



Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

**“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide**

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

**This Page** has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

**The Center Pages** contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from [www.pointofgracechurch.org](http://www.pointofgracechurch.org)

**The Back Page** has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

*Scripture & Meditation Guide - March 22-27*

(I recommend you use the “ARISE” 21-Day Prayer Guide this week as your primary source of connection with God. Use the following as an additional source of connection.)

**Helpful Hints:**

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.  
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”  
“How are You inviting me to respond?”

- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!  
*Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him*

*These verses will remind you that we all get to make impact in others lives we get to be salt and light in his Kingdom!*

- Monday:** Isaiah 60:1-5
- Tuesday:** Matthew 5:13-16
- Wednesday:** Acts 2:42-47
- Thursday:** 1 Peter 2:9-12
- Friday:** 1 Peter 3:8-17
- Saturday:** John 13:1-16 and 34

## Message Notes

*ARISE is a an intentional call to action for Point of Grace to be transformed as individuals and as a church body, to literally "become light" and "shine" for God's glory in key areas of personal and church life. Part One of ARISE will call Point of Grace to surrender to God's transforming work in the area of financial giving.*

*Romans 12 <sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

### **The Transformation Recipe:**

*I SURRENDER myself and my agenda to God! I RECEIVE Him and His agenda for me! Then I ACT accordingly in sacrificial obedience!*

### **Three Truths:**

- 1) **It is not our money—it all comes from God.** Deuteronomy 8:10-18
- 2) **We are not entitled but entrusted with it.**
- 3) **God expects us to use it in the interests of His Kingdom!**  
Matt. 25:14-30

### ***We are a part of something BIGGER!***

*Isaiah 60<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*

*<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.*

*<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

*<sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy;*

## **Isaiah 60**

<sup>18</sup> *No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.*

<sup>19</sup> *The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*

<sup>22</sup> *The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly."*

### **OUCH Facts!**

**\$25,000—wealthier than 90% of the world!**

**\$50,000—wealthier than 99% of the world!**

### **WHAT IF...?**

**....Every church going American Christian gave 10% of their gross income—"brought the whole tithe into the storehouse"**

**Result: 168,000,000,000 (that's billion) additional ministry dollars!**

### **Cost of some major world change:**

Universal primary education for children	\$ 6 Billion
Clean water to most of the worlds poor	\$ 9 Billion
Basic health and nutrition—worldwide	\$ 13 Billion

**God is transforming us because it is His idea for us to be  
"Part of Something Bigger"!**

*Acts 1<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

**“A Part of Something Bigger”**  
A Personal and Small Group Experience

Begin this study by processing through the reality that as God’s people we are “A Part of Something Bigger”. It is easy to slip into the trap that God came to save me pretty much for me—for my benefit and security and comfort. That’s not wrong it is just incomplete. He rescued us via His cross for a great purpose—to be difference makers for His kingdom in our part of His world. We are called by him to the non-optional reality of being “A Part of Something Bigger”.

- 1) Review and discuss the message from Sunday. Use the notes on the reverse side of this page?
- 2) Have you ever thought of “financial giving” being such a huge part of God’s worldwide “difference-making” plan?
- 3) Take a good look at the “Three Truths”. In what way are they a challenge to you?
- 4) What about the “OUCH Facts” and the “What If?” section? How does this make you feel? Is it inspiring, threatening, challenging...?
- 5) How has God been speaking to you through this ARISE experience?  
Has He been transforming you in the area of financial giving?  
Has He identified other areas of life in need of transformation?

Take a look and discuss the following scripture readings with the thought of God drawing His people to Him and to His transforming work because He knows that each of us is “A Part of Something Bigger!”

**Isaiah 60:1-5, 18-22**

**1 Peter 2: 9-12**

**1 Peter 3:8-17**

**Acts 1:6-8**