPg619vyMh5YrogveUzks6phJOLx5905kSfsilT-r8sKOiUxlyblys?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2415.3)):

And you'll see when you open it, all the chapters and verses have been taken out. So, it's like the early church would have received it. And today, you can pick this up. Some of you have already gotten this, but today, you can take that step. Now, I want to walk you through the how very quickly as we conclude our time together. If you will, please pull out your phone for just a moment. And you're going to see a QR code that's going to come on the screen.

([40:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UBVkap5Yq7P9LsXg60GsY8F-N2pdnZsfhRJutwtZf-ZreOzDfdlsirYAv2APcmCCy3ezhq6Ep3No6eEK-7kGBuHXhRs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2439.51)):

If you're listening to me and you can't see the screen, you go to saddleback.com/PROGRAM. And as you pull up in your camera app, you scan over the QR code. You'll see a little bubble click on that. That will take you directly to our digital program where you can sign up. Now, they're going to leave it up for just a moment. Last week, when Stacey was speaking, I was sitting in service next to a guy. And I watched him fumble for his phone.

([41:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/RpZkgTsGsT4Rg5hKmOTp7PY07auEvUgDJDTuzh-vgnq-bGTRvMgqCuO3t8qHzTUu5eJy1YNtRQC3gxtDWjZj4vo6CLk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2462.16)):

He got it up. Right as he pulled it up, the QR code went down. It was awesome. So, this week, it's up a little bit longer, so you can scan it, click on that button, and if you miss it, just go to saddleback.com/PROGRAM. When you click on it, it will take you to our digital program that looks like this. And at the top, you'll see a button that says the Anchored Life challenge.

([41:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/i4fgRgY7vsfnsK0oe9sWZnXta1_rTL8evTCyasHegbcSmhtuEttST0ZBfnYGYH5cg3PQoHtcIQKnLaID6QEscqi8_DA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2484.03)):

So, I want to encourage you to just click on that. When you click on that, it will take you to a page where you can make your commitment. Now, there's three commitments here. We're going to pause on this for just a moment. Some of you, you'll do it with your existing small group. Others of you, perhaps you'll start a Bible book club. Now, to start a Bible book club, you don't have to have any background. You don't have to have gone to seminary.

([41:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EZy_g9UTvYB8Rks9_kOzjQsskAMrXO-UQ-HRXxDfK_oT9g5fyg2zlq4QmlRBXLrK1Md73Gsb5ZfKYK4MC7lEaN2N0Ds?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2506.11)):

We'll give you all the tools that you need. All you need to do is just smile, be kind, and ask a few questions. And we'll help you host one of these groups. Others of you, maybe you'll join an on-campus group. You can click on one of those. And then as you go down, you put your first name, your last name. You'll see below that a place where you can put your email address in there, the campus that you attend.

([42:08](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/nEQtW5qR7ka4-qwUnjCMVAET07VfZPmS5cKr5-jxIJfMATN9DF9bu4HuADyh52g2UuwKq_BfjY0ZWFUV0N0ukvMbWmY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2528.1)):

And then all the way down at the bottom, after you've selected all of this, you'll see a place where you can click a button that says submit. And I want to encourage you, make sure to press submit. When you press submit, there will be an e-mail that immediately goes to your inbox with a QR code that you can take to the patio at the Lake Forest Campus. And we'll give you your copy of the Messiah there on the patio.

([42:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ZJttcALMfg5FflD-XgxH98ai67EEv_ETq46WYsq9Q8xwaqZVLBgeemfzuMczmlOmlKmf4jie5puKlXUVSc5sHuyyZxo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2553.42)):

You'll also get in your e-mail a reading guide that looks like this on the left that has the whole eight-week plan. So, starting on day one, week one, Monday of this week, we'll be reading through Luke. And it has the page numbers there. And then on the right, you'll see you'll also get this in PDF version. How do we do a time alone with God? We just want to resource you to help you as you're taking this journey.

([42:56](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/15-t0Hz57xlhbSiLHzPj8PDbUnKVWfR0tlEFkX0DfvLELB2fVLw1WCxT77ngZ3mJOfyjAWKxXOmNHy8q0Cygf8Zxg6I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2576.01)):

Some of you were here last week and you committed, and you're like, "I didn't get that. What's up? I missed the free stuff." So, you can get that still. When you click check in today, just say, "Send me the resources." That will come directly to your inbox. And it will give you everything that you need to do this challenge.

([43:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/bIciw0lKqMZuYzw7v_DaqdO_Wh2o5Z48n4t7GdmYLsdwGJQqhM83XGNRsfAdNUSJlleuIAYawGaGxtum7LGO2sT6Awk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2593.08)):

Now, before we wrap up, I just want to say, as I think about what is possible in your life over these next eight weeks, it just gets me so thrilled to think about all the change that can happen, all the good that God will do as we say yes to Him. There are going to be people that your marriage is hanging on by a thread. And God's going to use this challenge to bring your marriage back together.

([43:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XZyMA1zPZt8-Nz5CQhGICLOz0FrapGGcUHm9P7MVSp9CeMFU2LXPJE5CxmfKVdc454F65DijrRsqK46B4TVTM6YJpPM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2619.03)):

There are going to be some of you that you feel lonely and isolated. And you're going to find community over these next eight weeks. There are going to be some of you that maybe you've lost a sense of hope and purpose. And you're going to open the Bible, and you're going to see God's purpose and plan for your life.

([43:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/BacLH8FJ_WjtbcbXRgLDK1u1OqntFjJV3Oonk0Dp-c5P02iklsB0XPUY8YpdHO8IZdd1msf3Ix_K8E9W7Tu6rjXULx0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2635.05)):

I just imagine reading at night, some of you, it's going to be hard to put it down because through the power of God, you're going to be captured by the greatest story that has ever been told. And there are going to be generations. There are some young men here. You're in your mid-20s, you're not married, you don't have kids, but you're making a decision that's going to impact your future marriage and your kids and your grandkids.

([44:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/5Vk8_qYUNiX_ZICebgF4FXm9wrt3RKMSrJQP0mVcMdFm0ZE5XXv9CUYKTm_CSF67NNdX184EOxPHRMBQY58xLEwQegs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2657.37)):

And one day, they're going to be grandkids that say, "My grandpa made a decision to read the Bible and obey it. And it changed our family tree. It changed our lives." So, this challenge is going to change our lives individually. And it's going to impact our church in such a profound way that, as we do this, God's going to raise our church up to help other churches.

([44:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FiE5Q2lGdwwN0aR1CzTgcasmh2P4drYZq0A9tUMjlJCp6TdsUj2CCNw243ig2jG1oF5CsvretZE6KVUrxHY0uYm4j6M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2678.19)):

And we're dreaming that there's going to be a day where over one million more people are engaged in the Bible because we said yes to God with this challenge. God's going to use it in your life and in our church. And we believe that today. So, I'm going to pray, and our campus host is going to come up, Katie's going to come here at the Lake Forest and wrap us up, but Father, we thank You for what You're going to do. We thank You for all the life change that's going to happen as we say yes to read Your word. We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen. Amen.